

Community Learning MK

Accountability Agreement 2023



Community Learning MK

Improving the work and life chances of the people of Milton Keynes

What is the mission of Community Learning MK (CLMK)?

CLMK aims to provide purposeful and inspirational education to empower people to live a better life. This offer is a range of opportunities that develop and improve individuals and communities with high quality learning to ensure a fair, hardworking, and more equal Milton Keynes for all.

I studied Level 2 Support work in Schools with Community Learning and will continue with maths until I am in full time work. It has opened so many doors for me.

I felt each week I was gaining more confidence and my class was a lovely group which helped. My tutor was calm and extremely helpful and helped me gain my qualification.

The course exceeded my expectations. I never expected to pass in such a short amount of time which proves it's a beneficial course.

The CLMK mission is underpinned by the following principles:

- All education, regardless of its recreational, social, or vocational nature is life enhancing.
- Everyone should have access to learning opportunities which match their needs and aspirations and which promote equality and diversity.
- Partnership working is essential to promote the value of learning and to provide progression pathways.
- Everyone is different.
- Everyone is extraordinary.

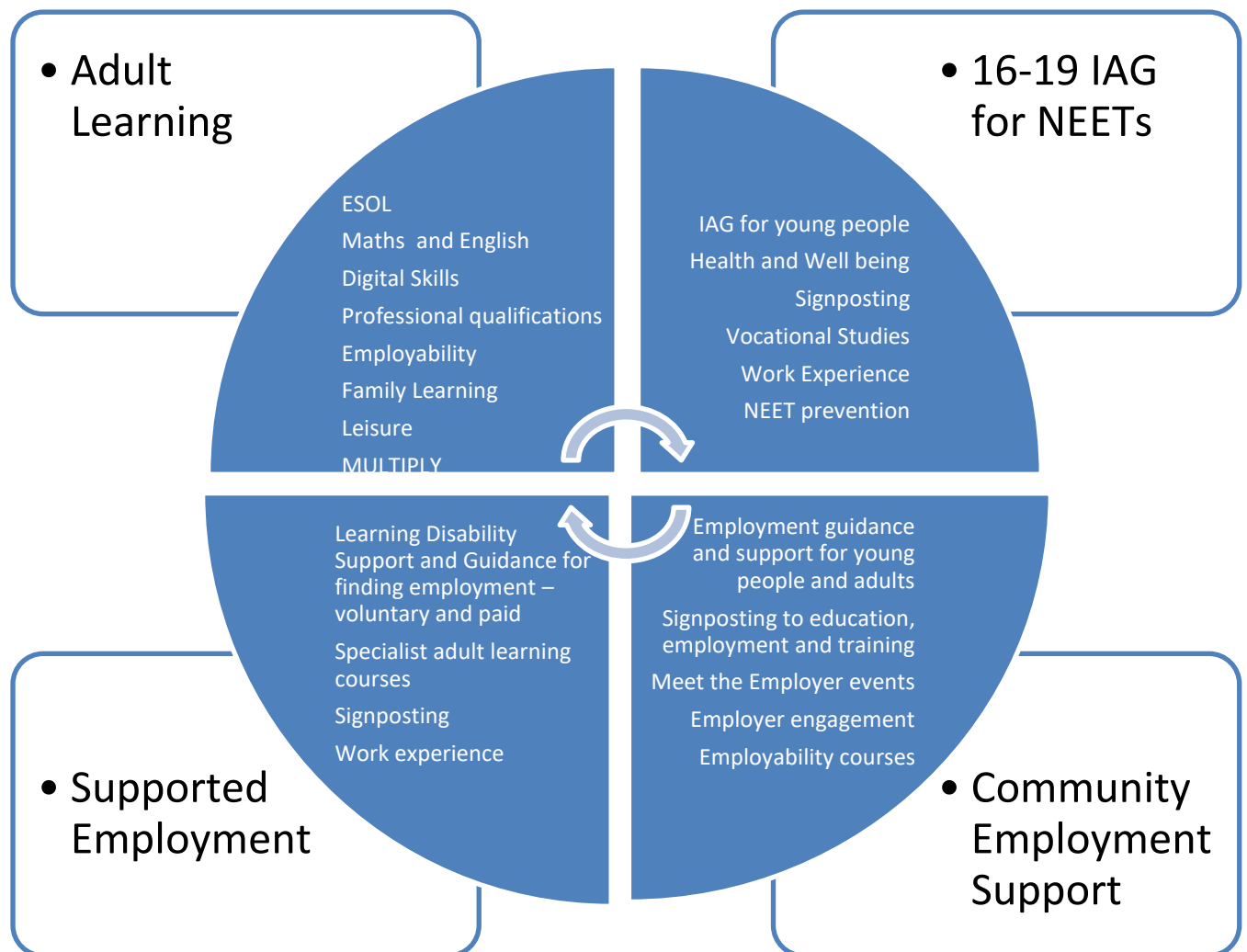
"Everyone should be able to live their best life, feel comfortable being themselves and free from discrimination regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or disability background. We will work to recognise the issues people face, raise awareness and be challenging on the need for change." Milton Keynes Council Plan 2022-26

Community Learning MK consists of the four following teams:

- Adult Learning.
- 16-19 IAG for NEETs.
- Supported Employment.
- Community Employment Support.

The teams work together towards the common goal of empowering people to have the confidence and knowledge to be in education, employment or training.

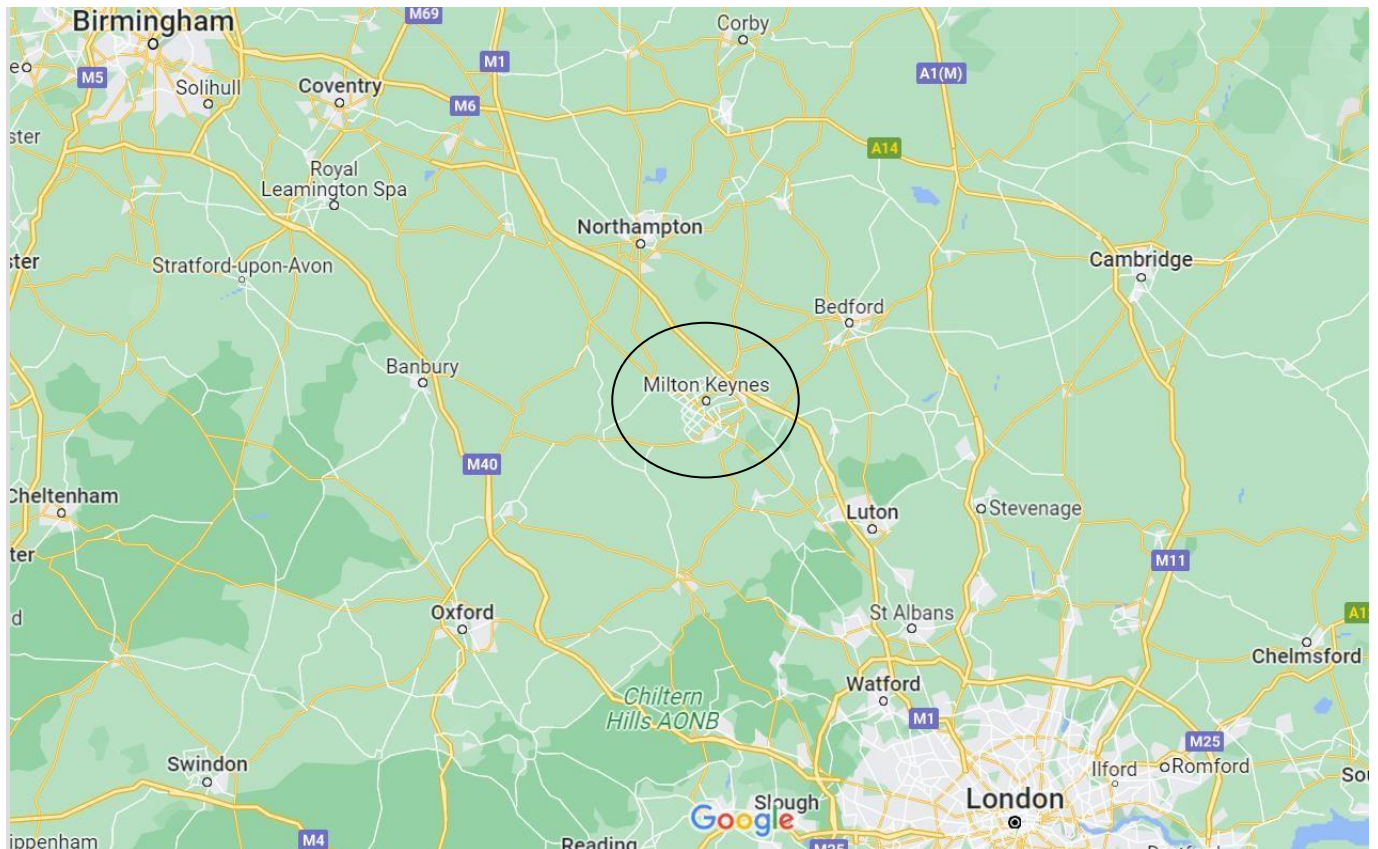
This chart illustrates the connections between the areas:



Context and Place

Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes is situated in the South-East of England, between London and Birmingham. The following map illustrates its geographical position:



Milton Keynes

- In October 2022, Milton Keynes was awarded city status, which reflects the growing population and economy over the past 10 years.
- In Milton Keynes, the population size has increased by 15.3%, from around 248,800 in 2011 to 287,000 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800.
- At 15.3%, Milton Keynes' population increase is higher than the increase for the Southeast (7.5%).
- As of 2021, Milton Keynes is the 30th most densely populated of the South East's 64 local authority areas, with around seven people living on each football pitch-sized area of land.
- There has been an increase of 43.6% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 11.6% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 12.3% in children aged under 15 years. This compares with a 20.1% rise across England.
- According to the latest 2021 census, the population in Milton Keynes is predominantly white (72%), with non-white minorities representing the remaining 28% of the population.
- The median average age in Milton Keynes in 2021 was 37.8, with over 18s representing 79.7% of the population.

- In 2021, the urban population of Milton Keynes was approximately 227,168 or 91%, while the rural population was around 21,653 or 9%.
- The largest religious group in Milton Keynes is 'Others' who account for 44% of the population according to NOMIS data from the 2021 census.
- English is spoken as the main language by 87.4% of people in Milton Keynes and spoken either well or very well by 11% of the population. 1.5% reported having poor English language skills, and the remaining 0.25% no English at all. This equates to approx. 1000 people. This number has potentially increased in the past two years due to an increase in refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine.
- According to mid-year population estimates published by the ONS in 2019, males account for 49.4% of Milton Keynes's 288,201 population, while females made up 50.6% of the total.
- Milton Keynes's age structure shows the working-age population to be 189,721 which is 65.8% of the population. People under the age of 16 represent 20.3% of the population, and over 65s represent 13.9% of the population. The percentage of the population that is of working-age has decreased over the last 10 years and the over 65 population has doubled in size since 2011.
- Of the Milton Keynes population over the age of 90, females outnumber males by 2.4 to 1.

Community Learning MK links with National, Regional and Local Priorities

CLMK has a clear strategic vision, designed to meet national, regional and local needs, developed in consultation with key stakeholders. This accountability agreement is intended to outline how these priorities are met.

National Priorities

The Government's Skills for Jobs White Paper set out an ambitious employer-led approach aimed at making Further Education (FE) provision more responsive to local skills needs and ultimately local economic needs.

As part of this approach, Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) were introduced as a key part of the Government's vision of an adult skills system where businesses are given a much stronger voice in local skills planning by working closely with FE providers, engaging effectively with local leaders and other stakeholders and forging a stronger and more dynamic partnership that will enable provision to be more responsive to the skills needs of employers in local labour markets.

The focus on national skills priorities includes:

- Responding to the mental health crisis in the UK. CLMK is committed to supporting those most in need of low level mental health interventions.
- The world of work is changing rapidly with people often making 4-5 career changes in their lifetime. More than ever, we need to equip people with a range of flexible skills that will enable them to thrive in this changing environment.
- Technology is rapidly changing and developing, with even greater speed post pandemic. Digital inequality still exists across all age groups and social backgrounds and CLMK will offer courses to increase confidence and knowledge to use technology.
- The ageing population means there is a growing demand for health and social care. ensure that specific pathways into the health and social care workforces meet growing workforce demands. This is particularly relevant in Milton Keynes, which has seen an increase of 46% in the over 65 age group.

Regional Priorities

CLMK have developed a curriculum based on the principles outlined by South-East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) for growth, innovation and creativity.

Working towards this, SEMLEP has a key role in setting the strategic priorities for the local economy. Since 2017, they have published five core economic strategies for the South East Midlands: [The Strategic Economic Plan](#) (2017), the [Growing People Skills Plan](#) (2017), the area's [Energy Strategy](#) (2018) and the [Local Industrial Strategy](#) (2019) and the Economic Recovery Strategy (2020). SEMLEP continues to work with government and other partners to develop the governance and strategies to help realise the growth potential of local places and businesses across the Oxford to Cambridge region.

key regional objectives are:

- Put current and future employer needs at the heart of skills development. CLMK are working with key stakeholders to identify these gaps.
- To deliver an integrated and employer-led approach to skills attainment to ensure that our population is aware of, and has the attributes and competencies required for, a modern, competitive economy.
- Ensure signposting of provision and pathways for continuous personal development, upskilling, reskilling and development of leadership skills. This will support both individuals and the local economy's resilience to technological and demographic change. This is at the core of Community Learning MK and Employment Support.

Local Priorities

New City: New Plan

The New City Plan will take forward Milton Keynes' City Council Strategy for 2050, which set out a vision for MK over the next 29 years. It includes equal opportunities for all, lifelong homes to suit people at all stages of their life and a pioneering mass transit system.

Delivering on the strategy for 2050, is also a key part of the Council Plan to build an environment that can thrive, is progressive and delivers a sustainable future for new and existing residents. Milton Keynes City Council wants to work with local businesses and organisations with a focus on high quality sustainable growth, affordable housing and new job opportunities. It is a strategy for everyone living in Milton Keynes today, especially the children and young people who will be our future citizens, as well as those who will choose to move here to be part of a globally leading green city.

Future Aims of Milton Keynes City Council are to provide:

- Stable homes, built on love
- Healthy places
- High quality homes and neighbourhoods
- Economic and cultural prosperity
- Climate and environmental action

The 2022-26 Council plan aims to offer opportunities for all, support vulnerable people and ensure everyone lives free from discrimination.



Community Learning MK sits in Children’s services and action 2 of the Children’s Services Plan 2022-23 states to, ‘Re-configure services to ensure delivery is resilient, sustainable and fit for purpose in the light of changing needs and demand by confirming a Targeted Community Offer for agreed priority wards in MK, confirming Youth Offer, Employment Support, Education and Early Years.’

The Adult Learning and Employment Support community offer will contribute to this directive and focus on priority areas in Milton Keynes, which have been identified as those with the highest level of deprivation.

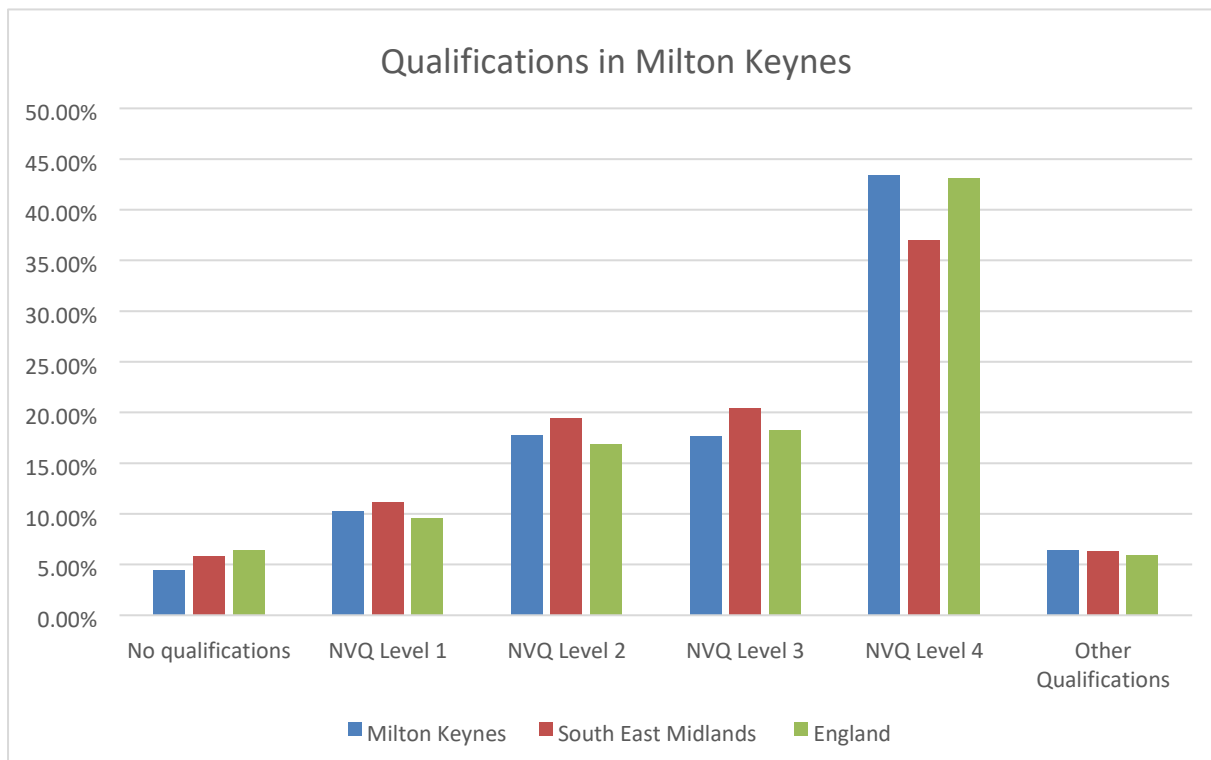
These are the identified priority areas in Milton Keynes:

Priority Wards
Bletchley East
Bletchley West
Bletchley Park
Central Milton Keynes
Stantonbury
Stony Stratford
Wolverton
Woughton and Fishermead

Health Inequalities Across Milton Keynes

- Health inequalities: Life expectancy is 7.5 years lower for men and 7.4 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Milton Keynes than in the least deprived areas.
- 21.0% of children in Milton Keynes are classified as obese in year 6 but as high as 40% in priority areas.
- All priority areas in Milton Keynes are amongst the most deprived 10% nationally, resulting in more health challenges, particularly for children.
- Bletchley East and Fishermead and Woughton are ranked in the 3% most deprived areas in England.
- Baby boys born in the most affluent parts of the city will live around 7.6 years longer than those born in the most deprived areas. This gap is 5.6 years for baby girls.

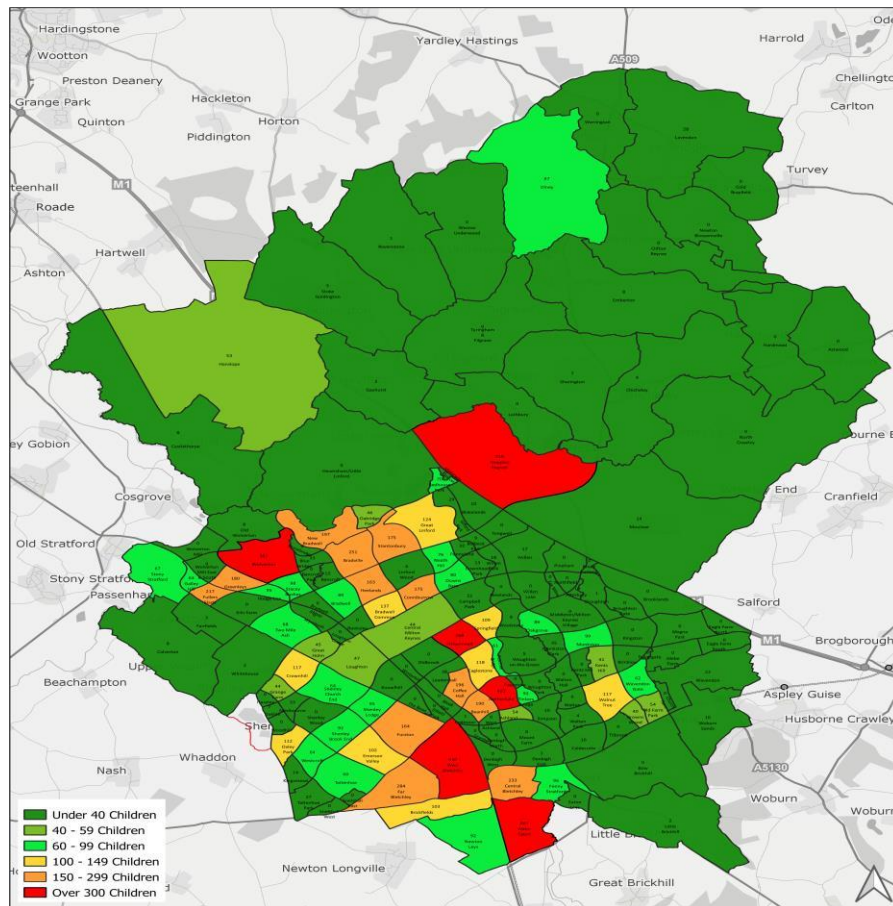
Education Inequalities Across Milton Keynes



ONS Census Data 2021

- Although the 'no qualifications' rate was 2% below the national average, 4.4% of people have no qualifications and a further 10.3% do not have a level 2 qualification in Milton Keynes. (Combined figure of 14.7%.) In the most deprived areas, this combined figure is double that, for example it is 26.7% in Bletchley East and 30% in central Milton Keynes.
- The curriculum is being designed to help close these inequalities and aimed at those most at need of intervention in Milton Keynes in the following areas:
 - Employability Skills and employment support, including IT
 - Health and well-being
 - Maths and MULTIPLY
 - ESOL
 - Family Learning
 - Support for Young People
 - Support for the neurodiverse

Community centres, children’s and family centres, libraries and schools in the local areas are used for targeted, local services both for education and employment support. Planning also considers the number of free school meals in an area, illustrating where more families in need are located.



Milton Keynes City Council Heat Map of Free School Meals

Key Stakeholders

CLMK work in conjunction with other key stakeholders both within Milton Keynes City Council and externally:



Aims and Objectives according to National, Regional and Local Priorities

CLMK Strategic Aims and Objectives	Impact and/or Contribution towards National, Regional and Local priorities
1, Implement an employability programme for those citizens wanting to find employment or improve their skills whilst in work to meet national, regional and local priorities.	A comprehensive and targeted programme of employability courses, including apprenticeships, SWAP courses and level 1 and 2 courses are designed in accordance with the SEMLEP objectives, which are growing business and productivity according to employer needs. These areas have been identified as health and social care, childcare, working in schools and in construction. This programme will be employer and industry led.
2. Improve digital inclusion in Milton Keynes, focusing on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens.	Qualifications and interventions that allow the learner to become more digitally inclusive will be offered at entry level and level 1. Working towards the MKCC Digital Plan and taking opportunities to expand inclusion and improve access.
3. Build a clear pathway of apprenticeships in Milton Keynes in key areas.	CLMK will work towards the objective to deliver 170,000 apprenticeships in the decade to 2025/26 regionally and provide opportunities for up-skilling, re-skilling and re-engagement in health and social care and business admin within this sector. Progression routes in health and social care roles and potential higher level apprenticeships will be strengthened.

<p>4. Improve English skills of those with English as a Second Language wishing to progress in their life for further studying or working.</p>	<p>Building a more highly skilled and economically active workforce across the adult population for those with English as a Second Language. Further support to integrate those who may feel marginalised due to language barriers, particularly those from Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine. Courses will promote social inclusion and work towards the SEMLEP aims to deliver an integrated and employer-led approach to skills attainment to ensure that our population is aware of, and has the attributes and competencies required for, a modern, competitive economy. Not being able to clearly communicate in English is one the biggest barriers to progression in work.</p>
<p>5. Provide an outstanding learner experience across all curriculum areas.</p>	<p>All courses will be developed with the learner satisfaction at the core. KPIS will be set for every curriculum manager. Learner feedback in the way of questionnaires, forums and online engagement will shape future delivery. More than 95% of all tutors will be good or better to ensure the best teaching and learning experiences are had by all learners. Achievement rates will be greater than 90% across all areas.</p>
<p>6. Continue to provide appropriate advice and guidance on skills and pathways for all learners, particularly 16–19-year-olds and adults who are NEET.</p>	<p>Working collaboratively with the employment personal advisors to ensure all adults have access to information, advice and guidance on progressing in work and life. Access to qualified advisors will be available for every learner who needs it. Working in partnership with key stakeholders, particularly MK College.</p>
<p>7. Ensure that all learners on the supported employment programme in 2022/23 gain core transferable skills and build the confidence to move into</p>	<p>Work with more than 30 learners who have learning disabilities and/or ASD to gain skills in employability to move into further training, education or employment. Referrals will come from Adult Social Care and all learners will have access to IAG for progression routes.</p>
<p>employment or further training or education.</p>	<p>Progression routes in health and social care roles and potential higher level apprenticeships</p>
<p>8. Reshape the curriculum across the communities in Milton Keynes to build greater confidence, resilience, and social mobility in all areas.</p>	<p>Over 3,000 learners will participate in community learning courses, working alongside partners, to create a purposeful curriculum to ensure the most disadvantaged are supported into education, training and employment in their local communities. Family Learning, MULTIPLY and health and well-being courses will run in key, priority areas, alongside basic skills and employability programmes.</p>
<p>9. Become a greener, more resilient organisation.</p>	<p>Milton Keynes aims to become a globally leading green city. CLMK will play their part to ensure sustainability of resources, become paperless where possible, offer more sustainable qualifications and reduce our carbon footprint.</p>

Strong, multi-layered governance, supports and challenges the work of Community Learning MK:

Timeline	Activity
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January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from December. Sent for scrutiny from Learning and Inclusion Board/CSLT. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • Joint planning with MK College on Adult Learning for MK Brochure. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight Report and KPIs from January. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • Planning is finalised for summer term courses. • MULTIPLY Investment plan for next year financial year is updated and sent to leadership for scrutiny. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from February. Sent for scrutiny from Learning and Inclusion Board/CSLT. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • The end of year budget is signed off by senior managers within the directorate. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from March. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • Accountability Agreement is drafted and sent for scrutiny from director. • Joint CLMK/MK College brochure is published. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from April. Sent for scrutiny from Learning and Inclusion Board/CSLT. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • Planning is finalised for September. • Planning is drafted for the whole of next academic year.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability agreement is sent to DfE. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from May. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • Autumn term brochure is published. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from June. Sent for scrutiny from Learning and Inclusion Board/CSLT. • Leadership team meeting on KPIs of highlight report and KPIs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report from July. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs • Skills checks for English and Maths – September starts. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from August. Sent for scrutiny from Learning and Inclusion Board/CSLT. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • Self-Assessment report is drafted. • Quality Improvement plan is drawn up and sent to senior managers for scrutiny. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from September. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • Self-Assessment report is signed off by senior managers in Children’s Services and sent to MK Councillors for approval. • Spring term brochure is published. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from October. Sent for scrutiny from Learning and Inclusion Board/CSLT. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight report and KPIs from November. • Leadership team meeting of highlight report and KPIs. • Self-Assessment report is sent to Ofsted. • Weekly meeting between Strategic Lead and Head of Service. • Statutory monthly return on NEET figures.

*Highlight report illustrates: What is working well, what we are worried about and what needs to change.

On behalf of Milton Keynes City Council, it is hereby confirmed that the Community Learning MK plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the Learning and Inclusion Board on 15 May 2023. The plan will be published on the city council's website within three months of the start of the new academic year.

Signed by



Mac Heath

Director of Children's Services

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Further Links to Associated Documents:

[The Strategic Economic Plan \(2017\)](#)

[Growing People Skills Plan \(2017\)](#)

[Energy Strategy \(2018\)](#)

[Local Industrial Strategy \(2019\)](#)

<https://chambermk.co.uk/who-we-are/local-skills-improvement-plans-lsip>

[Milton Keynes Digital Strategy | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#)

[MK Futures 2050 | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#)

[Council plan 2022-2022.pdf \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#)

[Community Led Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy 2020.pdf \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#)