



**COMMISSIONING
INTENTIONS
2023-25**

**Children and
Young People**

The MKCC [Children's Services Sufficiency Strategy: Getting it right first time \(2022-25\)](#) sets out the Council's ambitions for our children and young people:

"Milton Keynes Children's Services is committed to providing good quality local accommodation to all our looked after children and young people with care experience. When children can no longer live at home or with family, our aim is to provide the best quality care in Milton Keynes, or as close to Milton Keynes as possible, staying connected to their families, communities, school, and friends."

We want all our children and young people to be provided with good quality care, have access to open spaces, be integrated into communities and have access to good and outstanding education.

These Commissioning Intentions set out how the Council will shape local service provision to achieve these ambitions to 2025.

Children & Young People's Commissioning Intentions: Care & Accommodation

Intention 1:

Increase the capacity and range of good quality local accommodation options for MK children

What we'll do...

Deliver a new block supported accommodation contract for young people aged 16+

Utilise the Supported Accommodation DPS to call off placements and new small blocks at need

Commission Fenny House to prevent children being placed in unregulated placements – phase 1 of wider residential provision development

Intention 2:

Work in partnership with regional and national local authorities to improve commissioning practice

What we'll do...

Continue to work with South Central IFA and residential frameworks to ensure consistency of placement quality and costs

Explore other opportunities to collaborate with regional neighbours to develop new framework solutions where appropriate

Work with the Cross-Regional Keys Homes contract to secure beds not being used by partner Local Authorities

Intention 3:

Engage with local providers to develop relationships and MK-based sufficiency

What we'll do...

Quarterly forums with IFA, residential & 16+ providers to stimulate markets, build partnerships and discuss emerging themes and issues

Monthly/6-weekly referrals meetings with providers to support good matching and placement planning

Regularly share Market Position data with providers to enable business development to be targeted to our needs

Explore Strategic Partnership commissioning models with providers to develop dynamic, responsive contracts that can deliver the right provision in the right place for the right child

Intention 4:

Monitor trends (e.g. young parents) to ensure provision is responsive to needs

What we'll do...

Monitor trends and emergent needs and review existing provision to commission responsive services and grow capacity (e.g. parent & child placements, training flats for young people to move on from care)

Commission Housing Related Support for Young Parents (Springfield House)

Explore in-house and commissioned options for 2-4 small residential children's homes within MK

Embed models of care and support into commissioned contracts that ensure providers can achieve good outcomes for children with high/complex needs

Children & Young People's Commissioning Intentions: Wellbeing & Independence

Intention 5:

Ensure sufficient, good-quality short break and respite provision

What we'll do...

Embed a Community Short Breaks contract, offering a wide range of activities to meet the needs of children and young people with an Education Health & Care Plan

Refresh the Homecare Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to provide effective care and respite to children and families

Work in partnership with Adults' Commissioning to ensure the new all-age carers' contract provides good support to young carers

Intention 6:

Embed an evidence-based model in commissioned services to prepare young people for Independent Living

What we'll do...

Service specifications will be outcome-focused showing a progressive pathway for young people – monitored and reported as part of contract management

Expand both the existing standard and specialist Floating Support Provision to aid intervention (to help prevent a child coming into care) and provide support during and after leaving care to promote resilience

Support the SEND Service to commission Educational Psychology provision, ensuring EHCPs are completed in a timely way

Develop an accredited Young Commissioners /Young Inspectors course for young people to support better employment outcomes

Intention 7:

Work in partnership across services to promote emotional resilience for young people, especially care leavers

What we'll do...

Work with Public Health, the BLMK ICB and CNWL to commission a new "Getting Help" service as part of the MK Deal

Explore Joint Funding Protocols with Health for children and young people with complex needs

Children & Young People's Commissioning Intentions: Cross-cutting intentions

Intention 8:

The voice of children and young people is at the centre of all commissioned services

What we'll do...

Continue to drive improvements in the quality and quantity of the commissioned Advocacy Service

Explore options for future recommissioning of advocacy as an all-age service, while protecting the Independent Visiting, Reg. 44 and Return Home Interview services

Engage with children and young people and their parents and carers through youth participation forums to ensure commissioned services embed their wishes and feelings

Intention 9:

Robust oversight of commissioned services through contract management and quality assurance

What we'll do...

Roll out a contract management workbook and procedures for all current and new commissioned services, ensuring robust data monitoring and compliance

Re-develop the QCT Serious Concerns and Provider Failure Policy to reflect the needs of children and best practice in children's care provision

Monitor and track Equality, Diversity and Inclusion information so that services can be targeted to the children and young people who need them most

Intention 10:

Ensure service development is linked to city growth and planning opportunities

What we'll do...

Develop a refreshed Sufficiency Strategy for 2025-30, ensuring robust data forecasting to inform future service development

Explore opportunities to use City Plan to maximise funding contributions from developers and drive provision growth

Horizon-scan for government/external grant opportunities, such as Department for Education funding for children's homes and secure estate

Review the corporate estate offer to identify potential assets to meet future need



Thank you for reading this document.

**If you have any comments or feedback, please contact
the MKCC Commissioning Team at:**

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