

SFT Outcomes Demonstrating progress with impact



2020 CASE STUDY

Outcome 01



We have a clear picture of
Scotland's future economic
and social infrastructure
needs

Early Learning and Childcare Reference Designs

Delivering high-quality, efficient, flexible, sustainable and affordable solutions

Scottish Government's ambition to almost double the amount of funded early learning and childcare (ELC) provided a major opportunity to explore the many different ways in which refurbished, extended and new facilities can offer high-quality experiences for young children.

Since 2016, SFT has been working with Scottish Government and all 32 local authorities to support the development of local ELC expansion plans.

Such is the size of the ELC programme that it comprises around 900 projects valued at over £500m, and it is estimated that around 160 new facilities (worth an estimated £270m) will need to be delivered.

In managing the £1.8bn Scotland's Schools for the Future programme to deliver 117 schools across Scotland, the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) developed Reference Primary School designs to create high-quality, efficient, flexible, sustainable and affordable primary school solutions for local authorities. Expanding this learning, SFT in conjunction with East Ayrshire Council as well as architects, consultants and contractors developed a suite of ELC Reference Designs to promote the innovative and efficient use of space and enable early learning and childcare to take place in high quality stimulating environments which are specifically designed to address the needs of young children, staff and families.

As well as considering the experience for children indoors, the approach to these new Reference Designs embraced the many benefits that outdoor learning provides in terms of health and well-being as well as physical and cognitive development.

Many of the individual ideas and concepts that were incorporated in each Reference Design have the potential to be taken on their own and used as part of a catalogue of ideas to inform options for any refurbishment, extension or new build ELC facility.



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Across Scotland many new nurseries have been developed to meet the needs of the ELC expansion programme. These ELC Reference Designs provided a platform to inform local choices as to how individual nurseries can best respond to local needs and emerging operating models of early learning and childcare.

Martin McMullen, Early Learning and Childcare Practitioner, said: "Myself and my colleagues are so excited to be coming to this building. We have two playrooms here which we are going to have access to, and we've got a large garden which has free-flow access for the children which is really great. We were making do, but now we are able to really deliver a great service, thanks to the building that we are getting."

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