

Local business supports Sure Start Centre

Submitted by: Fellows Associates

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Parents and children visiting a Bletchley Sure Start Centre can now enjoy a new outdoor play area thanks to a group of volunteers from a local company.

Staff from Northgate Public Services have recently completed the refurbishment of the outdoor area at The Art Room Sure Start Children's Centre at Drayton Park School in Bletchley. The work involved clearing, repainting and re-covering parts of the play area and also preparing the site for a new sand pit.

The volunteers were taking advantage of Northgate's community volunteering scheme where staff are given time off to support local community projects. They were supported by local businesses; Dobbies Garden Centre and Slab & Tickle both donated materials to the project.

The Art Room Sure Start Children's Centre provides a place for parents and children to attend play sessions and also access services from a wide range of professionals.

Mark King, Senior Family Support Worker, The Art Room, said today: "We're really grateful that Northgate staff have donated their time to the centre. The work they have done has helped to create a fun and safe outdoor area for parents and children to enjoy just in time for summer."

Nicola Crosbie, Northgate Public Services, added: "The Art Room provides a vital service to parents and children and we are delighted to have had the opportunity to use our community days to support the centre. We're always keen to help out locally and it was great to be involved in a project which can now be enjoyed by families in the area for many years to come."

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For more information

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Notes to editors

1. Northgate Public Services is an innovative provider of transformation and improvement services to the public sector. It is committed to high quality public services that place individuals and their communities at their heart. Its knowledge and understanding of people's needs are core to its business, as too is its depth and breadth across public services.

2. Northgate's task is to enhance public value through the intelligent use of people and technology; to understand why and what change is necessary; to provide new thinking leading to improved performance; and

to link company rewards with positive outcomes for the communities for whom it works. It supports transformation through sustainable performance partnerships.

3. In the UK, Northgate works with ninety five per cent of local authorities, every police force, and a large number of health organisations, housing associations, utilities and transport companies. Founded in 1969, the company has more than 12,000 employees.