

### Developing buildings and services to extend the reach of schools (S)

This was an excellent interactive presentation by Pete Davies from Community at Heart (NDC Bristol). Pete is a very competent and engaging speaker and was able to call upon his experience in presenting to audiences with wide ranging abilities, including children. He was using a current school project, which I now know to be a new build that is evolving in the Barton Hill neighbourhood of East Bristol. The delegates were divided into teams and each team was charged with building up a plan for the school from component parts provided.

The teams formed by arbitrarily splitting delegates into three groups produced not only three very different ways of tackling the same project but also encouraged a high degree of participation by all delegates giving the project life and a joint feeling of responsibility and involvement.

Within the time available delegates were able to consider the range of extended school and children's centre services in relation to statutory education provision, and also the schools place within the wider community. They were also made aware of the problems raised within the development, design and decision-making process.

The session provided delegates with a taste of the challenges faced by partnerships in providing balanced services and buildings. Delegates were able to participate in what was a very creative process, and I feel that they were all able to see how the creative and participatory approach would be able to provide better and more sustainable developments.

David Lee 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005