



Milton Keynes
City Council

Accountability Agreement Community Learning MK 2025-26

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Community Learning MK

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

16-19 CIAG for NEET
Young People

Employment
Support (Supported
Employment &
Connect to Work)

Adult Education -
Adult Skills

Adult Education -
Tailored Learning

Supported
Internships for 16-
24 year olds with an
EHCP

Adult
Apprenticeships

What is the CLMK mission?

CLMK aims to provide purposeful and inspirational education and employment support 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 and support into employment to ensure a fair, hardworking, and more equal Milton Keynes for all.

CLMK has a clear, strategic vision, designed to meet national, regional, and local needs, developed in consultation with key stakeholders. The overall aim is to improve the life and work chances for the people of Milton Keynes through education and employment support.

Key Principles:

- Whether recreational, social, or vocational, learning should enrich lives.
- Everyone should have access to learning opportunities that match their needs and aspirations.
- Working with local organisations to promote the value of education and create progression pathways.
- Helping people gain confidence and knowledge to pursue education, employment, or training.
- Aligning training and support with local employer needs and skills gaps.

Education and Employment as a Life-Enhancing Tool

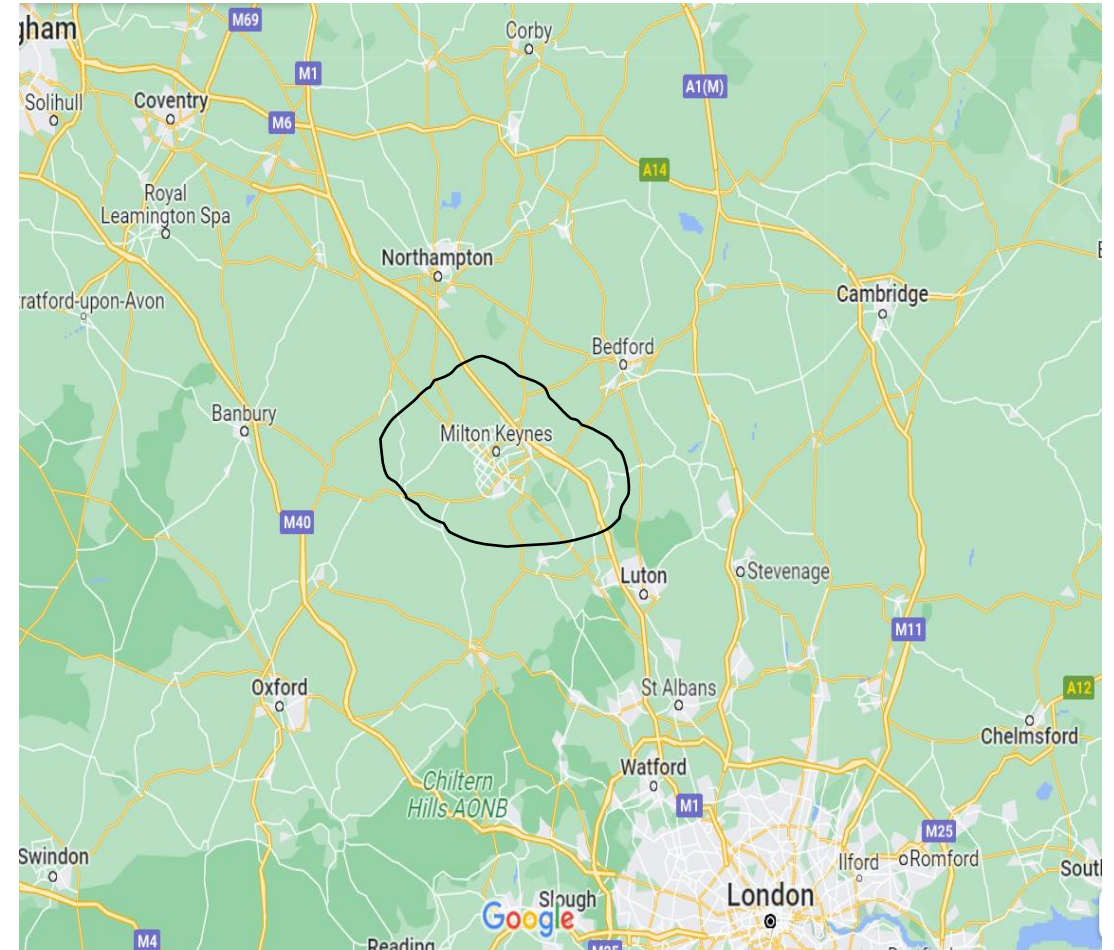
Whether recreational, social, or vocational, learning should enrich lives. Adult education in Milton Keynes can work as a powerful life enhancing tool by fostering personal growth, improving career prospects, and strengthening community and social connections. Upskilling and reskilling through adult education allows individuals to adapt to changing job markets, gain promotions, switch careers, or join the job market after a period of economic inactivity. Meaningful education, employment and training will in turn reduce reliance on social support systems and health care. All courses planned by CLMK aim to have a positive effect on mental health, offer structure, purpose and social engagement as well as contributing to healthier choices and improved wellbeing alongside the learning. The CLMK Adult Education curriculum for 25-26 will focus on building new skills or achieving qualifications to help people feel accomplished and empowered, leading to increased self-worth and motivation and further progression into education, employment, and training.

Context and Place

Milton Keynes

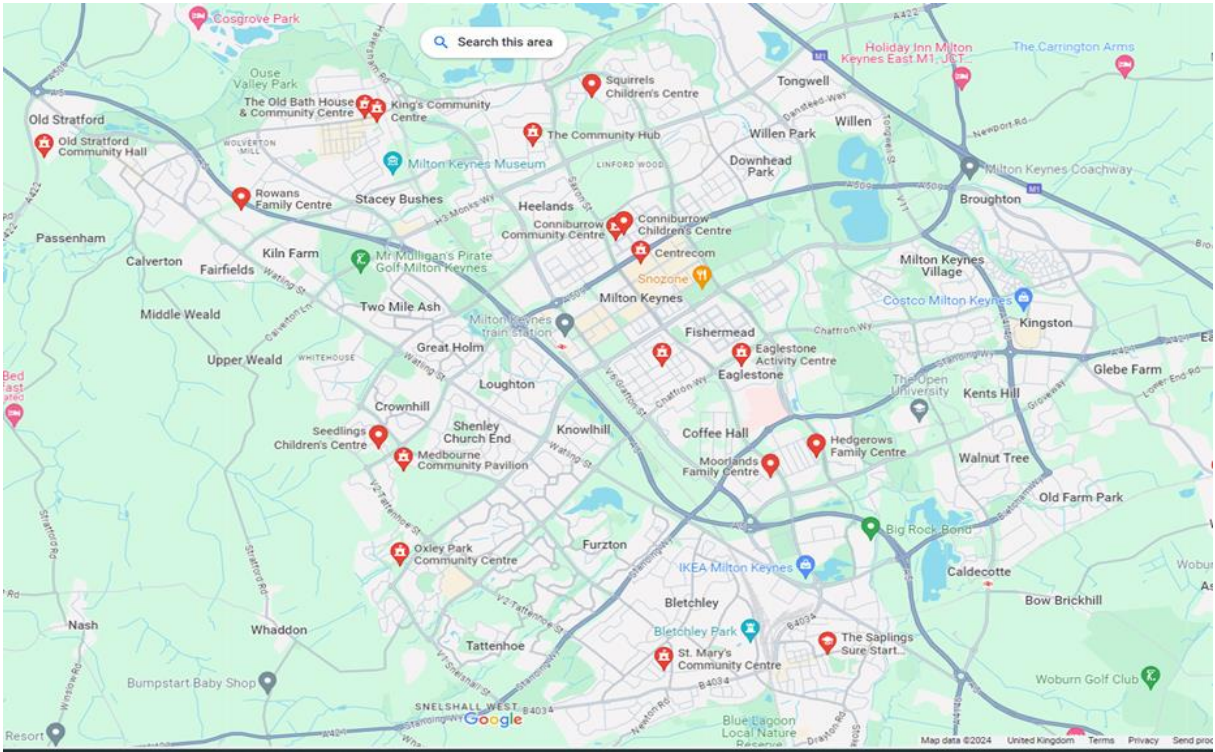
Milton Keynes is situated in the South-East of England, between London and Birmingham. The map below illustrates its geographical position in England.

Milton Keynes is the fastest growing city in the UK with a population increase of 15.3%, from around 248,800 in 2011 to approximately 287,000 in 2021. It is predicted that the city will double in size by 2050. According to the latest 2021 census, 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%. 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. 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 at almost 28%. In 2025, there are 177 different languages spoken in MK schools and English as a Second Language has risen in the past 15 years in Milton Keynes to 13% of the population since 2011, when it was 11%.



Addressing Inequalities across Milton Keynes

- The average income in the richest areas of Milton Keynes is £65,700 In Broughton, Kents Hill and Middleton compared to £34,600 in Fullers Slade and Stacey Bushes, which are considered two of the least affluent areas.
- Bletchley East, Fishermead and Woughton are ranked in the 3% most deprived areas in England. Family Learning and health and wellbeing courses will be offered in community settings in these areas.
- All priority areas in Milton Keynes are amongst the most deprived 10% nationally, resulting in more physical and mental health challenges.



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

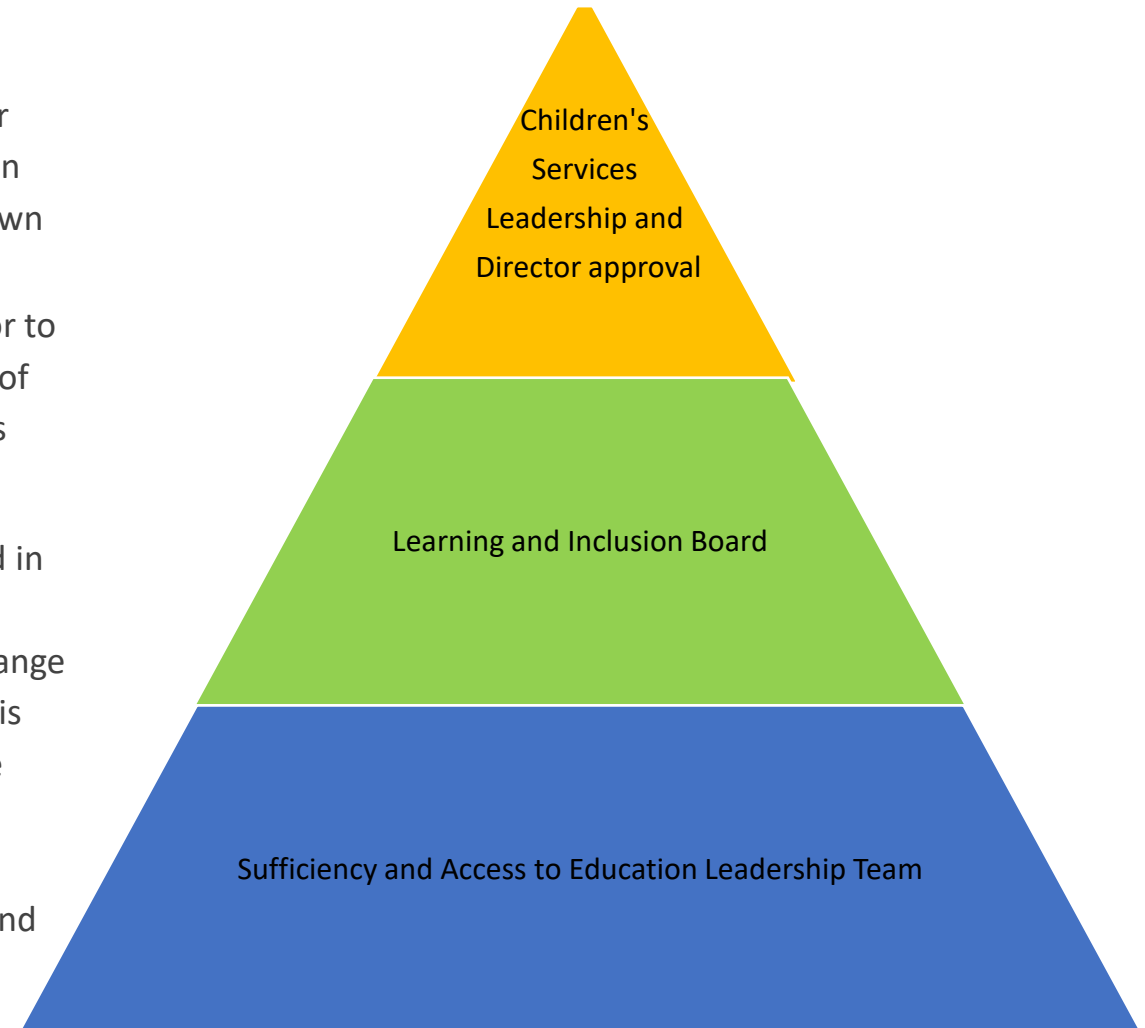
The Adult Learning and Employment Support community offer will contribute to reducing inequality and focus on priority areas in Milton Keynes, which have been identified as those with the highest level of deprivation. Learning will continue to be offered in family centres, libraries, schools and local community settings to enable residents to access a more localised service. The offer will include employability, English, maths and digital provision for MK residents to gain the skills they need for jobs and leading a more fulfilling life. **The target for 25-26 is to increase participation of residents from these areas from 60% to 70% of overall learner numbers.**

Approach to developing the Annual Accountability Statement

The priorities for the service are set with the agreement of the Directorate for Children's Services and in line with the Corporate Strategic priorities for Milton Keynes City Council. Community learning MK is governed at the levels as shown in the diagram.

CLMK's annual planning cycle commences in October and finishes in May prior to the beginning of the academic year. The service conducts a detailed analysis of national, regional and local priorities, consults with partners and stakeholders and aligns the curriculum according to need and demand.

The CLMK management team meet to discuss the strategy, which is published in April to identify and set the intent of the curriculum. This is taken to the Leadership team and then on to CSLT for scrutiny. Data is taken from a wide range of sources, including the CLMK quality improvement plan. Once the strategy is agreed, the accountability agreement is developed, and both are taken to the Learning Inclusion Board and then CSLT for senior management and Director approval. Strong governance from MKCC alongside engagement with local stakeholders, ensures the strategy aligns with local need to improve the life and work chances of the people of Milton Keynes.



Reflecting on Success in 2024-2025

Aims of 24-25

Continue	Continue to provide an employability programme for those citizens wanting to find employment or improve their skills whilst in work to meet national, regional and local priorities.
Improve	Improve digital inclusion in Milton Keynes, focusing on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable citizens.
Continue	Continue to build a clear pathway of apprenticeships in Milton Keynes in key areas.
Improve	Improve English skills of those with English as a Second Language wishing to progress in their life for further studying or working.
Provide	Provide an outstanding learner experience across all curriculum areas.
Continue	Continue to provide appropriate advice and guidance on skills and pathways for all learners, particularly 16–19-year-olds and adults who are NEET.

Progress

- A comprehensive employability programme was developed, to include work with local employers, such as Take Me Taxi, Graham construction, the Sports Information Service, MKCC Social Care homes and John Lewis. Courses offered are from entry level to level 2 to build pathways for future learning and work.
- Tailored Learning courses were redesigned to improve the confidence and communication of those participating. Family learning courses included more parenting programmes and a greater amount of Family English and maths courses to support children's and adult learning.
- Apprenticeship provision has grown to offer more level 3-5 courses in business admin, management and leadership and health and social care. This is a growth area which will continue into 2025-26.
- ESOL has continued to grow, and the offer has also expanded to encompass a specialist programme for those from Hong Kong. Exam results from the first part of 2025 have been exceptional with 100% achievement.
- All tutors are at least good or outstanding in 24-25. All learners who have completed learner satisfaction surveys have said they have had a positive learning experience, including the 16-19-year-olds and apprentices. 96% have said they would recommend Community Learning to a friend.
- All learners are given detailed IAG during courses if they are seeking to progress into further learning and employment. Employment Support advisors have been based in the family centres and libraries where learning takes place as well as specialist support available from those from Hong Kong and young people who are NEET. NEET figures for 16-19-year-olds have remained below 5% as a result. A pathways brochure for Adult Learning provision across Milton Keynes from CLMK and MK College has enabled learners identify learning pathways more clearly.

Continued Success

Aims of 24-25



Ensure that all learners who have a SEND need, with particular focus on 19–24-year-olds, gain core transferable skills and build the confidence to move into employment or further training or education.



Reshape the curriculum across the communities in Milton Keynes to build greater confidence, resilience, and social mobility in all areas.



Become a greener, more resilient organisation.

Progress

- 23% of learners in 24-25 have declared having a learning disability and their needs have been met with additional support in the classroom. Learning support assistants and a comprehensive CPD programme has enabled tutors to plan for those with additional support needs more carefully. Supported Internship provision has been strengthened, ready to expand in 2025-26 and further Support into Employment courses have enabled more inclusive learning, including a new accredited course.
- Learning opportunities within CLMK build up the confidence and resilience of learners by offering courses to increase the health and wellbeing of all residents from a wide range of communities (including those from Afghanistan, Ukraine and Hong Kong). A targeted programme of delivery will offer ESOL, employability, health and wellbeing and life in the UK skills. The CLMK curriculum is designed to be a stepping stone provision for moving on to further learning and employment.
- CLMK have moved to being a paperless environment where possible. Enrolments are online and we have a commitment to reducing the carbon footprint by printing less and using IT to be more sustainable.

Links with National, Regional, and Local Priorities in 25-26

Community Learning MK (CLMK) has a clear strategic vision, designed to meet national, regional, and local needs, developed in consultation with key stakeholders. This accountability agreement outlines how these priorities are met.

National Priorities

The Government's **Skills for Jobs White Paper** sets 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 to give businesses a stronger voice in local skills planning by working closely with FE providers, engaging effectively with local leaders and other stakeholders, and forging stronger partnerships to make provision more responsive to the skills needs of employers in local labour markets.

Key national skills priorities include:

Responding to the mental health crisis: CLMK is committed to supporting those most in need of low-level mental health interventions. The health and wellbeing curriculum will aim to reach >500 learners in 25-26.

Adapting to the changing world of work: With people often making 4-5 career changes in their lifetime, it is crucial to equip them with a range of flexible skills to thrive in this dynamic environment. CLMK will support this with offering work skill courses for >400 learners and >20 apprenticeships from level 2-5 in health and social care, leadership and management and business and admin in 25-26.

Addressing digital inequality: Technology is rapidly evolving, and digital inequality persists across all age groups and social backgrounds. CLMK will offer courses to increase confidence and knowledge in using technology. CLMK will support this by aiming to reach >200 learners in 25-26 from entry level to level 2, including greater provision for 16-19 year olds.

Meeting the demands of an ageing population: With a growing demand for health and social care, CLMK will ensure that specific pathways into these workforces meet the increasing workforce demands, particularly relevant in Milton Keynes, which has seen a 46% increase in the over-65 age group. CLMK will support this agenda by reaching >100 over 50s in 25-26.

Regional Priorities

CLMK have planned delivery for 2025 to align with the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) which aims to align post 16 technical education and training with the skills needs of the local economy. [LSIP Progress Report 2024 - SEM region.pdf](#)

Skills Development: The plan focuses on enhancing technical education and training to meet the specific needs of the region. This includes promoting digital skills, fostering lifelong learning, and supporting sector-specific skills development.

Inclusivity and Accessibility: Ensuring that education and training opportunities are inclusive and accessible to all individuals, addressing regional and local disparities The South - East Midlands Growth Hub has outlined several key regional priorities for skills and employment to support the local economy and workforce development. Community Learning MK will continue to offer specialised learning pathways for those with additional support needs and from September, those who are eligible for the Connect to Work programme.

The CLMK focus will be:

Engagement with Employers: The Growth Hub emphasizes the importance of engaging with local employers to identify skills gaps and ensure that training programs are aligned with industry needs. CLMK will continue to work with employers, particularly within Health and Social Care and education as well as run >3 SWAP courses in conjunction with the DWP to help close skills gaps within the region and locally. It is intended for CLMK to work with >10 new employers in 25-26.

Lifelong Learning and Upskilling: CLMK will offer the first steps back into education, employment and training as well as apprenticeships for those in work, particularly in the health and social care sector, business and admin and management and leadership. This will continue to be offered internally within MKCC as well as being expanded to offer apprenticeships.

Continuous Personal Development: Promoting lifelong learning opportunities to help individuals continuously develop their skills and adapt to changing job markets. CLMK offer an extensive health and well-being and family learning curriculum aimed at personal development and often gaining the first steps back into further employment or training. Parenting courses and inter-generational learning will in turn, help the next generation of learners.

Reskilling Initiatives: Providing reskilling programmes for individuals looking to change careers or re-enter the workforce. Employability and basic skills courses will continue to be offered for those wanting to change careers and move into other sectors of work. Pathways have been created in education and health and social care.

Start well



Live well



Age well

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 (updated June 2024) aims to offer opportunities for all, support vulnerable people and ensure everyone lives free from discrimination. CLMK will contribute to these aims by offering an inclusive curriculum, to enable those furthest away from the workforce to participate and move on. Part of the CLMK team is employment support, where learners are signposted. Young learners who are NEET, care experienced young people, adults who are long term economically inactive or those with a disability are all prioritised into learning and employment support.

Local Priorities

The **MKCC vision** for Milton Keynes is to be a city of opportunity, an affordable city, and a healthy city. The **New City Plan** will take forward Milton Keynes' City Council Strategy for 2050, which sets 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 aims to work with local businesses and organizations with a focus on high-quality sustainable growth, affordable housing, and new job opportunities. This strategy is 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. CLMK will support this strategy by Family learning provision will enhance children's learning and empower adults to support their children in their education and help in the building of stable homes. Family Learning provision will reach >500 learners in 25-26.

Learning opportunities within CLMK build on these aims by offering courses to increase the health and wellbeing of residents from ethnic minority communities (including those from Afghanistan, Ukraine and Hong Kong). A targeted programme of delivery will offer ESOL, employability, health and wellbeing and life in the UK skills to >500 ESOL learners in 25-26.

Inclusive Learning

CLMK offers provision for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities, some of whom have high needs and/or profound and multiple difficulties. This provision will further aim to develop the skills needed for each person to live as independently as possible and for those most able, to prepare them to enter the workplace with links to the supported employment team, who work alongside tutors. In 2025, CLMK will expand the offer of learning support, create 5 supported internship positions as well as >20 work placements with local employers. There will be an increase to 60 learners attending 'Supported Employment' provision and the focus will be on young people leaving education and entering the workforce, particularly if they have an EHCP or are care experienced.

The 16-19 provision will grow to accommodate a further level 2 study programme for progression for current level 1 learners. >70 young people who are most at risk of becoming or staying long term NEET and with complex barriers to learning will be able to learn in a small, safe and inclusive environment. This will enable them to take the next steps back into further education, employment and training.



Partner Relationships

Internal	External
Public Health	MK College
Adult Social Care	The Christian Foundation
Children's Social Care	SOFEA
Housing	MK ACT
The Virtual School	The DWP
16-24 Team for Care experienced young people	Local employers
Family centres	The Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Libraries	Schools
MKCC Care homes	Early Years settings
Education including SEND	NHS – CNWL and BLMK

CLMK works in partnership with other key stakeholders both within Milton Keynes City Council and externally.

Provision is planned with our partners for supporting those new to the UK, those with complex barriers to learning and employment, young learners with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), those with mental health challenges, those who are care experienced, suffered domestic abuse or are living in poverty and learners without a level 2 qualification. CLMK also consult with the DWP and local employers and provide relevant training to support people back into work or within the workplace. Sector Based Work Programmes are planned in customer services and health and social care in 25-26 and the basic skills, ESOL and health and wellbeing curriculum will meet the needs of partner organisations.

Further Links to Associated Documents:



[Microsoft Word - MKCC Delivery Plan 2024 26 Update](#)

[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 \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#)

[Milton Keynes Council - Community Learning MK - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

Links to Community Learning MK Website with links to accountability agreement and Ofsted Report May 2023:

[Community Learning MK Hub | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](#)

[LSIP Progress Report 2024 - SEM region.pdf](#)

Corporation Statement

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 director of Children's Services. The plan will be published on the city council's website within three months of the start of the new academic year.

Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MH' followed by a stylized flourish.

Mac Heath
Director of Children's Services

Author: Gayle Fothergill
Head of Service: Simon Sims
Director of Children's Services: Mac Heath

