



# **The Milton Keynes Children and Families Partnership**

**Vision and principles**

# Foreword

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Chair

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Milton Keynes Council is a strong, strategic champion for children, young people and their families. As the democratically elected authority, the council has a clear mandate to support and further parents' and children's interests and act as the 'accountability hub' for local public service delivery.

Alongside its democratic processes, the council values the importance of robust professional dialogue with local organisations in order to drive service development and deliver improved outcomes.

The Children and Families Partnership is a forward looking partnership that reflects the changing national policy environment and local context and offers the opportunity for us to continue to work together in a realistic and responsible way to improve the lives of children, young people and families in Milton Keynes.

If you require any further information about the Children and Families Partnership please contact us at [cfp@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:cfp@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

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# Our vision

**Better services  
Better connected  
Better outcomes**

All members of the partnership share a commitment to continuous improvement and working together to maximise the potential of each partner to realise our vision of **better services, better connected delivering better outcomes.**

At the heart of the partnership is a determination to focus effort on the most important factors which we know have a huge impact on life chances.

These are:

- Health and child poverty
- Early years
- Family and parenting
- Housing
- Learning and school achievement
- Continuing education
- Employment and training

# Principle 1

**Promote a culture of professional accountability for delivery and outcomes**

**The partnership will aim to:**

- Build relationships between members founded on mutual trust, respect and openness
- Promote an understanding of the different organisational roles, responsibilities and priorities
- Align business and service planning and monitor, support, and challenge organisational performance
- Agree action where improvement is needed that is prompt, effective and proportionate

# Principle 2

**Ensure child and family centred service delivery across organisational boundaries**

## **The partnership will aim to:**

- Deepen our understanding of how children, young people and families experience multiple interventions
- Enable earlier and more integrated assessment of need and facilitate effective local information sharing
- Challenge partners to join up service delivery and prevent organisational boundaries and established practice from getting in the way of integration
- Champion the involvement of children, young people and their families in planning the services that they need and want, and in helping evaluate their effectiveness

# Principle 3

## Facilitate the efficient use of resources

### The partnership will aim to:

- Promote the most efficient use of resources, minimise duplication and improve the targeting of limited resources on those most in need
- Identify where public money can be spent more effectively through radical service redesign
- Champion the commissioning of services based on robust evidence about need and effectiveness
- Provide a platform on which to build new area based funding applications

# Participation

The partnership is committed to involving children, young people and their families in both identifying and understanding areas for improvement and making proposals for change.

Commissions will offer the most meaningful way to engage with children, young people and families; either through direct involvement or through research activity which enables their shared experiences to be understood and taken into consideration.

All commissions should have a clear strategy to ensure the voices of children, young people and their families can be heard.

In addition, the MK Youth Cabinet offers the partnership a forum to discuss key issues with young people

The partnership meets as a formal board for up to three hours every two months. A planning group, appointed by the chair, will assist with agenda setting.

When an issue is identified by the partnership as requiring attention, the chair of the partnership may recommend the establishment of a commission. The membership of the commission will include members of the partnership, specialist advisors and co-opted members, chosen for their expertise or interest. Commissions will carry out a time limited investigation and make recommendations for action.

The minutes of all partnership board and commission meetings will be made publicly available following each meeting.

Milton Keynes Council will cover reasonable expenses and provide administrative support to the partnership.

# Membership

## Nolan

The Nolan principles of public life will apply to the partnership.

All members are expected to uphold these principles of:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

The partnership is made up of invited senior leaders from across children's services joined by the cabinet member for children and young people and one representative of each of the political groups on the council. Membership is further extended to the chair of the Safeguarding Children Board.

Membership includes representation from those organisations with a duty to cooperate as set out in section 10 of the Children Act 2004:

- Local Authority
- Primary Care Trust
- Police
- Probation

Extending to other local partners:

- GP consortia
- Health services
- Community and voluntary sector
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Early years providers
- Further education college
- Primary schools and academies
- Secondary schools and academies
- Special schools and academies