

Leap⁺

Become a Board Member Information Pack

www.leapwithus.org.uk



Can you help us improve lives through movement, physical activity and sport?

It's an exciting time for Leap as we advertise for new Board Members to help us improve the lives of residents in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes through movement, physical activity and sport.

This pack contains information about Leap, the role and responsibilities of our board, the requirements of the board member role, person specification and details of how to apply. We hope you find our mission and the contribution you could make to our work inspiring and that we will welcome an application from you.

We have opportunities for two new board members to join our committed and hardworking board and are particularly interested in applications from individuals with expertise in finance/accounting and B2B communications / marketing.

Mark Ormerod
CEO



A few words from our CEO



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Why movement is vital now, more than ever



We know that increased regular movement and activity improves lives. It leads to better physical and mental health, resilient and employable people, connected communities, cleaner air and individuals who live in their own homes for longer and in better health.

In fact, it's proven that the least active people have the most to gain, and every movement counts.

But there are a whole host of complex, connected barriers stopping people from being active. Leap's mission is to break down these barriers and level up the inequalities.

1 in 5
residents in Bucks
are inactive

1 in 4
residents in MK
are inactive

1 in 3
residents living
with a long-term
condition

43%
of disabled residents
are inactive
compared to 22% of
non-disabled
residents

35%
of children and young
people in Bucks and MK
do less than 30 minutes
of physical activity a day

Sources: Active Lives survey and Buckinghamshire CYP Mental Health Strategic Group

Movement is vital

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How we work

We're trying to tackle some big societal issues and we know we can't do this alone, so we work with a broad range of partners. Together we aim to position movement as an integral part of the systems that influence all our lives - central to education, healthcare, workplaces, communities, infrastructure and community development. By using this systemic approach, together we hope to create the greatest impact and long-term change.

We build relationships and make connections

We help a broad range of partners to understand the benefits and wider social value of movement, physical activity and sport.

We aim to equip these partners to become activists and ambassadors, able and willing to promote the benefits of movement, physical activity and sport.

We also play matchmaker, connecting organisations with each other and the workforce of leaders and coaches delivering movement across the county.

We develop understanding of our audiences

Becoming and staying active isn't as simple as it sounds for many people, there are complex barriers and challenges in play.

We work closely with target groups and base our action on a deep understanding of these groups and communities.

We also take every opportunity to gather relevant data, turning it into valuable insights and share this with partners to better support those in our least active communities.

We advise on policy and projects

Our expert team are experienced at writing strategies and shaping projects.

Through our extensive knowledge and connection to a national network, we advise on best practice for project development and investment decisions.

We secure and maximise investment

As experienced bid writers, we are well practiced at applying for and securing investment, often bringing funding into the county from national sources.

We work with partners to pool our resources so that we can co-create solutions and make the most of our shared investments.

We energise people, places and spaces

Coaches, leaders and instructors are key to shaping experiences in movement, we help recruit train and engage the movement workforce.

We also work with partners who are responsible for places and spaces to maximise their use for movement, physical activity and sport.

Alongside this we consult and advise planners and shape transport system design so that new developments and revitalized spaces have movement at their heart.



What we do and for who

As a small team, we work smart to maximise our impact, focusing our work on priority groups and places that will benefit the most from activity.

We know that the least active people have the most to gain from regular movement. However, we also know that there are a whole host of complex inter-connected barriers preventing people from being active.

These barriers are particularly acute for:

- people in ethnically diverse communities,
- low Income households,
- disabled people,
- people living with one or more long term conditions
- children and young people from the above groups

Research shows that where people are born, grow-up, live, work and age has a huge impact on their health. This is why we also work in priority areas in the county. Places of highest activity need, where the barriers and inequalities are the greatest.

Whilst we love movement and activity, we don't deliver it directly but instead work with a skilled network of people who provide opportunities across the county.

The local embodiment of Sport England's Uniting the Movement in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, we interpret national strategy for our local setting.



Leap

About Leap

Leap is a social enterprise that exists to improve the lives of residents in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes (through regular movement, physical activity, and sport.)

At Leap, we believe that regardless of who you are and where you live, you should be able to benefit from the lifechanging effects of regular movement.

But we know through our insight and data that there are a whole host of complex, connected barriers stopping people from being active.

Leap's mission is to break down barriers to movement and tackle inequalities in activity levels.

We've operated in the county for 25 years, and are part of a network of 43 other Active Partnerships across England.

Leap has an impressive record for securing inward investment for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. Our largest contract to date was secured in 2022 securing Leap's core overheads until 2027. In 2023 as part of the national network of Active Partnerships, a £57m commission has been secured for Opening School Facilities from the Department for Education (DfE.)

Although independently funded and governed, Buckinghamshire Council acts as the host body on behalf of Leap. The Council provides financial and HR services to support our work and also employs Leap staff. The Partnership Board provides independent strategic direction for Leap.

The board provide expert strategic guidance to a dedicated and vibrant core team of approx 20. Together we have a proven record for delivery of both local and national commissions and have built a strong network of partners which enable us to positively impact resident's lives.

Board members make a valued contribution, bringing fresh perspectives and expertise.

[Click here to view our explainer video](#)



[Click here to find out more about our team](#)



About Leap



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About the Leap Board

[Click here to view our current board members](#)



The remit of the Board is to act as strategic driving force, supporting the Leap team to grow the awareness and investment for movement, physical activity and sport across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

Day-to-day management of Leap is the responsibility of the CEO whose responsibility it is to achieve the strategic outcomes agreed by the Board. Appropriate delegated authority is invested in the CEO to make decisions necessary for the achievement of those outcomes.

Clear separation of the Board (the controlling mind) and its staff (the organisations workforce) is fundamental to good governance. The Board acts in an advisory capacity on behalf of Leap, monitoring the effective delivery of the organisations objectives and the achievement of key targets and outcomes, some of which are self-determined, others set out through funding agreements.

It is the Board's responsibility to ensure that these aspects of the business are maintained and improved to the satisfaction of the partners and funders through transparent and planned processes.

Within this, specific roles will include:

Strategic Leadership & Planning – providing clear direction for movement, physical activity and sport in the county through the production and successful delivery of a Strategic Framework. Strongly communicated in order to motivate, inspire and drive partners;

Advocacy – advocating the benefits of movement, physical activity and sport locally, regionally and nationally. Recognising and celebrating success in our area and securing resources for the work of the Partnership;

Connecting Leap to those who will benefit most – helping build bridges for Leap to priority groups and communities, signposting to new partners, encouraging collaboration and co-design wherever possible;

Continuous improvement – ensure implementation and continuous improvement of Leap's strategies with a resident/participant centred approach, bringing in best practice from your networks and experience;

Good governance – ensuring Leap meets appropriate standards of governance and audit set out within the Governance Code for Sport at Level 3.



The role of Leap Board Member

Role title

Member of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Active Partnership

Eligibility

- Can articulate how their understanding, networks and experience will maximise the potential of movement, physical activity and sport and in Bucks and MK
- Elected members of Buckinghamshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council are not eligible to apply

Term

Minimum of three years. Reviewed after three years, and no more than 3 consecutive terms.

Remuneration

These are non-salaried positions. Travel and other reasonable expenses can be reimbursed.

Location

Partnership meetings may be held throughout the county.

Purpose of role

- Provide strategic leadership and be a visible role model for Leap and the movement, physical activity and sport sector
- Contribute towards making the Board a high performing and continuously improving
- Contribute towards ensuring the Leap remains fit for purpose
- Extend the network, influence and resources of Leap and the movement, physical activity and sport sector
- Champion a discrete portfolio, thematic area or aspect of business plan
- Support the Chair and Leap CEO.

Role of Board Members

- Provide particular area/s of expertise to help fulfil Leap's mission
- Provide effective leadership
- Contribute to the work of the Board and be an active team member
- Adhere and respond to Leap's policies, plans and proposals
- Provide advice and support on the development and implementation of Leap's Strategic Framework
- Be an advocate for Leap
- Support as appropriate the Chair, other Board Members and the CEO
- Represent the Leap and its Board at relevant events

Time commitment

We know that our skilled board is comprised of busy people with lots of commitments. We structure contact time and the requirements of board members to be as efficient as possible, whilst fulfilling the requirements for Leap.

As a minimum attendance and preparation for:

- An induction training event
- Two Partnership events annually
- Three meetings of the Board annually (each lasting no more than 3.5 hours)
- Board appraisal
- Other appropriate contributions will be considered and agreed following appointment



Person specification

Ideally you will either live or work in, or near to Buckinghamshire/Milton Keynes and have an understanding, or strong interest in issues affecting the development of movement, physical activity and sport in a range of settings.

Essential Knowledge and Skills

- Effective partnership working
- Knowledge of the movement, physical activity, health or sport sector
- Ability to make things happen
- Building constructive relationships
- Ability to motivate and inspire others
- Communication skills to confidently present ideas and arguments and negotiate convincingly
- Ability and willingness to act as an advocate for sport to a broad audience
- Understanding and commitment to equal opportunities and valuing diversity

Following the last board self-assessment and skills audit the following expertise is desirable

- Finance/Accounting
- B2B Marketing and Communication

Personal qualities

- Public respect
- Passion for movement, physical activity or sport
- Independence
- Influence and personal acumen
- Objectivity
- Discretion
- Well-connected networks



The recruitment process

We have a strong desire to have a diverse Board reflective of our local community, ensuring that equality, diversity and inclusion run through everything we do. We particularly welcome applications from people from ethnically diverse communities, disabled people, members of the LGBTQ+ community and people with lived experience from Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes' numerous and varied communities.

Board members are recruited through an open process of advertisement by the submission of a written application and supply of references from two independent referees.

Short-listing will be undertaken by the executive (usually the CEO) assessed against the competences set out in this document, and interviews are led by the Chair, the Senior Independent Director, one other Board member, and in the case of Chair recruitment this may include a representative from Sport England.

New board members are appointed for an initial term of three years.

For an informal discussion, please contact either:

Board Chair, Sue Imbriano on 01296 614120

Leap CEO, Mark Ormerod on 07957361170 / mormerod@leapwithus.org.uk

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Board Member**



Recruitment



www.leapwithus.org.uk



Join the movement and Leap with us



@Leap_BMK



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info@leapwithus.org.uk

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