

## Real Value for Money

### Case Study: Inside The Octagon

Completely transformed and remodelled for £4.9m. In the process creating a bright, modern, ICT-rich space; with improved outdoor areas. At the heart of the former pupil support centre is a vibrant internet style café, a permanent dining area with a break out space. The design provides great value for money while meeting the educational vision for the school.

**T**he new build and refurbishment of The Octagon, formerly The Young People's Centre in Wood Green is one of the most ambitious projects in the programme. The improvements incorporate a 50% new build and 50% refurbishment, and include a single-storey extension, a community hall, a two-storey extension for new classrooms, and ancillary accommodation arranged around a courtyard.

Importantly, in a building designed to support sometimes challenging behaviour, there are now visibly improved circulation routes along a diagonal spine that links the two extensions through the centre of the building, while also enhancing supervision.



We worked closely with school staff and architects Watkins Gray to ensure that there was a clear and achievable design brief and curriculum analysis that was constantly informed by the needs of the students and professionals that support them. This helped to ensure the authority's educational vision and value for money was at the heart of the design solution.

**“We are very proud of the transformation of our building and pleased that our students already feel our new environment is helping with their learning.”**

Bev Randall, Headteacher

## Real Value for Money

### Case Study: Inside The Octagon

A number of factors supported this project – including the council’s decision to retain the original design team during the construction phase. This was very successful and provided a consistent approach and gave staff great reassurance.

For its part the school played a crucial role in making decisions quickly. Most of all the good designs from the outset have led to a fantastic facility for the school. All this and the project remained within budget and delivered key transformational outcomes.

Improvements to the facilities also incorporate specialist teaching, assessment and therapy areas, vocational facilities, offices, dining and social areas and greatly enhanced ICT provision, with the client brief requiring a robust and flexible space. The improved school building also includes energy reduction measures, including natural ventilation, solar panels to heat water, and photovoltaic panels to generate power.

Staff are already reporting that The Octagon is having a positive impact on the children and staff.

