

Analysis report for Grant to Improve educational environment of residential units/schools 2006/2007

Action 17 of the '*We can and must do Better*' report was to provide £5m of additional funding in the financial year 2006/2007 to local authorities and voluntary providers of children's homes and units. This was aimed at improving their physical environment and to create an educationally rich environment to the children and young people who live there.

Care Commission records available at that time demonstrated that there were 75 organisations providing care, across 226 units. The £5million was distributed to these units on the basis of the number of overall beds (2,020) at £2,495 per bed.

All local authorities and voluntary providers were advised of the funding arrangements, allocations and information regarding recent research in the area which may inform expenditure.

In this report we have detailed how much each local authority/independent unit received, what they spent the money on and the benefits/outcomes that have been seen since the grant has been implemented.

Aberdeen City Council

Grant Received £75,467.94

Items purchased/improvements made... IT equipment, books, beds, furniture, games

Benefits/improvements of grant

Monies awarded have been used to purchase IT equipment and ancillary equipment (e.g. desks and chairs) for all of the residential units. Children and young people are now in the position to utilise this equipment for homework and self study purposes and to further develop their IT skills. Work is currently underway in terms of ensuring that the computers are linked up to Aberdeen City Council's network which will then enable children and young people to have access to the internet. As a result children and young people will be able to carry out research, utilise online study skills such as the BBC bite size materials and carry out research in terms of future education/ career options and support.

Furthermore funding is being used towards purchasing a range of educational materials (including reference books, art and craft materials, musical instruments, games and puzzles) and outdoor sports equipment which we anticipate will provide children and young people with a range of opportunities for trying new activities and/or leisure pursuits and further enhancing educational opportunities.

Aberdeenshire Council

Grant received £42,415.00

Items purchased/improvements made: Caravan, decorating/updating group areas, create fitness room, games, bikes, books, computer programmes

Benefits/improvements of grant:

The additional funding received from the Scottish Executive for increasing the educational environment of our Children's Homes has greatly enhanced the lives of the young people.

A proportion of the funding was used to buy a 3 bedroom static residential caravan on a site near Nairn. The three Children's Homes share the caravan and a large number of children and young people have benefited directly from this. The caravan has been used for midweek, weekend and longer breaks since May 2007. Whilst at the caravan young people have been able to take part in activities that would not normally be afforded them, visiting places of historical interest, taken part in activities on the site and had experiences of visiting towns, cities and events that they may not otherwise have had the opportunity to visit.

The young people have really loved going to the caravan, they enjoy planning and preparing for trips and very much view it as "theirs" and take pride in getting involved in looking after it.

Investment in the caravan has also eased pressure on the holiday budgets allowing for other opportunities and activities to be funded that previously could not have been afforded. It is also a long term investment which will mean that many other children will benefit from in the future. The caravan can be available for other looked after and accommodated young people for a space to do sensitive direct work, time out or a short break.

In addition to the purchase of the caravan the funding has also been used for the purchase of gym equipment with Aberdeenshire funding staff to undertake training so that young people can undertake fitness programmes. This has been positive in promoting opportunities for engaging in exercise and fitness programmes and for developing the confidence, self esteem and skills of young people. One of the Children's Homes also used the funding for decorating and equipping a room for children to undertake art, craft and therapeutic work. These additional resources have proven very beneficial to the young people.

The Children's Homes have also purchased educational materials including books, DVD's, CD Roms, games, play equipment and art and craft equipment providing educational and creative resources for young people to support their learning needs and provide opportunities for developing skills, confidence and self esteem.

Finally the additional funding has been used for some decorating and purchase of equipment for the Children's Homes improving the environment, promoting inclusion through making them a positive place to invite friends and family and promoting confidence and self esteem.

Achnanellan Centre

Grant received - £4,958.99

Items purchased/improvements made: - Furniture, washing machine, tumble dryer

Benefits/improvements of grant:**No Response Received**

Alpha School

Grant received - £14,970.00

Items purchased/improvements made...

Benefits/improvements of grant.....No Response Received

Anderida Adolescent Care Ltd

Grant received - £4,990.00

Items purchased/improvements made...IT equipment, landscaping, heating, storage areas, bikes

Benefits/improvements of grant.....No Response Received

Angus Council

Grant received - £24,950.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT equipment, refurbishment, books, texts for care workers, landscaping

Benefits/improvements of grant

The grant to increase the educational environment of residential units in Angus improved the lives of children and young people in 3 significant ways:

1. Changes to their Individual Learning Environment

Young peoples bedrooms were improved to ensure they all have personal study areas including bookcases or shelving and specific resources and texts that reflect their personal needs.

2. Changes to their Group Learning Environment

A review of the educational resources within the units was undertaken. Funding then allowed for improved furnishing and equipment in the study rooms as well as a redesign of the gardens with new equipment and plants to help provide both educational and sensory experiences.

3. Specialist Equipment and Tools

A wide range of resources were purchased from this grant. These ranged from Laptop Computers that allow young people to study in their own room – to the purchase of a specialist Active Board 2 that has also allowed the young people to use the same equipment that they use at school for learning purposes. This has helped build self esteem and confidence.

Overall children and young people have benefited from improved access to formal education as well as having more opportunities to learn in a less structured but equally challenging way.”

Applied Care & Development

Grant received - £27,445.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Art & sports equipment, refurbishment, landscaping

Benefits/improvements of grant...

The grant received was put towards developing a large rundown outbuilding into a classroom and workshop. This has provided our young people with a space out with the residential unit and all its distractions to work with our educational staff. A whole range of projects can now be undertaken i.e. Craft, Design and Technology projects, large 'messy' paint projects, Art and Play Therapy work, group work etc...

Three different work spaces have been created, one of which a 'quiet' space. A number of our young people were consulted on what they would want from this development, several of them agreed that sometimes peace and quiet can be difficult to find within the busy house and a designated quiet space would be ideal for studying etc...

The new facility is fully insulated and double glazed with copious amounts of natural light available. A new non-slip heavy duty wipe clean floor has been laid and young people's art work will individualise each space.

This fund has greatly improved the opportunities for our young people to develop their social, physical and academic skills.

Argyll and Bute Council

Grant received - £57,385.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Audio visual & IT equipment, refurbishment, art & sports equipment, kitchen appliances

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Balnacraig Residential School

Grant received - £59,880.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, outdoor equipment, IT equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Barnardo's Scotland

Grant received - £34,930.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Sensory room, audio visual & IT equipment, refurbishment and art and sports equipment, replace & upgrade outdoor play equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Barnardo's Linksfield Residential Service

The Residential Service is a five bedded bungalow located in Aberdeen.

The Funding was spent on the following improvements:

Carpeting/curtains for the young people's bedrooms. IT and ancillary equipment to enable the children to develop their skills in this area. Additional equipment for the activity room, bicycles, sports equipment and gardening equipment for an educational gardening project. A large shed to store garden equipment and play equipment.

Benefits/improvements from Funding:

The funding has enabled the Service to upgrade the physical fabric of the living environment which provides the young people with a homely, comfortable environment. This additional funding has enabled this upgrade which it difficult to achieve within limited Service budgets.

The investment in the educational resources ie IT equipment has enabled the young people to access the computer for homework and other educational related activities. The investment in therapeutic resources has provided invaluable tools for the staff team to engage with some of the most "difficult to reach young people".

The bicycles and sports equipment have enabled the young people to engage in social activities/opportunities to build their self-esteem and confidence and learn how to interact in social situations.

In summary, the funding has enabled the Service to create a more educationally rich environment by investing in educational resources. These resources have been invaluable in engaging with the young people to provide stimulation and learning. Without the additional funding the Service would be unable to invest in such resources and equipment with limited funding within Service budgets.

Barnardos RAFT Service

Barnardos RAFT Service used the grant to replace their existing garden play equipment.

RAFT is a small residential unit based in Edinburgh which helps prepare children who have experienced multiple placement breakdowns to move on to foster placements. We used the grant to replace and upgrade the play equipment in our back garden. The new equipment is more fun and physically challenging for the children and a good deal safer as it fully complies with new legislation. It is noticeable that since the new equipment was installed the children have used the garden more frequently.

Board of Managers of Springboig St. John's School

Grant received - £94,810.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Gym, IT base, play area, developing skills through "skills for work"

Benefits/improvements of grant...

Report on Capital Grant – Educational Environment

Springboig St John's School received a grant of £94,000 which funded four discrete projects. The projects have made a significant difference to the educational environment both during and outwith school hours:

Project 1: New Multi-Gym

- A modern, fully equipped fitness provision for the 76 pupils (including day attenders)
- A provision available during evenings and weekends for residents encouraging more structured activities in line with the 24-hour curriculum.
- It has allowed for the two classrooms previously used for multi-gym use to be freed-up for the teaching of alternative subjects.

Project 2: A New Play Court Facility

The grant has allowed us to provide small 5-a-side soccer and basketball court from an area adjacent to the residential units.

- The court was surfaced, lined and fenced.
- This area now provides:
 - a) A safe play area minimising any potential hazards for parked cars, windows etc.
 - b) Similar to the multi-gym proposal, this provision is also available during evening and weekends for residents encouraging more structured and healthy activities.

Project 3: Investment in Interactive Whiteboards Across the School

The grant enabled us to provide a whiteboard facility in a number of subject areas:

- For pupils who experience difficulties interacting with others they provide a positive and enjoyable means of working together.
- For pupils who are struggling with the Core Curriculum, there is a considerable amount of software available which works effectively in this medium.
- For pupils who have missed long periods of mainstream education, or who associate with a sense of failure, it is important to use every stimuli to re-ignite their enthusiasm for learning.

Project 4: Provision of a Library / IT Centre

- Although most classrooms had access to computers, we were able to develop a library base with networked computers where pupils from all subject areas could have timetabled access for purposes of research etc.
- The Benefits of such a provision include:
 - An IT “centre” where pupils and staff are encouraged to stay abreast of the latest developments in Information Technology.
 - A positive library experience providing encouragement to pupils use Public Library resources.
 - Development of research skills.
 - Resource base for careers / transitions work.

Cairn Mhor Childcare Partnership

Grant received - £27,445.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Landscaping, new learning experiences

Benefits/improvements of grant.....

The Grant has enabled Cairn Mhor Childcare Partnership to achieve the following benefits:

- Office space transformed into a bright, stimulating educational suite providing an appropriate learning environment; available for homework, study, music and games; or for work with tutors, educational psychologists or educationalists;
- Resourced with books, games, art & craft materials, musical instruments and computer internet access;
- Gardening project established with all necessary equipment;
- Gardening tuition provided one day per week;
- Sensory garden area developed;
- Waste recycling workshops attended to produce bird boxes, feeders and wind chimes from waste materials;
- Art Therapy Suite improved with heating, brighter decoration and equipment e.g. a range of art materials; sand; water play; dressing up clothes; toys and games;
- En-suite facilities installed and bedrooms upgraded;
- Plans approved to install two en-suites and enlarge one shower room into a bathroom;
- All houses have benefited from improvements to the kitchen and living areas, creating a more attractive and relaxing environment.

Learning is being promoted as a life-long, positive experience extending beyond the formal classroom setting. We are able to give young people an opportunity to grow and develop as individuals while gaining self-esteem, confidence and new skills.

Care Visions

Grant received - £119,760.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT and audio visual equipment, games and toys (educational and outdoor), books, musical equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Carolina House Trust

Grant received - £37,425.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT equipment, refurbishment, cyber school

Benefits/improvements of grant.....

Carolina House Trust received an award of £37,425.00.

Star Residential Unit was awarded £7,485.00 to improve the fabric and comfort of the building. This was done by replacement of all windows on site which has greatly enhanced the physical environment of the unit.

Tarvit Cottage was awarded £4,990.00 to improve furnishings, upgrade the computer room and install computers with Broadband access to allow young people better access to the Internet. Various software packages for learning purposes would also be purchased. This has all been done and regular positive use is made by the young people and staff of all the software packages and the internet.

To begin to develop a Cyber School Project across Carolina House Trust £24,950 was awarded. Significant materials have been purchased including laptops, whiteboards, software etc. A room within one of the Carolina House Trust properties has been set up to facilitate the project. Carolina House Trust continues to be registered as an accredited ASDAN provider. Due to significant internal changes within Carolina House Trust the project has yet to be developed further, therefore not as much progress has been made in the area as hoped but the intention is to ensure the continual development and availability of this service to all young people involved with Carolina House Trust. All young people, staff and foster carers within the organisation have access to software, laptops and internet to enhance the learning opportunities for the young people.

Children's Family Trust

Grant received - £9,980.00

Items purchased/improvements made - People Carrier and new PC's

Benefits/improvements of grant -

The Children's Family Trust used a large part of the grant (£9,000.00) to replace a vehicle used by staff and children. The previous vehicle was a Ford Transit Tourneo which was more of a minivan and was replaced by a VW Sharan which is a people carrier. One of the young people looked after is a teenager who felt embarrassed being picked up by a minibus when all her friends were picked up by their parents in ordinary cars. The purchase of the people carrier has given the young people a sense of being like other youngsters living in a family environment.

A laptop was also purchased with the remainder of the money and will be used to familiarize the youngest child in our care with the use of the keyboard etc and enable her to gain keyboard skills and familiarity with programmes etc.

City of Edinburgh Council

Grant received - £222,055.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Specialist play equipment, refurbishment, landscaping, musical instruments, IT equipment, sports & outdoor equipment, feeding and activity chairs, games & toys, furniture, books

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Edinburgh has used the grant to improve facilities in a number of its residential units and one residential school. There have been a variety of uses made of the funding depending on the current state of buildings and the needs of the young people residing there.

The following are a few examples of the improvements being made:

Structural alterations to buildings to create a better working space in which young people can undertake homework and other activities

Installation of folding desks into bedrooms for homework

Creation of space and resources for a specific set of activities - for instance an art room and a music room

Improved access to IT facilities

Improved layout of kitchen areas to allow better access for young people learning to cook

Outdoor play equipment for younger children to play and exercise

Improvements to garden area to assist active involvement of young people in gardening and environmental awareness

Improvements to library area and classrooms in a residential school to assist with curriculum development and integration of IT into the curriculum.

Clackmannanshire Council

Grant received - £12,475.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Landscaping, refurbishment

Benefits/improvements of grant...No Response Received

Common Thread Limited

Grant received - £18,000

Items purchased/improvements made - IT equipment, refurbishment, books, Arts equipment, Music Equipment, Tools for Work Shops, Social Development Programme.

Benefits/improvements of grant

The grant to increase the educational environment of Common Threads residential homes. To provide a wider range of facilities and environment where education and learning can happen.

1. Changes to their Individual Learning Environment

Our young people all have a personal learning area in their rooms. We have enhanced these by providing them with up to date laptops which have been further enhanced by providing the means for internet access in a public place within the homes.

2. Changes to their Group Learning Environment

The grant has been very useful in terms of overall improvements to the group working environments. We have developed an education room within one of our homes. This room having been out of use for several years required complete refurbishment. This included improved access for Fire Safety, heating and decorating. Also in this home we have developed a woodwork shop assisting the young people living there to grow an enterprising business selling their products. An art workshop, separate from the house has been developed at two of our homes.

3. Specialist Equipment and Tools

Provided tools for woodwork shop, a pottery wheel and kiln, art materials, further educational resources and improvements to the IT provision in terms of wifi access in some of the homes and improvements to the signal strength in our existing education rooms. Also planning a Social Development programme.

‘We have tried to direct the majority of the funding to more innovative learning areas in an attempt to improve the range of educational possibilities for our young people. Our children have benefited from the additions up until now but we believe these improvements will continue to be focal points for learning far into the future.’

Corseford (Capability Scotland)

Grant received - £39,920.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, assistive technology, bath with hydro & bath stretcher

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Environmental Controls

Each of the residential rooms is now equipped with environmental controls that allow the young people a great deal of independence in day to day activities. With the 'Possum' controls now in place the young people no longer have to rely on a member of staff to open the curtains, put on a CD or change channels on TV. The controls, which can be mounted on a bedside stand or on a mount on a wheelchair give our young people control over these appliances through buttons on the touch screen or by using a click switch to scan through the options.

The school is also fitted with environmental controls. It is used in classes and in therapy sessions and will also be used with parents as their facilities at home are being upgraded and with future resources pupils will use.

Pupils are enjoying using the equipment, see its potential and are well motivated to become competent users.

Spa Baths

Our young people had expressed concern that they had no access to a bath in the unit. Each en suite bathroom had its' own shower trolley but baths were missed. Two rise and fall baths were purchased complete with whirlpool 'spa' features to allow young people a bath whenever they wished.

Crossreach

Grant received - £202,095.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT equipment, refurbishment, bikes, music facilities, outside play area,

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Geilsland

The Scottish Government grant was spent on the introduction of an IT network, provision of PC's and refurbishment of the Plumbing workshop.

Ballikinrain

The Scottish Government grant was spent on improvement of the IT network, provision of mountain bikes, accommodation for forest schools and music facilities and an outside play area.

The Mallard

The Scottish Government grant was used to provide additional indoor and outdoor learning experiences for children and young people with disabilities. Additional computer equipment was purchased to allow more children to have access to the internet as well as special programmes to help with communication skills.

Curo Salus Ltd

Grant received - £12,475.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Audio, Visual & IT equipment, musical instruments, outdoor & indoor games, educational books

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Dean & Cauvin Trust

Grant received - £22,455.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, audio visual equipment, shower room

Benefits/improvements of grant -

The grant enabled us to purchase more laptops and pc's which provided an additional resource to support young people in completing educational assignments. The benefits of this have been vast, as young people could do their homework or college assignments at a time that suited them and did not have to wait until the pc or laptop became available. We also managed to decorate and re-organise a room where young people felt more relaxed, this has enabled us to encourage and support them in accessing training or employment opportunities, as they are now more likely to use the room.

Making the environment more homely and friendly has increased young people's self-esteem and they are more likely to take pride in the environment which they live. The 'feeling good' room provides haircut's, positive hygiene advice etc, this has also increased young people's self-esteem and confidence which has a positive impact on all areas of their lives. When young people feel good within themselves this is evidenced in their achievements in all other areas of their lives.

Donaldsons College

Grant received - £69,860.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, outdoor play area, art & craft room

Benefits/improvements of grant...No Response Received

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Grant received - £17,465.00

Items purchased/improvements made - £4506 returned, Educational Books, Audio, Visual & IT Equipment, Furniture, Musical Instruments, Sports & Outdoor Equipment, Arts Supplies, Kitchen Equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant...No Response Received

Dundee City Council

Grant received - £72,355.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT equipment, refurbishment, outdoor equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant...

Benefits/ Improvements

Dundee City Council directed the grant on improving the physical environment of our 5 units to promote a positive and welcoming environment.

Computer equipment was upgraded to allow for safe internet access and newer/updated educational packages. Homework bases within the units were upgraded with more appropriate furniture, suited to home tutoring and work with the Looked After Children's Link Teacher.

We also purchased equipment for social use in recreational areas to help Young People develop their social skills. Soft furnishing were purchased for the living areas to allow Young People to relax, feel safe and valued.

Floor coverings and re-decoration gives the units a warmer more welcoming feel throughout.

Outdoor play equipment and musical instruments were purchased for the respite unit for children with learning/physical disabilities. The purchase of high quality instruments and equipment was commented on very positively by the Care Commission. Feedback from the unit is that the musical instruments bring the Young People lots of enjoyment both individually and as a group, helping them to develop their social and creative skills.

What our Young People Think

The purchase of the equipment has given our Young People a sense of pride in their home environment and encouraged them to respect their living space.

Young People enjoyed being involved in the process of choosing furnishings and equipment which has led to quotes such as:

"no one had better write on this lovely table"

Other comments from visitors to our units have been:

... what a pleasant surprise to see such a well furnished and maintained unit....

East Ayrshire Council

Grant received - £44,910.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, landscaping

Benefits/improvements of grant...

The funding was used to improve the environments of our units both internally and externally to assist the learning process for our children and young people. Specifically, we have upgraded the communal areas of our two older units to provide a more comfortable and appropriate environment within which to conduct educational and learning activities. This will assist staff in encouraging children and young people with educational and leisure pursuits through the provision of furnishings, decoration and equipment in particular rooms set aside for this purpose.

The garden of our newest unit has been developed into an organic learning environment and leisure facility. This was achieved by landscaping and planting the current back garden area which is now be used as a recreational and learning environment for the resident children and young people. The young people have been involved in the whole process of developing and planning the garden as well as the planting of the shrubs, plants, etc., and the maintenance of these with tuition. We anticipate that there will continue to have be both learning and relaxation benefits for the children and young people through continuous use of this area all year round.

East Dunbartonshire Council

Grant received - £24,950.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT Equipment, Sports & Outdoor Equipment & Clothing, Games, Books & Stationery, Outdoor Furniture, Kitchen Equipment, Musical Instruments

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

East Lothian Council

Grant received - £32,435.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

East Park

Grant received - £64,870.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, sensory room, audio visual & IT equipment, minibus

Benefits/improvements of grant -

The refurbishment of 8 bedrooms in the respite unit provides more scope for utilizing bedrooms as stimulating or calming areas, depending on the young people in residence. The nature of respite's transient residents means that bedrooms can become shabby relatively quickly, and the recent 'face lift' has also improved the overall appearance of the accommodation.

The provision of new IT equipment has increased the availability and access of technology for young people across the organisation. This includes enhancing educational opportunities, supporting homework and facilitating internet access.

The previous multi-sensory room was more than 15 years old and recently equipment has become increasingly outdated. High quality, modern equipment provides important sensory experiences, particularly for young people who have multi disabilities and/or sensory impairment.

Provision of a new minibus has meant young people have better access to transportation in a less obtrusive vehicle. Some staff have recently undertaken a MIDAS driving test, and this, along with the new minibus, has increased opportunities and freedom especially for young people who find using public transport difficult.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ size beds have increased the sleeping comfort of the recipients, and the electronic games and leisure equipment have been a great asset to the wide range of young people who use them.

Falkirk Council

Grant received - £9,980.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Furniture kitchen, equipment & fittings, refurbishment, audio, visual & IT Equipment, outdoor equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant

Introduction

Falkirk Council received a grant of £9,980 in February 2007, to improve the educational environment of our residential units. Falkirk has one unit, and the funds were all focused on that accommodation.

Benefits/Improvements:

1 Quiet Room:

Most of the expenditure was used to create a 'quiet room'. This has: -

- Provided a separate place to complete homework and access computer/internet without using the unit's office. This has been particularly beneficial for one young person, who sat exams in May 2007, did well and remains at school.
- Enhanced young peoples' ability to meet school requirements for computer access. This has been generally significant.
- Provided a 'safe place' for time out, and private meetings with family/ Who Cares?/staff. Young people have made it their own space and consider it essential for and residential development.

2. Equipment:

Computers, laptop, printers, DVD/TV's were purchased. This allows separate access at the same time, thus avoiding disputes.

3. Software:

Education colleagues advised on software. While not directly 'educational' it is enjoyed by young people and designed to enhance IT skills and knowledge.

4. Musical Facilities:

The young people were keen to purchase musical equipment. Musical accessories are used and enjoyed by the young people, making them feel better and providing a therapeutic outlet.

Falkland House - Thomas Swan

Grant received - £99,800.00.

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, games and sports equipment, audio visual and IT equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Falkland House used the grant to improve and modernise the physical environment for its pupils and enhance the school's positive ethos.

All pupils' bedrooms were decorated and upgraded with contract quality furniture (wardrobe, bedside cabinet, dressing table/study desk, headboard, chair, mirror, television, DVD player, and lighting) and soft furnishings (curtains and new bedding).

Each unit lounge was refurbished, including new suites, televisions, breakfast bar, carpeting and new pool tables in all pool lounges.

The dining room was augmented with contract quality tables, chairs and storage cupboards, as well as new crockery and a carpet.

The school library was replenished and new audio visual equipment purchased.

A games room was created and resourced.

A fitness room was created and resourced.

The main hallway was carpeted and an A3 printer was bought to enhance the display of pupils' work and photographs around the school.

Fife Council

Amount of grant received - £77,345

Items purchased/improvements made - Lease of holiday home, furniture & flooring, indoor & outdoor games, soft furnishings, caravan, IT equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Fife Council provides eight small Residential Houses for children, based primarily in the main population centres. Five houses provide accommodation for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and three for children with varying degrees of special care needs, including a specific respite provision.

The residential Team Leader, in consultation with other house staff, agreed that the most effective way of equitably improving the quality of care for all the children in our houses was to make the biggest payment towards a residential holiday caravan. The caravan is based in the North of Scotland and is available to all the children for either specific holiday periods or shorter respite breaks. The caravan has proved both extremely popular and successful, providing a positive alternative experience for the children in our care.

The second biggest spend was made in creating a new garden area for our house which provides social and medical care to children with severe physical and learning disabilities. The garden now allows an easily accessible and enjoyable space for non-ambulatory children, in this specifically designed provision. The remaining monies were then spent on various renovations, refurbishments, soft furnishings and equipment across all the houses dependent on their specific needs. The priorities were agreed with the children by the house staff, some, for instance choosing new carpets, while others retiled bathrooms or repaired walls.

Forth Craig

Grant received - £12,475.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Landscaping, Visual Equipment.

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Forth Craig used the Scottish Executive Grant in two ways.

Firstly, we completely revamped the garden. From its original simple grassy area, it is now child friendly and free from weeds, mud etc. The shrubs that were planted are now tended by the young people who have taken an interest in learning gardening skills. A decorative slabbed area now contains somewhere for the young people to sit in the fresh air either together. or with staff.

The other spend was to purchase new flat screen TV's for the young people. This has allowed them to get rid of the old, bulkier sets that they each had and has brought them up to date with new technology and, more importantly, has kept them up with their peers who live at home.

Frontline Response Care Ltd

Grant received - £27,445.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Educational books, sports and outdoor equipment, audio visual & IT equipment, musical instruments

Benefits/improvements of grant -

We decided to use the money to build skills, to build self esteem and to promote the ability to interact socially with other young people and with adults who are new to the young person. Three key skills identified to move our young people towards independence are cooking skills, driving skills and computing skills.

We've bought baking and cooking equipment that is held in head office and can be taken out to young people in their own flats. They can use the equipment independently or with the support of staff. It comes with cookbooks that focus on good food at budget prices. We've bought computer packages to help with the theory part of the driving test and we've set aside money for driving lessons for young people who have shown sufficient commitment and responsibility to merit driving lessons. A clean driving licence can be an asset in applying for jobs. Several of our young people have shown an interest in computing courses and we've used some of the money to buy ECDL courses and we've set aside money for more in depth computing courses for the young people who would like to take computing further.

We've bought an interactive whiteboard and software to encourage young people to make their own presentations on topics of interest to them. This is designed to boost their self esteem through good feedback and to boost their confidence in their ability to speak in interviews and in group situations.

We've bought a lot of music making equipment and we've begun making music in different groups. This raises self esteem, encourages social interaction and allows young people to relax and enjoy group work.

We still have a bit of money to spend and we're looking at various options for this that will complement what we already have in place.

These uses of the grant money have definitely benefited our young people already. One young person is engaging with education through the computing courses to an extent not seen in several years and with a real chance of a job at the end of his course. All the young people are interacting better with each other and with adults both individually and in groups. They seem more trusting and willing to try new things that 'street cred' would not have allowed them to attempt in the past. It's still early days though.

FRONTLINE RESPONSE CARE LTD

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS FROM GRANTS

There were various benefits for our young people in receipt of the grant. The most being that we were able to allocate a laptop and printer for use of each student within each residential unit. This has allowed them to access the internet (restricted times and sites) in order to increase confidence when using the latest technology and also sourcing information for ASDAN awards and educational homework.

The sporting equipment gives us the freedom of being able to take young people camping as and where they want and to organise our own outdoor days with all the required equipment.

An old car was purchased and a Haynes manual to go along with this for students to learn about car care and engines. From this one young person has decided that a career in mechanics is what he is wanting.

Each unit now has it's own trampoline and outdoor sporting equipment that allows students and staff the flexibility of using it as and when they want to without needing to go elsewhere for it.

In all our young people have made the most of the facilities available to them which we wanted to provide and utilise but couldn't immediately without the help of the grant.

Glasgow City Council

Grant received - £374,250.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Audio visual and IT equipment, books, refurbishment, landscaping

Benefits/improvements of grant

Glasgow Social Work Services focused the grant received from the Scottish Government in February/March 2007 to improve the physical environment of each of our 19 children's units. This allowed enhancement of the living environment of the young people, and demonstrated investment in the dignity of every young person to enable all to enjoy positive learning experiences.

The priorities were to improve the individual living space of each young person by redecorating and refurbishing their bedrooms and ensuring that each young person has an individual desk or study facilities. Where space allowed units also developed study/activity areas, which were furnished with internet access computers, books, games etc and furnished to a high specification. Improving the general standard of the physical environment, particularly bedrooms, and providing learning tools such as computers provided a greater incentive to learning for young people.

Measuring outcomes of such improvements is challenging but a recent audit at 31st December of our 115 young people LAAC in Glasgow's provided residential sector, only 3 young people had no identified school placement and the consensus view of unit managers is that with improvements to the environment and continued collaborative work undertaken with educational and other colleagues, this has laid the foundation for a better learning culture.

Educational items for all units included:

- New computers (some larger units required more than one)
- Printer
- Educational software packages
- Digital camera
- Supply of computer paper, photo-paper, pens, pencils etc.
- Desks and chairs
- Supply of books

Good Shepherd Centre

Grant received - £112,275.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, audio visual and IT equipment, art equipment, CCTV improvement.

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Harmeny Education Trust Ltd

Grant received - £79,840.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, outdoor recreational area

Benefits/improvements of grant -

The grant was used in two major projects:

1. CREATION OF AN OUTDOOR, ALL WEATHER, FLOODLIT SPORTS AREA

To add to the range of sports and recreational facilities available to the children, the all weather sports area was developed in the grounds of Harmeny School.

The facility has added to the range of sports offered through the curriculum. As an all weather facility the area is available throughout the year and, as it is floodlit, maximum use is gained throughout the winter period.

Community use of the facility has been encouraged and several local youth groups make regular use of the sports area. This usage has helped develop better links between the local community and children placed at Harmeny. It has helped develop more positive attitudes to looked after children within the community and opened up access by Harmeny children to community groups.

2. IMPROVEMENT TO THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

The grant allowed the creation of a weatherproof extension to our outdoor centre enabling a wider range of outdoor equipment to be purchased, stored and maintained.

The centre offers a full range of activities to children placed in Harmeny and now increasingly works with a range of community groups. This development has added to the variety in the education programme and developed strong community links between children placed at Harmeny and the groups accessing the Centre.

High Trees Ltd

Grant received - £27,445.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT equipment, refurbishment, kitchen appliances, games and sports equipment, books and art supplies

Benefits/improvements of grant...

Closeburn House

IT Suite

The school was able to install a 'managed' networked computer system with some of the funds provided. This has benefitted our students by giving them the opportunity to complete work using word-processing programmes. This allows them to see their work presented in different formats according to their Additional Learning Support needs such as Dyslexia.

The students have the opportunity to find relevant subject information from the Internet, and can also engage with set homework tasks both in school and in the home.

The teacher programmes enable worksheets to be set for students at differentiated levels which promotes individualised coursework, this then promotes self confidence for students who are then able to find success within the group.

Gym Facility

The Unit was able to install a specialist heating system in an established gym which has made the use of the facility more accessible to all students.

The funding was also used to purchase specific gym equipment for cardiovascular workouts. This has inspired young people who were not usually interested in exercise to engage in a more healthy life experience.

Maben House

IT Suite

The school was able to install a 'managed' networked computer system with some of the funds provided. This has benefitted our students by giving them the opportunity to complete work using word-processing programmes. This allows them to see their work presented in different formats according to their Additional Learning Support needs such as Dyslexia.

The students have the opportunity to find relevant subject information from the Internet, and can also engage with set homework tasks both in school and in the home.

The teacher programmes enable worksheets to be set for students at differentiated levels which promote individualised coursework; this then promotes self confidence for students who are then able to find success within the group.

Outdoor Play Area

The Unit is installing an Outdoor Play area with funds provided from the grant.

This has inspired young people who were not usually interested in exercise to engage in a more healthy life experience. It has provided the opportunity for young people to engage in team sports as well as individual practice sessions. It is hoped that the confidence gained when in the unit from the on site use of the area will help the young people to engage in out of house sports.

Highland Council

Grant received - £99,800.00

Items purchased/improvements made -Audio, visual and IT equipment, refurbishment, activity room, books and art supplies, activity breaks, sensory equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Within the mainstream Children's Unit managed by the Council, we used the money allocated to us in 2006/07 for three main purposes – improving the physical living environment, improving opportunity and facilities for learning and education and providing opportunities for a healthy lifestyle through exercise.

Young people have benefited from this approach by the environment being improved with the purchase in various units of new carpeting, mattresses, blinds and furnishings. Various items of computing equipment have been purchased and also bikes and safety equipment. In two of the units specific study rooms were set up and kitted out with computing equipment. In another unit, a gym was established in an unused garage and the money financed equipment plus conversion to prepare the building for that purpose. This has given young people the opportunity to develop a physically healthy lifestyle and in some of the other units various items relating to physical exercise were purchased in one case a trampoline.

In two cases, small outbuildings were erected in the grounds of the units to allow young people to have a warm dry quiet area which was fitted out for educational and recreational purposes.

Within the two residential units dedicated to respite and residential care for children and young people affected by disability, the purchases were primarily, of computers and specialist software equipment which has enabled young people with multiple disabilities to develop their IT skills.

Outdoor play equipment of a specialist nature also has been purchased which is robust enough to meet the needs of young people with severe disabilities.

Musical equipment that is adapted for children with limited use of upper limbs has also been purchased which has greatly increased the range of activities available to this particular group of young people.

Hillside School (Aberlour) Ltd

Grant received - £87,325.00

Items purchased/improvements made – Catering facility, IT equipment, games & art supplies, fitness room

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Project 1

- a) Development of a catering facility for use of students allowing an opportunity to gain REHIS qualification and expansion of knowledge with regard to food preparation, budgeting and healthy eating.
- b) Provision of a dedicated resource area with computer/internet facility suitably equipped to allow research, consultation etc. The grant also provided various reference resources and materials to assist and support in the preparation for future life.

Project 2

The upgrading of the School's ICT provision to include new desktop computers and laptop computers as well as printing facilities and the installation of interactive whiteboards in a number of classrooms. This project also included a refurbishment of the computer room.

Project 3

The provision of a games/leisure room which included the refurbishment of the existing central games and leisure room facility. This upgraded facility has provided a focal point for leisure and social skills interaction and also an opportunity to improve individual and group esteem through the provision of a positive and educationally rich environment.

Project 4

The grant also provided an opportunity to refurbish and equip a room within the school to provide a fitness facility open to all students and school staff to promote fitness, wellbeing and healthy lifestyle. This refurbishment included the purchase of a range of fitness equipment and the provision of training for staff and students in the use of said equipment.

Project 5

The development of an outdoor football/basketball court with "all weather" surface to enhance the Schools existing provision for physical activities.

Inverclyde Council

Grant received - £59,880.00

Items purchased/improvements made - refurbishment, recreational areas, kitchen utensils

Benefits/improvements of grant -

The Grant of £59,880 that was issued to Inverclyde Council to increase and enhance the educational environment for young people has been of great benefit here to LAAC here in Inverclyde. we have been innovative and consulted young people about the resources required to facilitate their learning, and ways of developing increased skill and social interaction.

As a result here is how the money was used:

- Study areas were created in bedrooms with new desks chairs, to allow private individual space for study.
- A teaching area was created in a kitchen, to create domestic arrangements to allow young people to cook for themselves or with staff. The previous area was institutional and was unsuitable for young people.
- We improved the lay out of a garden area so that it could house play equipment and garden furniture, so that young people could enjoy a range of equipment and also eat together. The garden previously had a slope and could not be used in this way.

The young people here in Inverclyde have benefit from this grant, because as direct result they are now able to cook, play and live in environments which are now geared up to provide a range of opportunities for learning. Their units are environments which assist life long learning. Young people feel more included and can access places to play, learn and study.

Private study areas have also been welcomed by young people who are using this space for homework and study, and have said that they feel that they are not disrupted during study

Kibble Education & Care Centre Ltd

Grant received - £159,680.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Books, refurbishment, musical instruments, IT and gym equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Kibble Education and Care Centre targeted some of the funding available from this grant directly to the units and young people across the campus. They chose to spend the money on equipment chosen by the individual groups of boys within these units. The equipment purchased increased both the indoor and the outdoor activities available to the young people in Kibble. We would highlight in particular the increased number of camps that the young people have enjoyed in the last year.

Most of the money was spent on equipment within physical education and to improve the computer facilities for the young people both in the classroom and in their living areas. Additional books have offered enhanced reading opportunities for many of the young people. Overall within the units, there is an improved commitment to learning and the organisation has further improved the support given by the care staff to underpin the educational achievements of the young people.

Within the education facilities, the additional equipment within the PE Department has helped to focus a number of the young people into taking better care of their health. They work with PE staff to maintain a regular check on their fitness levels.

Malvern Grange Children's Service

Grant received - £3,866.68

Items purchased/improvements made -IT equipment, refurbishment, musical instruments

Benefits/improvements of grant

Firstly we decided to reduce energy costs and support the environment by fully insulating our loft areas.

Other monies were used to purchase an outdoor climbing centre, football posts, musical instruments and computer equipment. Our children always benefit from fresh and innovative leisure facilities and this is evidenced by the continual use of all of our purchases.

Midlothian Council

Grant received - £29,940.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT and audio visual equipment, books, outdoor equipment, sports and gym equipment, refurbishment

Benefits/improvements of grant...

Young people have had access to various outdoor and sport activities, helping to promote self esteem and a healthier lifestyle.

Young people have enjoyed various camping holidays focused on promoting self-help skills, teamwork and resilience.

A regular "Music Club" had been established across two residential units allowing young people to explore and enjoy music.

Young people have access to appropriate literature and reference materials helping to promote greater educational attainment and encourage out of school learning.

The living environment in two residential units has been substantially improved.

Moorehouse School

Grant received - £87,325.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Kitchen utensils, IT equipment, books

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

NCH (Scotland)

Amount of grant received - £92,315.00

Items purchased/improvements made - landscaping/greenhouse, IT and audio visual equipment, musical equipment, refurbishment, books (educational)

Benefits/improvements of grant -

1. ISSC PROJECT (AYRSHIRE)

- A substantial portion of the money received was spent on electronic equipment e.g. laptop, LCD television, computer software and a video camera. These items of equipment have enhanced the opportunity for the young people of the ISSC project to engage in a wider range of educational experiences. The project also spent some of the money on enhancing the young people's living area – with a new study and functional table for art and crafts' use. The garage was also upgraded to encourage the young people to participate in team games. A sensory garden was also developed.

2. GAEL OG ISS/ISMS PROJECT(HIGHLAND)

- ASDAN - The staff team undertook a training programme delivered by recognised trainers from ASDAN. The training package is used to identify units of work which a young person undertakes and on completion receives a certificate. This certificate can then be used as evidence of prior learning when accessing training from other agencies

3. MORAY PROJECT RESIDENTIAL UNITS

- The money granted to the Moray Project Residential Units allowed the project to purchase audio visual resources to aid homework, project work and contribute to social skills development – photography, video, editing suites, printing and IT resources. In addition the projects have purchased books to provide an educationally rich environment tailored both to individual needs - the promotion of literature developing literacy and numeric skills, and group resources such as reference books and educational software. The project also purchased resources to increase practical life skills such as cookery and gardening which also led on to developing resources around environmental issues. Other resources purchased are to help young people to understand the environment which has enabled them to plan and undertake outdoor activities such as camping and cycling. The project now has many more options to support, encourage and develop learning both in school and outwith the formal learning environment

4. WESTERN ISLES PROJECT (HILLCREST RESIDENTIAL UNIT)

- The money granted to this project allowed for the purchase of IT equipment, computer software (life story, emotional literacy, and mental health), digital Camera, DVD player and also a flat screen television. Money was also used to purchase desks and chairs for the young people's bedrooms and also for their study room. Reference and reading books for the young people were also purchased. A large amount was spent on garden renovation and the purchase of garden furniture as recreational and exercise space for young people

5. TAYAVALLA PROJECT (FALKIRK)

- Tayavalla received money which was linked to educational attainment and promotion of physical exercise for children. With the money the project purchased and installed a ground level trampoline which is accessible for all children. Other items purchased were a frame and slide which again provides the opportunity for children to exercise. From an educational perspective this equipment encourages children to socially interact, compromise and negotiate with each other, assess risk for themselves, take risks in a safe environment and explore by being creative in their play and essentially have fun.

New School Butterstone

Amount of grant received - £97,305.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment of gym, art room and supplies

Benefits/improvements of grant -

These funds allowed the school to proceed with the high priority initiative of the development of its Expressive Arts Centre Project. This project involves the extensive upgrade of the sports and assembly hall and the division and expansion of the Art and CDT classroom facilities. For reasons of cost and practicality the Governors agreed to split the project into two phases: the first was the hall refurbishment with the classroom phase to follow when funds have been raised.

The hall upgrade took place over the 2007 summer break and was in use from the beginning of the 2007-08 academic session.

The new facility which includes full insulation and lighting, three large windows, a sprung floor marked for a variety of indoor sports activities, and under floor heating, has been a significant and splendid addition to the school's amenities and is thoroughly enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. Not only are the sports of indoor football, hockey, badminton and basketball pursued constantly and with vigour, but, as important, we now have an excellent venue for daily school assembly, plays and concerts which everyone appreciates. The benefits of having this facility on campus now are incalculable.

New Struan School

Amount of grant received - £69,860.00

Items purchased/improvements made – Refurbishment of kitchens, group living areas, bathrooms, new carpets and flooring, provision of ICT desk and equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant

The improvements to the school residences give tremendous benefits for our pupils and increase the provision of a safe, happy and supportive environment. The new kitchens provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their life skills and give positive learning experiences.

The general refurbishments and new furniture create a more attractive and relaxing environment building the pupils self-esteem and providing opportunities for them to develop and grow as individuals. The new bathrooms are designed to provide independence in personal care skills have a very positive impact on the well being of pupils with autism.

The senior pupils benefit enormously from the new games room giving them opportunities to interact socially and providing them with enjoyable recreational activities.

The provision of enhanced ICT equipment and specialised work areas gives the pupils a positive learning experience extending beyond the classroom yet linking in with the Curriculum for Excellence.

North Ayrshire Council

Grant received - £82,335.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Audio, visual & IT equipment, musical instruments, outdoor & sports equipment, educational games, furniture

Benefits/improvements of grant -

- Over 50% of the allocation (£47,930) was put towards the costs of building a new 6-bedded purpose built unit, with dedicated space and equipment for education/study.

The issue of having space and privacy for study was one of the main reasons given by several of the young people who requested to be placed in this unit. Their experience has been that this has provided an environment where they can study and prepare for exams.

The funding was also used mainly to purchase the following categories of goods: -

- Educational books, PC software and past papers, which have been beneficial for young people completing homework and studying for exams.
- Sports and activity equipment, which has promoted exercise and healthy living – and increased positive interaction with staff and other young people i.e. cycling/camping trips.
- Toys, games, arts and crafts materials, which have also increased positive interaction with staff and other young people.
- Memberships – i.e. magazine/Historic Scotland passes, which the young people have enjoyed.
- IT equipment – i.e. laptops/printers/digital cameras/printers.

These have been used and enjoyed by young people, along with the software also purchased, for personal and school use.

The monies have therefore improved the opportunities for young people to improve their social, physical and academic skills.

North Lanarkshire Council

Grant received - £92,315.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Training, books and magazines, refurbishment, IT equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Oakbank School Trust

Grant received - £112,275.00

Items purchased/improvements made – Interactive whiteboards, upgrading classroom accommodation, improve bathroom accommodation

Benefits/improvements of grant...

Oakbank School utilised the grant from the Scottish Executive in a number of ways.

The refurbishment of the Art and Home Economics facilities has transformed the way in which young people at Oakbank School learn. These classrooms are now located within the main education facility and this has negated the need for a 'trek up the hill' to outlying buildings.

The bright and airy Home Economics facility incorporates a practical and theoretical area with up to date equipment and a welcoming environment. The Home Economics area has a dual purpose as it is not only utilised for the teaching of Home Economics but for individual sessions with young people to promote independent living skills. These sessions have proved to be very successful and young people have been enthusiastic in their engagement in the Independent Living Skills Programme.

A very positive outcome from the new Art facility has been a painting produced by a young person which reflects his passion for his hobby at an indoor bike and skateboard facility. The young person depicted his enthusiasm via his painting which was presented to the facility.

The purchase of interactive whiteboards has transformed the learning environment for young people in both the education and the care setting. Interactive whiteboards have been utilised for life story work and for both individual and group learning exercises, across the curriculum, within the classroom setting. This was previously an area that the school had sought to develop and the funding enabled Oakbank School to provide interactive whiteboards for every subject specialist.

The remaining funding was utilised to improve bathroom facilities in two units. The new bathroom accommodation is of a very high specification and has increased facilities for our young people throughout the school.

Ochil Tower School

Grant received - £69,860.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, audio visual and IT equipment, outdoor activities, kitchen utensils, landscaping

Benefits/improvements of grant

The money will be spent on upgrading and improving the physical environment of the school facilities.

Particular focus will be placed on improving an outdoor educational facility at Killin, Perthshire. This includes upgrading of the hot water and heating system, painting and the creation of a drying area. These improvements will enhance the experience of the children and young people who use the facilities on a regular basis. Ochil Tower School recognises the value and importance of outdoor education in providing children with learning opportunities which can enhance personal, social and life skills within a challenging and supportive environment.

Orkney Islands Council

Grant received - £22,455.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, outdoor activities, games and audio visual equipment, art supplies, baby toys for young mother's group

Benefits/improvements of grant...

Camoran Children's Resource Centre

The money was used to purchase a range of items and equipment. The living area was upgraded and now incorporates a separate quiet area where home work can be completed thus promoting a positive learning experience. Lap top computers were purchased and the young people have used these to complete homework and participate in their individual care plans.

A variety of craft materials, indoor and outdoor play equipment has been purchased to provide opportunities for developing play and social skills and enable children and young people to participate in informal learning. A multi purpose digital camera/camcorder has been used for life story work and as a video diary for some young people. The camera has been used for family contacts, which helps encourage and promote positive interactions.

Young people have benefited from new kitchen equipment, cookery books, sewing machine enabling them to develop valuable life skills, which will facilitate them towards independent living.

Aurrida House

For the financial year 2007, the Scottish Executive awarded Aurrida House, a Local Authority Residential Respite Unit for children and young people with Additional Support Needs, a total of £12, 427. The money was allocated to improve areas within the unit used for educational purposes and to purchase toys and equipment to enhance learning opportunities for the children.

The money was spent on a range of goods, including the upgrading of the living area; used by the children and young people as a homework area. Lap top computers were purchased, along with a variety of indoor and outdoor play equipment to enhance the educational needs of the children.

The outdoor play equipment included gardening equipment, which has so far been used for group work activities, focussing on growing vegetables, then cooking the end result!

The money enabled us to be imaginative in the equipment chosen for the individual children and enabled us to expand our range of sensory equipment, an area where the children get much benefit from the interaction with the range of equipment we purchased.

The benefits are much appreciated and so far the children have had much enjoyment for the use of our purchases.

Park View Dundee

Grant received - £59,880

Items purchased/improvements made - Outdoor Sports Equipment, Furniture, Audio, Visual & IT Equipment, Carpeting, Refurbishment, Upgrading Tennis Court

Benefits/improvements of grant...

The grant was used to provide a new astro-turf games pitch with fencing; new classroom furniture for pupils and floor-coverings in classrooms, digital projectors, and an editing PC for drama/music.

The combined effect of these facilities has been seen in a variety of positive changes in the pupil group. The fervent use of the astro-turf pitch every lunch-time and many evenings has resulted in a much healthier pupil group, more amenable to classroom learning, and with no overweight problems. Once in classrooms, the new bright co-ordinated colour schemes appear to stimulate greater acceptance of being in classes and a more relaxed co-operative class group. The specific items of digital projector (used to better illustrate PC aspects of lessons on a large screen in Science) and the capability to produce good quality recordings in drama have renewed interest in both subjects.

Overall this is felt by the staff group to have been a very worthwhile investment in the education of the pupils via their environment.

Perth & Kinross Council

Amount of grant received - £34,930.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Audio visual and IT equipment, books and art supplies, outdoor activities, refurbishment

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Quarriers

Grant received - £142,215.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, sports hall, extension, IT & sensory equipment, musical instruments

Benefits/improvements of grant -

- 66 children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (31 are residential) benefit from a wider educational curriculum and access to the lifelong benefits of sport.
- Development of a stimulating and creative communal area at Countryview. This offers a greater range of activities and opportunities for learning and development for the 82 children with a range of disabilities who use the service.
- We refurbished an institutional style bathroom in Chavey Down to create a stimulating and therapeutic environment which now offers an intense sensory experience for the 56 children who use the service. The sensory equipment helps in teaching essential pre-language skills such as cause and effect, expressing choice and preference, and also interaction and turn-taking.
- 6 children in Rivendell access IT based educational programmes in a calming, therapeutic environment which reduces harmful frustrations and is conducive to learning. This equipment is used to teach essential communication, expression and interaction skills as well as basic numeracy and literacy.
- 6 young people in Merrybrook accessing IT based learning programmes through assistive technology in a therapeutic environment. This includes a very large screen for those with visual impairment, touch screen and footpads and touchpads for those with limited fine motor skills.

Radical Services Ltd

Grant received - £9,980.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Erection of a new timber lodge

Benefits/improvements of grant...No Response Received

Renfrewshire Council

Amount of grant received - £129,740.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT equipment, refurbishment, new bedrooms & multi-purpose room, landscaping, books, gym equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Funds were allocated to individual units according to the number of beds in each unit.

The grant was used to fund improvements in the units gardens and communal spaces with a view to encouraging recreational games, sport and outside dining. Young people now use external and communal areas more and learn team games and gardening skills.

Internally, designated quiet rooms were refurbished and computers, media, books and music centres were installed. Young people use these areas for homework or for relaxation. Lap top computers were also purchased to enable young people to have the option of doing homework in any room.

Self esteem and behaviour can be enhanced by good quality surroundings and can in turn make young people feel safe and valued. The Grant has been used to provide Renfrewshire's accommodated children with the same opportunities as children living in their own family home.

To conclude, the grant has provided greater access to educational materials and environments conducive to learning, in turn improving young people's attitudes towards education. It is hoped that this will ultimately result in better educational outcomes for this particular group of young people.

Royal Blind School

Grant received - £212,075.00

Items purchased/improvements made - minibus and people carrier, drama and music equipment, ICT resources, refurbishment

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Minibus + People Carrier:

These have been used to take our young people to a range of outdoor activities such as swimming, and to a range of leisure and club activities in the local community. They have also been used to transport pupils to FE colleges for “mini-college” links to extend their learning and vocational experiences.

Drama and Music Equipment:

These have extended the range of expressive arts opportunities, including Christmas shows and recitals and the participation of a group of our visually impaired senior pupils in a weekend workshop and local concert at the Music Academy in Plockton High. One pupil undertook a solo public performance with a visiting Icelandic choir at a local venue. The Royal Blind School has also been visited by the African Children’s Choir which performed in the school hall.

ICT Resources for Residential Pupils:

These have been used to extend integration experiences with Firhill Secondary School. Within the residential care setting, our residential pupils have used the additional ICT resources to support homework, and link in “real time” with friends and family in their home communities.

Scottish Borders Council

Grant received - £19,960.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, IT equipment, games and sports equipment, musical instruments and art materials, books

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Seamab Learning and Care Services

Amount of grant received - £37,425.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Upgrading outdoor play equipment, double glazed windows

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Seamab is a residential school for primary aged (5-12) children with severe social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and attachment issues.

Seamab received £37,425 to improve the living environment for the children. We used the grant to partly fund the installation of double glazed picture windows to replace the multi-paned single glazed existing windows in the children's bungalows. The new windows have made all the rooms much lighter and brighter and give the children a much better outlook on the outside world. They also have the advantage of now looking like "normal" homes rather than institutionalised. Visitors to the bungalows have commented how much better the bungalows look with the new windows and how much more light comes in.

The other part of the grant was used to install a second play area on the bungalow site. This was specifically designed for the use of the older children. This equipment has been particularly successful being used not only as a play item but also as a meeting place.

This money has been greatly appreciated and the benefits of the improvements made are easily recognised.

Shetland Islands Council

Grant received - £29,940.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Toys and books, sensory equipment, IT and audio visual equipment, landscaping

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Shetland has two residential establishments Leog House and Laburnum House. Both establishments used the funding in a similar way, although some resources at Laburnum were more "specialised" as the facility caters for children and young people with additional support needs.

Items purchased included televisions, computers, desks, reading lamps, musical instruments, indoor and outdoor games equipment (including a playhouse), craft materials and a range of other items which includes books for the library.

Prior to purchasing these items we used an experienced teacher to carry out a brief audit of provision for looked after children. She contacted care staff in both establishments and teaching staff in schools and the young people themselves. Following this a plan was drawn up of what would best meet the educational needs of the children and young people.

As well as purchasing the equipment above an emphasis has been placed on increasing awareness and skills in care staff. "Homework" clubs have been formalised and it is hoped that in time we will see an increase in educational attainment in these children and young people.

The range of equipment purchased is aimed at improving the educational environment in the establishments but also encourages a wide range of activity inside and outside of the establishments. It has been acknowledged by the staff working with the children and young people that the use of the resources purchased in a planned way is having a positive effect on the self- esteem and confidence of the children and young people. This will, in time, have a positive effect on the educational attainment of the children and young people.

Snowdon School

Grant received - £44,910.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Building new classrooms and office

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Snowdon School continues to be highly regarded as a school with an impressive culture and ethos, and a good record of academic and broader achievements attained by the resident young people. An aspect that has been highlighted through inspection reports as being beneficial is that of increasing the physical space of the building and providing more appropriate sized classrooms for teachers to use a variety of teaching methods. The Board of Directors have been examining options and sources of funding for many years, and the additional funding has provided an opportunity to assist this development to be taken forward. We have welcomed this funding as an opportunity to begin the accommodation improvements that will enhance the educational experience of pupils. The benefits to the young people are significant, in that there will be two larger classrooms, more appropriate facilities for teaching particular subjects, a richer environment for learning, and greater space for private study. The process of improving has also allowed opportunities for young people to be exposed to history by virtue of living and learning in a building with historic interest, as well as the tensions and issues involved in developing such a building in contemporary times.

South Ayrshire Council

Grant received - £32,435.00

Items purchased/improvements made

Benefits/improvements of grant - No Response Received

South Lanarkshire Council

Grant received - £187,125.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT equipment, books, refurbishment/improvements

Benefits/improvements of grant...

ICT Improvements

- The children and young people who are looked after in all nine residential child care homes now have safe access to a broad range of ICT hard and software, with their pc's being linked to the school IT system, with access to their school work. Having up to five computers in each house enables children and young people to make positive progress with school work/training, access to health and leisure sites and keep in touch with friends and family. These new environments help to promote and encourage study, learning and the development of lifelong reading and IT skills, all of which help to further increase educational attainment and enhance their social and emotional wellbeing. The confidence, competence and skills help bridge the gap between children who are and are not accommodated in terms of inclusion and equity.

Physical Environment

- In terms of the physical environments, we have used the findings of the Designing with Care research, which we commissioned from Farm 7 in 2003, to inform on past design. This led to a very creative and innovative approach in creating appealing and attractive study space within two separate parts of each house and within children's own bedrooms. For example, some of the studies have a full floor to ceiling map of the world which encourages an interest in the world in which they live.

Additional Items

- A broad range of additional items which were purchased provide the children and young people with a whole range of learning resources, for example reference books which complement school and home materials.

Southfield House Care Services Ltd

Grant received - £49,900.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT and audio visual equipment, art and music supplies, multi-sensory equipment, communication devices, various books.

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Sparks of Genius (Training) Ltd

Grant received - £22,455.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, security, art & gym equipment, games & IT equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Spark of Genius received £22,455. The money was spent as follows:

- £5447.84 on furniture and physical environment improvements
- £2266.75 on electronic door security systems
- £1897.74 on arts and crafts
- £1826.52 on music creation/recording room and equipment
- £1020.61 on mini gym
- £8000 on windows, plastering, decorating and finishing off gym room
- £2045.08 on games room

This comes to **£22,504.54** (the surplus being paid for by Spark).

The benefits to the young people were considerable. Furniture and a dishwasher gave young people comfortable surroundings and a utility to wash their clothes with. Electronic door security systems have been invaluable in keeping young people safe. The Arts and Crafts room has led to many pieces of artwork being created which now decorate the House or Learning Centres and gives the young person a sense of pride over the piece. The recording and music room has helped young people further their musical ambitions. The mini and main gym are popular areas for young people to work out. The games room has proved popular, not just in playing games but also as a meeting area where young people can connect and talk.

Stanmore House (Capability Scotland)

Amount of grant received - £62,375.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Assistive technology, IT equipment, generator

Benefits/improvements of grant -

Stanmore House received £62,375.00. This money was spent on the following:

1. Environmental controls in all the young people's bedrooms for television/video equipment, lights, curtains, sensory and sound systems
2. Replaced the current IT equipment with new computers for each bungalow
3. A new generator for the residential bungalows to ensure basic heating and lighting in the event of power failure. The assistive technology also can remain functional at all times.

The environmental controls enable greater independence for the young people at all times and enable them to access equipment in their own rooms, in their own time.

The new IT allows for young people to have easier access to new technology in order to access up to date software which will be used for learning and fun opportunities.

The above acquisitions enhance the lives of the young people, allow for greater independence and choice, help individuals with their educational targets and provide a safe and warm environment at all times.

Starley Hall School

Grant received - £42,415.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Refurbishment, books, music tuition, outdoor activities

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Stirling Council

Grant received - £17,465.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT, Visual & Audio Equipment, Refurbishment, Carpeting, Sports Equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant -

The monies awarded to us by the Scottish Executive have improved the situation in the following way.

- Laptop computers and equipment for each individual which could be used solely by them within the confines of their own bedrooms, plus educational software to be used in conjunction with this equipment
- New educational materials i.e books journals etc.
- Improvements to the decoration and furnishings within the education/family room, individual bedrooms and throughout the unit.
- New sports and recreation equipment to improve on the health and general wellbeing of the young people.

All of the above is freely available to our residents and each is actively encouraged to utilise the material purchased. It has also had the added benefit of improving the living environment for the young people within Stirling Council's residential provision.

The Board of Managers of St Philip's School

Grant received - £94,810.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Learning workshop, learning kitchen, refurbishment

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

The Mungo Foundation

Grant received - £9,980.00

Items purchased/improvements made - Extensions, IT and sensory equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant... **No Response Received**

Troup House

Grant received - £29,940.00

Items purchased/improvements made - New rooms

Benefits/improvements of grant...

Troup House School utilised the funding from the Scottish Executive towards the purchase of Finnish log buildings to provide classroom accommodation for the young people at Troup House School.

The buildings have dramatically altered the learning environment for the young people. They are bright, spacious and blend in beautifully with the woodlands surrounding Troup House. The three log buildings have provided accommodation for Home Economics, Art, English and individual tuition facilities.

Previously the classrooms for the young people were encompassed within the main house. The new buildings have provided a welcome separation between the living accommodation and school.

One of the most exciting aspects of the new classroom accommodation was the fact that the young people were able to observe their development from the arrival of the buildings from Finland, the laying of the foundations and the 'putting together of all of the pieces' that comprise each building.

The specialist facilities for Art and Home Economics have undoubtedly provided more effective learning opportunities.

Voluntary Service Aberdeen

Grant received - £64,870

Items purchased/improvements made - IT and audio visual equipment, refurbishment, café, soft play area & cinema, sensory equipment, outdoor toys

Benefits/improvements of grant -

The funding received was utilised to provide resources in many different areas within the whole school setting, which it was felt would benefit all of the students in order to enhance their individual opportunities for learning.

Two of the areas that we have developed are as follows:

The grant has enabled us to develop our cinema club, an overhead projector was installed allowing us to show films on a big screen to afford the students a more realistic cinema experience. New chairs and a storage unit have also been provided, to enable the room to be organised differently to other activities that utilise the same space. Pop corn and drinks are prepared by the students in the café area for their peers who attend the club.

Our café area has been developed further with the addition of a till, menu boards, colour coordinated blinds, tables and chairs. By purchasing a till this will enable us to support our students to develop functional skills to enhance and broaden opportunities for their future, particularly when identifying adult placements and the possibility of a work placement.

West Dunbartonshire Council

Grant received - £89,530.00

Items purchased/improvements made

Benefits/improvements of grant...No Response Received

West Lothian Council

Grant received - £59,880.00

Items purchased/improvements made - IT equipment

Benefits/improvements of grant

Following the Learning With Care report in 2001 West Lothian Council decided to use the money to provide looked after children in our residential units with a computer preloaded with educational software as well as controlled internet access. The main objective of the original project was to raise educational attainment of children in care whilst ensuring they could successfully communicate with peers and access learning materials in a safe and secure environment.

In 2005 the hardware warranty was due to expire and a decision had to be made as to whether this project was continued with the high associated costs. Consultation took place with the young people as to how much use was made of the facility. It was clear they were using the machines on a daily basis and ICT had become an essential and integral part of their learning. It was clear that replacement hardware and renewed internet contracts would have to be achieved. It was imperative to find an alternative solution that was affordable, and the grant funding from the Scottish Government in 2006 facilitated this.

The main objective of the 2005 WL-Netguard project was to provide an alternative to the then service providers which improved performance to the children and young people at a significantly reduced cost without detracting from the essential feature – security for the users. The project deliverables would offer also: email / letter creation – net-etiquette; email perception – communication skills; social skills; non-overt teaching; life skills and preparation for employment.

The project breaks new ground for Internet filtering in a local authority context. Previously the only approach to managing the considerable risks associated with giving Internet access to looked after children was to buy in from an established provider. This indeed was the approach taken by the original project in West Lothian. However financial considerations created a drive to find an alternative solution based around an in-house provision, achieved through the social policy information team based in Livingston in partnership with an IT provider who project managed and delivered the solution.

Not only do the young people in the residential units have safe and secure access to the internet but we are currently developing, in consultation with them, an Intranet facility which will also allow a controlled chat facility for the looked after community.