

Children and Families

Reply to Mac Heath

Call 01908 253121

Ref: Services to LAC from OLA

E-mail mac.heath@milton-keynes.gov.uk

April 2020

Dear Director

Milton Keynes Council would like to let you know you about the resources available to looked after children who may be placed in our borough by other local authorities, including children placed for adoption.

We have set out in this letter some information about Milton Keynes and the process for notifying us of the placement of a child and of when they subsequently move or are adopted. We have also included information about accessing universal services. Please share this information with all relevant professionals within your children's social care service to ensure they are aware of local service availability.

Information about Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes is one of the UK's fastest growing cities and is now the size of a large outer London borough. It is growing in diversity and evidencing economic success, but areas of deprivation and disadvantage remain a challenge for us. We rank alongside places like Ryedale, Canterbury and North Warwickshire for deprivation but are focussed on closing any inequalities in regard to health and prosperity across our region.

Milton Keynes Council serves a total population of 273,850. We serve a younger than average age profile. Our population is growing rapidly, and is expected to grow by 18% between 2015 and 2026.

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 ranks Milton Keynes 181st out of 326 local authority districts. Of the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Milton Keynes, nine are within the 10% most deprived in England and 12 are within the least deprived 10%.

Notifications

If you are unsure if a placement is within the boundaries of Milton Keynes, please use the following tool for clarification

<http://local.direct.gov.uk/LDGRedirect/index.jsp?LGSL=57&LGIL=2&ServiceName=Pay%20your%20Council%20Tax>

When your local authority places a looked after child in Milton Keynes, notifications should be sent to: - childprotectionadministrators@milton-keynes.gov.uk. Any change of address and notifications of looked after children leaving Milton Keynes or being adopted should also be sent to this email address, so that we can update our records.

Please ensure that notifications highlight any particular risks or vulnerabilities to assist the professional network in Milton Keynes to respond effectively to any issues that might arise.

If you need to contact Milton Keynes Children's Services to make a referral, please call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01908 253169 / 01908 253170 or for emergencies outside office hours call 01908 265545. Information relating to a child can be sent to the following email address: children@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Education

One of the factors most likely to disadvantage looked after children is the school time they may lose by being out of school, so securing a suitable school place is a priority for any child living in Milton Keynes.

Milton Keynes Council is the admissions authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools. The governing bodies of academies, foundation schools and voluntary aided schools are the admissions authorities at those schools. Details about admissions to schools in Milton Keynes are available on the website: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/school-admissions>.

Further enquiries regarding school places should be made by telephone on 01908 253338 or email primaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk or secondaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Free Early Education and Childcare providers

Free early education and childcare provides up to 15 hours of free childcare education for eligible two year olds and up to 30 hours for three and four year olds. This could either be at a local nursery, pre-school or a childminder in the area.

There are a variety of early years providers across Milton Keynes. Visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/early-years-and-childcare or telephone 01908 254509.

Milton Keynes Virtual School

Milton Keynes Virtual School works with children from 2-18 who are in the care of Milton Keynes. Many of these children will have experienced distress, loss and trauma which may have an effect on their development and education.

The Virtual School also offers support and advice to parents, school and social workers working with children who are previously looked after and those on the edge of care.

Specifically the virtual school is there to:

- Promote the educational achievement of children and young people who are looked after and previously looked after children.
- Raise attainment for the children and young people that are looked after by Milton Keynes.
- Advise and guide the professionals working with looked after children, previously looked children and those children on the edge of care.

- Support schools to develop programmes and systems which will ensure the gap is narrowed between the looked after children and all children.
- Train professionals working with children that are on the edge of care, looked after and previously looked after children.
- Champion the educational needs of all children with partner agencies who are involved with those children who are looked after, previously looked after and on the edge of care.

If you have any queries about our work please contact our duty line on 01908 253549 or email Jenny Cooledge, the Interim Virtual School Head Teacher Jenny.cooledge@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Special Educational Needs

The SEN team provide support and advice and administers the assessment process for Milton Keynes Education Health and Care (EHC) Plans. They also make sure that the children and young people they hold responsibility for receive suitable education provision in line with what is set out in their EHC Plan.

Educational Psychology Service – Education Psychologists apply their training and knowledge of children’s development, learning and behaviour, which includes social and emotional well-being, in the work they do with organisations, teachers, parents and carers. They work alongside providers for the benefit of children and young people from ages 0-25 years.

Specialist Teaching Teams, which include the Inclusion and Intervention and Sensory Team’s, work to promote the development of educational provision for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. They work in partnership with children and young people, their families and school, including under 5s in Early year’s provision or those not yet in provision.

Milton Keynes SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (Milton Keynes SEND IAS) – is a statutory service offering confidential and impartial information, advice and support to families in Milton Keynes who have a child with special educational needs or a disability between ages of 0-25, where this is impacting upon their education.

For further information contact the Milton Keynes SEND team on 01908 253414 or email SEN@milton-keynes.gov.uk or visit <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/send-local-offer>.

Children’s Centres

We offer support for families across 17 Children’s Centres offering a range of services for families with children from 0 to 5 years old, as well as for expectant parents. Four of these centres have been further developed as Family Centres offering a wider range of services for the whole family, including older children and grandparents. We have two day nurseries based on the site of two Family Centres serving areas of deprivation. Please visit <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/children-young-people-families/early-years-and-childcare/children-s-centres> for details.

Children in Care Council

Raise Your Voice is Milton Keynes Children in Care Council. The group meets to discuss current issues in Children's Social Care (CSC) and present these ideas to councillors to make changes. For more information about Our Voice contact Richard Lee – Team Leader Participation (richard.lee@milton-keynes.gov.uk).

MK Community Health Service is part of Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

Community and Mental Health Services in Milton Keynes are provided by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL). CNWL is one of the largest non-acute trusts in the UK, caring for people with a wide range of physical and mental health needs. Their staff provide healthcare to a third of London's population and across wider geographical areas, including Milton Keynes, Kent and Surrey. For further information please see: Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL).

CAMHS

Milton Keynes Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) supports families and professionals who are concerned about children and young people who may be experiencing mental health difficulties.

Milton Keynes CAMHS provides support to children and young people up to the age of 18 who are registered with a Milton Keynes GP. Support is also offered to their parents or carers and their families.

A Single Point of Access now exists for all new referrals to Milton Keynes Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The contact details are 01908 724228 and cnw-tr.mkspcamhsspa@nhs.net. Existing patients should call 01908 724544. For further information please see: <https://www.cnwl.nhs.uk/services/mental-health-services/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-services/milton-keynes-camhs>.

Youth Justice – Milton Keynes Youth Offending Team (MKYOT)

The Youth Offending Team (YOT) works specifically with young people primarily aged 10 – 18, who are on court orders or who have received out of court disposals. The YOT has access to speech and language therapists for two days a week and to a CAMHS Mental Health Practitioner four days a week. There is also access to Substance Misuse support. Activities undertaken with clients focus on reducing re-offending, victim awareness and crime specific programmes. A focus is also placed on ensuring all clients are in some form of appropriate employment, education or training and if not, extensive work is done through schools, colleges, training providers and Connexions to ensure that placements are secured for them.

MKYOT can be contacted on 01908 391000 or email mkyot@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Advocacy

From time to time, children and young people who are in care or are close to coming into care, need someone independent to help them have their say. The person who provides this service is an advocate. Their job is about ensuring the young person's views are heard – even if they do not necessarily agree with what the child or young person wants to say.

Milton Keynes Council currently commissions Reconstruct to provide Children's Advocacy.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children

The Milton Keynes Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) responds to all contacts and Safeguarding referrals including where there are concerns about child sexual exploitation or a child who is missing. The MASH can be contacted on 01908 253169 or 01908 253170 or by email using children@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Local Area Designated Officer (LADO)

The LADO must be contacted without delay and within one working day in respect of all cases in which it is alleged that a person who works with children has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they pose a risk of harm to children.

The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) can be contacted on 01908 254300 or if the LADO is not available, you should refer to the MASH on 01908 253169 or 01098 253170.

General information

Further information about general services in Milton Keynes can also be found on the council's website at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk.

We hope that this information is useful to professional colleagues from outside the borough, who are working with Looked after Children placed in Milton Keynes.

Yours sincerely
Mac Heath
Director of Children's Service