

MK Partner Event: Connecting Through Place

Local Leaders 6 months on
Wednesday 17th June

www.leapwithus.org.uk



Welcome and Introduction

Mark Ormerod

Leap CEO

MK PEP Chair



@Leap_BMK



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The purpose of these partner events are to...

- Inspire and Share
- Build Connections
- Build the Movement
- Enable Action



Leap Partner Event - October

Time	Item	Who
10:45	Welcome	Mark Ormerod, MK PEP
10:55	Ice Breaker	Chris, Leap
11:10	Sharing Sessions: • Buckinghamshire's Place work • MK PEP Hypertension Test and Learn with GP Practices • MK PEP Schools Cycling (Two Mile Ash and Greenley's) • Movement Champions with Truby's Garden & Leap • Resident Health & Wellbeing Programme with YMCA SM	Shay Portia/Chantelle/Abbi Charlotte/Jake Kurshida/Chris Rob
11:50	Movement Break	ALL
12:00	MK Place Expansion Programme Update	Rhiannon Smith, MK PEP Lead Charlotte Carr, MK PEP Officer
12:30	Working in Place is a National Priority	Chris Perks, Director of System Change Solutions
13:05	Power Updates x 5	Chris, Leap
13:15	Summary and close	Mark Ormerod
13:20	Lunch and networking	ALL

Ice Breaker

Active Dobbble is Back!!!

Introduce yourself, your role and your organisation.



@Leap_BMK



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The Leap logo, featuring the word 'Leap' in a white, stylized, italicized font with a small white star above the 'p'. The logo is positioned on a red triangular background that points towards the bottom right corner of the slide.

Working in Place Sharing Sessions

- Community Connectors with Truby's Garden and Leap.
- Buckinghamshire's Place work
- MK PEP Hypertension Test and Learn with GP Practices
- MK PEP Schools Cycling (Two Mile Ash and Greenley's)
- Resident health & wellbeing programme with YMCA South Midlands.



Movement Break - 10mins



Milton Keynes Place Expansion Programme: Bringing the work to life.

Rhiannon Smith
Charlotte Carr



MK PEP Team

Leap 

Milton Keynes Place Expansion Partnership

Overview and
Update



**MILTON KEYNES
PLACE EXPANSION PARTNERSHIP (PEP)**

Overview

- Context
- What's been achieved during Discovery Phase (year 1)
- Key Resources and Tools available for all partners to use.
- Overview of Phase 2 October 2026 – March 2028.

Context of Place work

Part of Sport England's Uniting the Movement (2021), committed to expanding place partnerships and allocating £250m of National Lottery and Exchequer Funding into place-based systemic work over five years. A significant proportion of the investment (£190 million) will be focused on an additional 80-100 places which have been identified, via the Place Need Classification (PNC).

The Milton Keynes areas identified by Sport England through the Place Needs Classification methodology (PNC):

- 1.MSOA MK012: Stacey Bushes, Fullers Slade, Greenleys, Hodge Lea, Kiln Farm
2. MSOA MK018: Eaglestone, Fishermead, Springfield, Coffee Hall, Beanhill, Netherfield

Through a 'whole system approach', Sport England's investment is expected to deliver against at least one of the below:

- 1.Decreasing physical inactivity
- 2.Increasing physical activity
- 3.Tackling inequality
- 4.Providing positive experiences for children and young people

Discovery Phase

Discovery Phase

It marked the beginning of a long-term, system-focused investment awarded by Sport England. This phase was not about short-term programme delivery, but about understanding the deeper, systemic causes of inactivity.

The focus of this stage was on:

- Listening to communities and partners
- Understanding the root causes of inactivity
- Exploring how local systems help or hinder activity
- Building relationships, leadership and shared capability

The investment we received was structured around-

- Leadership and workforce development
- Capacity building
- Revenue for test & learn interventions
- Evaluation and Learning

Unlike previous short-term initiatives, this investment:

- Considers broader systems like transport, safety, housing, and access to green/blue spaces
- Aims to address root causes of inactivity, not just symptoms, and how these are addressed
- Focuses on listening and learning before delivering activities
- Includes four test and learn interventions during the Discovery Phase- Active Travel, CYP, Movement Pathway and Live longer better
- Builds on insights from Sport England's Local Delivery Pilots since 2017

The MK PEP Board includes:

- Wolverton & Greenley's Town Council - Woughton Community Council- Campbell Park Community Council - Stony Stratford Town Council- MK City Council - MK Community Foundation - Street Games- BLMK Integrated Care Board - Leap (Active Partnership)



MK PEP Discovery Phase Timeline 2025-26

Building a picture of where we are



‘Picture’ will be articulated in the baseline report CFE produce

- **Social Network Analysis** – A method for mapping and understanding the relationships, influence and connectivity between people, organisations and systems actors.
- **System Maturity Matrix** – A tool that assesses how developed, aligned and embedded a system is across key aspects of whole-system change.
- **Policy Audit** – A structured review of local and regional policies to identify how they enable, inhibit or overlook opportunities to increase physical activity.
- **Resident Voice** – The capturing of lived experience and insights directly from local people to shape decisions and system change.
- **Local Leaders 2-day Event** – Event convening local leaders to build shared understanding, relationships and commitment to collaborative system change.
- **Making Sense Sessions with Locally Trusted Organisations** – Facilitated conversations that help trusted community partners surface insights, interpret learning and contribute to next steps.
- **Project Intelligence** – A collective understanding of who is involved, what’s happening, what assets exist and what we are learning from ongoing activities, processes and behaviours. Including neighborhood scans.
- **Test and learn** – Four test and learn themes (active travel, live longer better, CYP and movement pathway) with the aim to develop, test, and evaluate different methods of tackling physical inactivity at a local level with the learning helping to shape the full award includes use of Active xchange data
- **Stakeholder Interviews** – In-depth conversations with key project partners to gather perspectives, insights and evidence that inform system understanding and decision-making.

What have we learnt and what are the resource and learning available to you.

Resource and learning you can use....

Resident Voice

- Concerns from parents about activity levels of young people.
- Conversations with adults about poor health being a barrier to activity.
- Transport and cost stopping them taking up new activity.
- Parents and grandparents saying activity was not for them but wanted it for children and young people they knew.
- Adults accessing community activities to keep connected to others, could activity be built into social activities.
- Low-cost activity options needed but limited recognition of daily movement and active travel as activity.
- Safety concerns about using outdoor spaces.
- A wish for outdoor assets to be updated or improved so they and others could use it.

Note. More engagement was needed with Black, Asian and Muslim faith communities to understand enablers and barriers to movement and activity. OU have started this via a survey and this will continue into phase 2 of the programme.

Resource and learning you can use....

Open University resident voice report

➤ Playzones example



**MILTON KEYNES
PLACE EXPANSION PARTNERSHIP (PEP)**

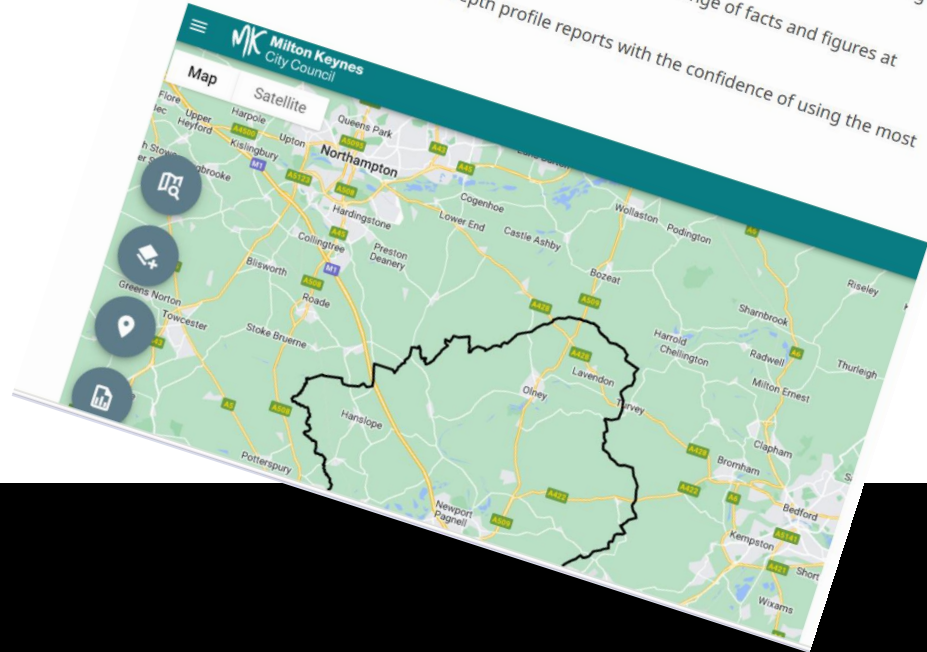
Useful resources

Local insight tool- MKCC

➤ Population data

Milton Keynes City Local Insight

Milton Keynes's JSNA Local Insight tool is a community mapping and reporting tool using up-to-date national open data and locally uploaded data. It's a service that allows you to find, explore and use a wide range of facts and figures at different geographic levels for Milton Keynes. You can generate bespoke and in depth profile reports with the confidence of using the most recently available data.

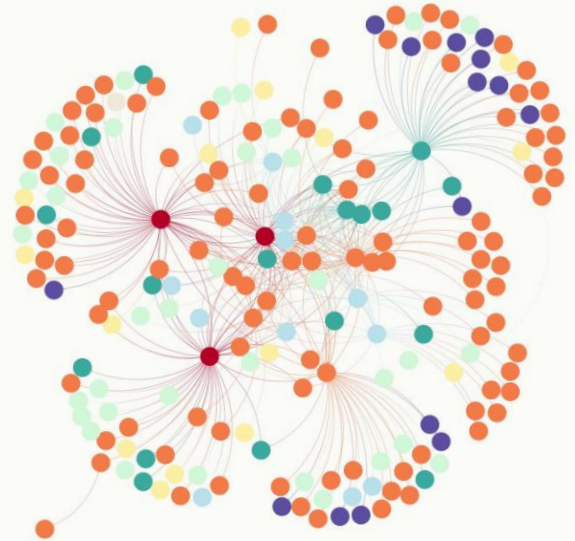


**MILTON KEYNES
PLACE EXPANSION PARTNERSHIP (PEP)**

Resource and learning you can use....

Learning from Local Leaders

- Summary of Current Challenges in Milton Keynes' System Landscape.
- What is happening to address these challenges
- Coming soon- 3 month follow up
- Social network analysis



Resource and learning you can use....

Learning from 4 Test and Learns themes;

- Active Travel- Greenleys case study coming soon
- Live longer better - low intensity exercise classes
- Movement pathway- linking physical activity into GP surgeries
- CYP

For more information about this please contact
MK PEP programme team

**Case Study:
Uniting the Active
Travel Movement**

Removing Barriers to Cycling:
Greenleys Junior School

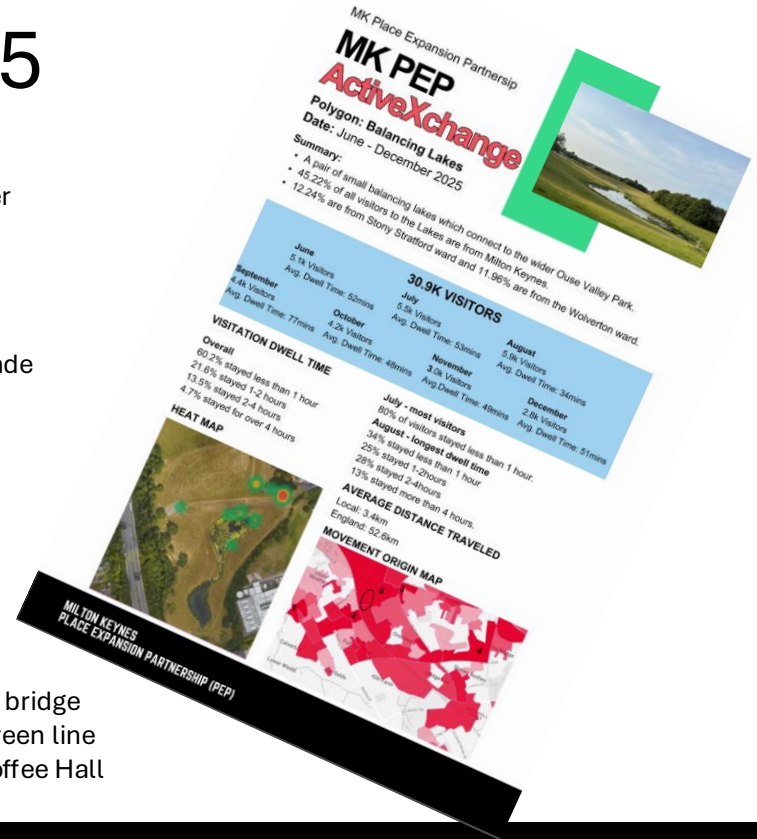




data sheets x35

Play area & park of Buckthorn Rd
MK Museum
Spider Park
Greenleys Muga
Campbell Park
Barnyard Park
Wolverton Balancing Lakes
Green space nr Rowens
Woughton leisure centre
Activity centre play area
Moorlands Family Centre
Springfield community centre
Green/park space behind the hub
Loughton Valley Park (Bancroft Roman Villa part)
Green space near childrens centre- Pebbles outreach hub
Ouzel Valley Park (Peartree Bridge/Woughton on the Green part)- Woughton on the green bridge
Grand Union Canal (H6-H7) Campbell Park- green area up to Campbell Wharf Marina- Green line
Green space nr Buckland Lodge (Alphabet Park)
MUGA & Play Area- Medale Rd

Green stripe- Forest Garden - White Alder
Rowans Family Centre
Hub within Spider Park
Eaglestone Park
Pirate Park at Kernow Crescent
Redway between Greenleys & Fullers Slade
Hodge Lea Play area
Eaglestone Activity Centre Muga
Netherfield mtg place
Western road rec near Wolverton pool
WCC Community Garden
Springfield centre
Oldbrook Green Centre/ Skatepark
Ashland Lakes
Islamic Centre
Barrista Park Coffee Hall



**MILTON KEYNES
PLACE EXPANSION PARTNERSHIP (PEP)**

Overview of Phase 2 October 2026 – March 2028

What we know so far

Across Milton Keynes



System working
in infancy



System needs greater
connectivity

MK Place estates specifically



Large CYP
population



High rates of disability
and LTHC



High
deprivation



Ethnically diverse
communities

Theme

Connection will be the overarching theme, reflecting the need to strengthen relationships across systems and improve residents' sense of belonging.

Our primary focus, guided by the inequality's metric, will be residents from **lower socio-economic groups**. Within this, we will prioritise **children, young people** and their families, and **adults experiencing poor health**.

Overview of phase 2 (Oct 26 to Mar 28)

System Leadership and Governance

- Strengthening leadership through a restructured board and governance model- Strategic Board and Place Partnership Groups x2
- Focus on senior buy-in and engagement, strategic influence, and system-wide ownership

Partnership working and Collaboration

- Increasing frequency and quality of collaboration via:
 - Communities of Practise
 - Local leaders 2.0
- Prioritising diverse partners and lived experience in decision-making across all levels

Community Capacity & Infrastructure

- Investing in locally trusted roles via local organisations (e.g., community researchers, movement champions).
- Strengthening relationships, local leadership, and grassroots organisations.
- Supporting and empowering the local workforce and volunteer base

Overview of phase 2 (Oct 26 to Mar 28)

Resident Voice & Co-Production

- Embedding lived experience in decision-making (especially addressing the gaps in development phase resident voice work with Black and Asian Communities and individuals of Muslim faith)
- Investing in capacity: community researchers, youth panel, Place partnership groups.
- Moving towards embedded community led collection and action

Community-Led Action (“Test, Learn, Grow”)

- Funding and opportunities to enable local, community-driven initiatives.
- Piloting and scaling successful phase 1 approaches for: Adults in poor health & Children & Young People inc. families

Embedding Learning, Evaluation and Insight

- Strong emphasis on continuous learning, sharing learning and adaptation across all levels of the system.
- Tools include: System maturity matrix, Social network analysis, Case studies & resident insight.
- Creating a learning system where data informs action

Reflection time

In pairs reflect on what you have just heard and what you would like to hear more about in connection to MK PEP

More information and contacts

MK PEP webpages

MK PEP Programme Team contacts

Charlotte Carr
Community Officer-07368214638
charlotte.carr@leapwithus.org.uk

Rhiannon Smith
Programme Lead-07738314191
Rhsmith@leapwithus.org.uk

Working in Place, a National Priority

Chris Perks



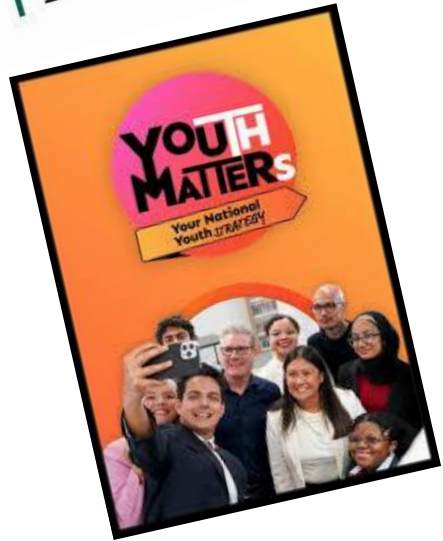
Director
System Change Solutions



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3 messages:

1. Understand how this work 'is of the moment'
2. Use the long term *and* recent learning
3. A call to action...



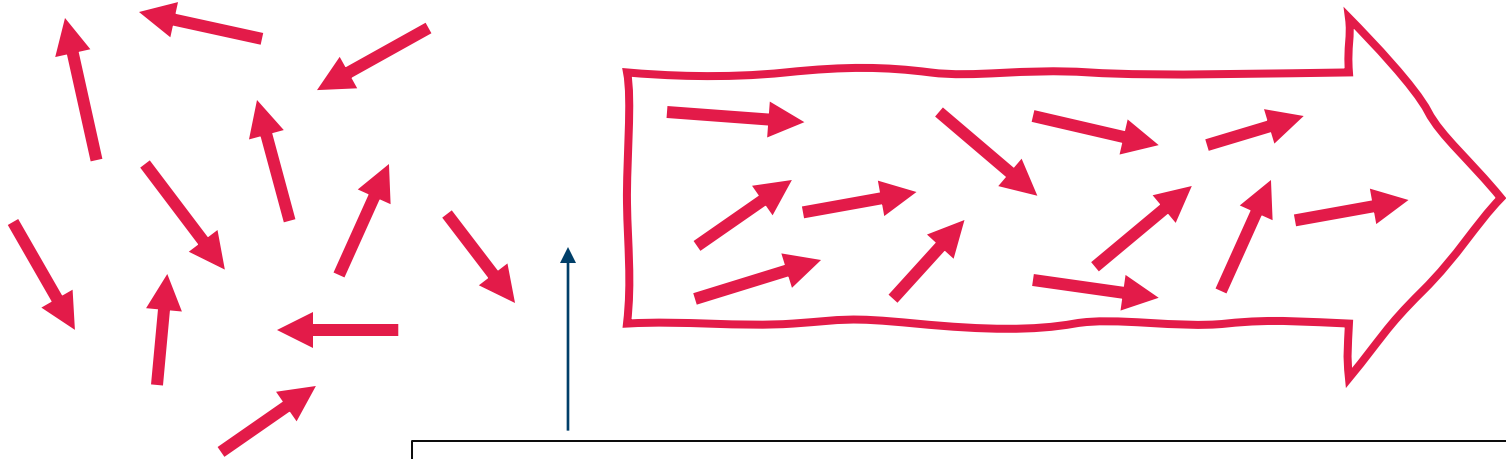
Medium term learning:

*a priority in policy
resources and £ shifting
understanding of value
communities at the heart
people more active*

Learning from now:

*connectivity
pace and momentum
communities at heart
shifting mind sets
short/long term
system change is change
in ourselves*

‘The people that do the work... do the change’



**to create a different story about how active communities
are- and the benefits this brings....**

...invest in yourselves and how you work

Power Updates:

2mins each what do we need to know

MK Skills Plan

Michelle Howden, CIMSPA

MK Sport Strategy

Kelly Sutton, MKCC Sport and Leisure

MK Physical Activity Strategy

Laura Waller, MKCC Public Health

MK Movers

Portia Simond, Leap

Bucks & MK Networks

Anya / Abbi, Leap





Leap Partner Forum

Local Skills

Background – Local Skills

In 2023, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport published “Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity”. This strategy explicitly backs CIMSPA’s rollout of local-based skills and training stating:

“We will support CIMSPA in the development of local skills improvement plans with full national coverage.”

In line with its “Uniting the Movement” strategy, Sport England has commissioned CIMSPA to help accelerate local-focused skills improvements within the sport and physical activity workforce.

And more recently Sport England’s devolution statement positions **skills and employment** as a core pillar of place-based growth. Key elements include:

- Developing **apprenticeships, employment and volunteer pathways**, especially for young people and those furthest from the labour market
- Strengthening **local workforce capacity** aligned to wider economic, health and skills priorities
- Embedding sport and physical activity into **local skills, work and growth plans** within devolved authorities
- Building **local leadership, partnerships and system capability** to deliver workforce outcomes

CIMSPA Local Skills: core delivery model

CIMSPA's Local Skills work is effectively the **delivery mechanism for workforce transformation** in the sport and physical activity sector:

- **Funded and supported by Sport England**, ensuring strategic alignment
- Brings together **employers, education providers and employability organisations**
- Operates through **Local Skills Accountability Boards (LSABs)**, aligning stakeholders locally
- Produces **Local Skills Action Plans** to match training provision with employer demand
- Creates **clear career pathways** and improves access to jobs in the sector
- Focuses on ensuring the workforce can deliver **health, economic and social benefits**



Local skills - CIMSPA

Key takeaway

- The right training, delivered in the right place, at the right time
- Buckinghamshire Skills Plan about to launch – find out more [here](#)
- Work underway in Milton Keynes – update next week at the MK Movers event on Thursday 25th June
- If you are interested and want to be involved, please email Michelle or Anya Michelle.howden@cimspa.co.uk / Anya.Forbes-Phyall@leapwithus.org.uk



Thriving Community Clubs

- Thriving, robust and inclusive sporting opportunities, that are reflective of the local community
- Act as a consulting resource for clubs, in collaboration with local and national governing bodies
 - Facilitate club development opportunities (committee, governance, financial sessions) to ensure clubs are supported

Develop Facilities

- Strategies and reviews demonstrating the trajectory of sport and facilities within the city
 - Work to upgrade existing provisions into modern and fit for purpose facilities
- Foster a holistic approach to developers' proposals for new facilities to ensure suitability and viability for sport

City Wide Collaboration

- Use sport as a vehicle to impact residents as part of a wider health and wellbeing agenda
- Support progressive partnerships that help develop the ecosystem around sport in the city and seek external funding
- Community groups/ organisations delivering programmes and activities relevant and reflective of the communities served

Inspire Success

- Attract sports events to be hosted in the city to enhance the social and economic benefits
- Share success stories and best practise (resident achievement, club successes, investment impact case studies, successful community events, 'you said, we did' updates from consultation)
 - Form of regular communication to be distributed to all clubs and Parish Councils



What we have achieved.

- ✓ Sports Strategy 2025-30
- ✓ Playing Pitch Strategy
- ✓ Football Facilities Strategy
- ✓ New leisure operator
- ✓ Launched MK Clubs Forum
- ✓ Embedding sport into strategies
- ✓ Leisure Asset Transfer Programme
 - Including £250k investment into Heelands Sports Ground
- ✓ Supporting Youth Access Grant for sports clubs

What is next.

- Proactive Section 106 allocation
- Tennis facilities strategy
- Leisure Needs Assessment
- City expansion leisure support
- Club development opportunities
- Exploring opportunities with National Governing Bodies

Leisure&Community@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk



MK Physical Activity Strategy

Laura Waller – Public Health Principal (Healthy Weight)



BEDFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Central
Bedfordshire



Public Health:
Working together to improve the health
and wellbeing of our communities

MK Physical Activity Strategy



- Strategy runs from 2025- 2030
- Created by an external organisation- Urban Foresight, in collaboration with MK stakeholders.
- Intersects with MK PEP BUT for all of MK



Recognise and build on existing strengths



Embed diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility

MK Physical Activity Strategic Alliance



- Alliance made up of Public Health, MKCC colleagues from leisure and transport, VCSE- Community Action MK, NHS Central East ICB and Leap.
- Identified 4 key actions for year 1...

Policy- Do we have physical activity embedded in all the right policies as it should be?

Referral pathways- If I worked in a GP practice and I had a patient in front of me who needed to get active- what would I do? How would I do it?

Skills and training- Does everyone in the system know how to talk to the public about physical activity, when the public access our services- are they welcomed by people confident at supporting people into physical activity for the first time? Who aren't scary?

Planning and housing- Are we building physical activity in from the start- rather than retrospectively?

MK Physical Activity Strategic Alliance

- Task and finish groups for each action
- Standing agenda item re MK PEP
- Provide updates here
- Talk to Leap a lot...
- Intersect with Sports Strategy

Any questions?

MK Movers Collaboration (Since 2023)

Our Mission: Providing an active lifestyle for every child & young person in Milton Keynes

What We're Changing

- Tackling barriers to participation in sport & activity
- Delivering inclusive, positive experience of movement in all communities for young people

What We've Done

- Supported 15+ organisations
- Delivered funding, resources & learning
- Developed a strong collaboration with MK Council & Community Councils
- Strengthened delivery in MK PEP areas

It's about bringing together organisations, ensuring safe high-quality delivery, and making positive differences to our children and young people.

Live Longer Better Inclusion Network



9th July, 10:30am-13:30pm,
Southcourt Baptist Church, HP21 8HW

If you work with the following people (but not limited to) this event is for you!

Disabled adults, disabled children, children and young people with SEND, older adults, those living with a long-term health condition and pre/post natal women

Contact Details: Anya/Abbi
Anya.forbes-phyall@leapwithus.org.uk
amckane@leapwithus.org.uk

Booking link- [Live Longer Better Inclusion network Meeting \(July\) - LEAP](#)



Summary and Close

Mark Ormerod



Partner Events 2026

Theme TBC

Wednesday 14th October 2026

1045-1315 (Aston Clinton)



leap 

Bucks and MK Movement Impact Library

**Please submit your stories of
impact so that we can amplify
our collective impact.**



Leap 

**Tell us what you
thought of today**

2-minute survey



Partner Event

Connecting Through Place

www.leapwithus.org.uk

