

Milton Keynes  
Cultural  
Education  
Partnership

**Cultural  
Education  
Strategy**

**2018 - 2021**



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**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

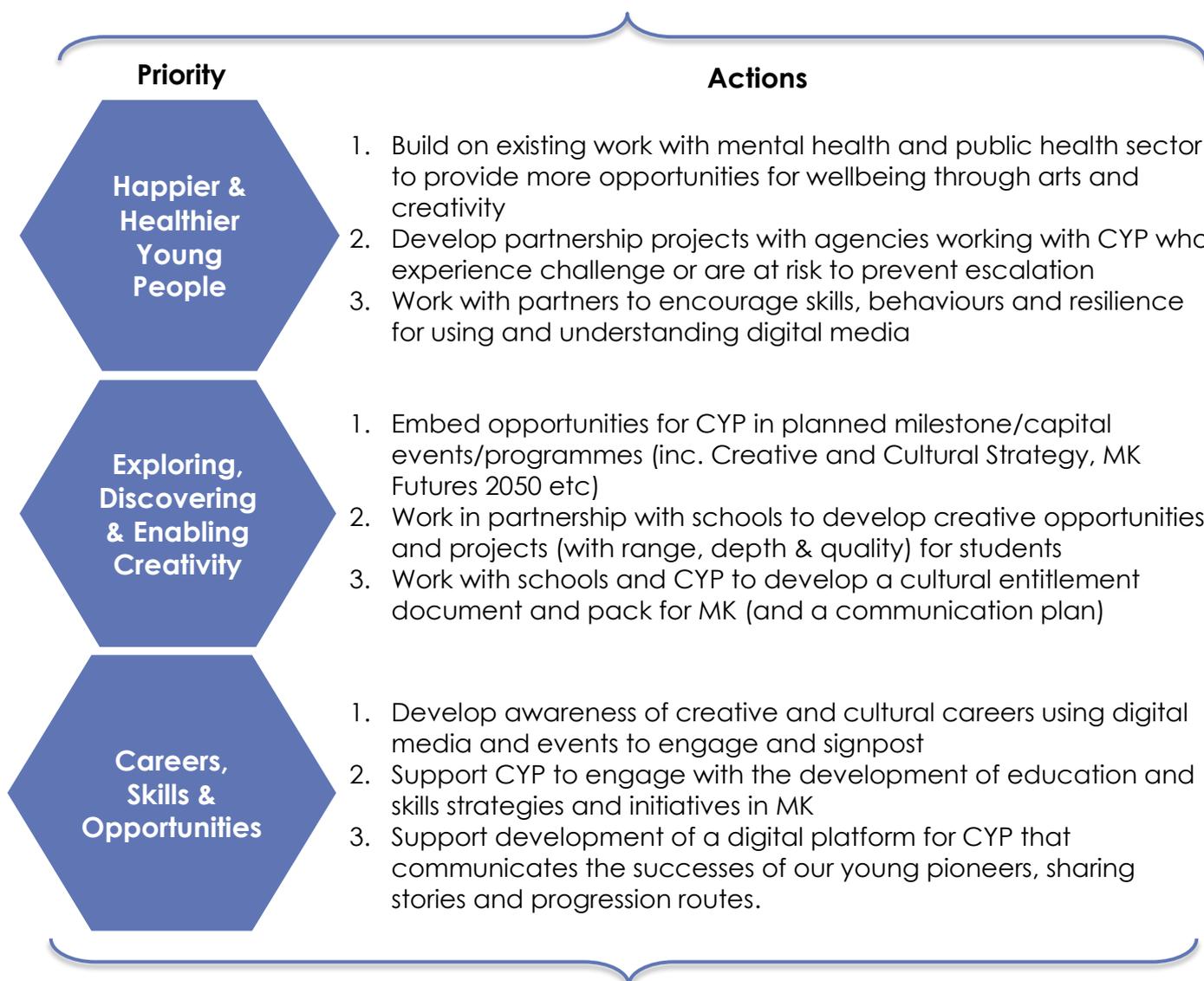
# MK Cultural Education Strategy

## Executive Summary

The Milton Keynes Cultural Education Partnership is committed to:

- Increasing the number of children and young people creating, participating in, and influencing arts and culture
- Improving access to information, training and work experience for young people in Milton Keynes to enable them to progress within the creative and cultural industries
- Increasing the confidence, aspiration, achievement and well-being of children and young people from all communities
- Sustaining effective collaborative working across education, youth, health and cultural partnerships based on a better understanding of needs and requirements.

Through research, consultation, discussion and debate we have developed these three priorities and actions for implementation and monitoring:



# MK Cultural Education Strategy

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## Overview

The Milton Keynes Cultural Education Partnership is a collective of organisations and MK Council departments that work across culture, education and youth. These partners have been brought together by their drive to nourish the creativity and cultural wellbeing of the children and young people in Milton Keynes (0-18 years – up to 25 years for special education needs). Responding to Arts Council England's [Cultural Education Challenge](#) and supported by Artswork, the South East bridge, we wish to create a step change in the way that children and young people access culture. The Cultural Education Partnership and Cultural Education Strategy will enable the sector to:

- Address the needs of children and young people in Milton Keynes, through inspiring arts and culture initiatives
- Support better articulation of the cultural offer available to children and young people
- Increase engagement and participation of children and young people with culture in Milton Keynes
- Promote a collaborative approach to delivery.

Milton Keynes Council tasked a commission of nine place-making experts to develop a vision for the future of the city. The MK Futures commission has recently launched the [MK Futures 2050 Commission Report](#) (2016), which sets out six projects to 'make a great city greater'. Specifically in relation to the cultural sector, their project six is entitled: 'Milton Keynes: The Creative and Cultured City'. In order to achieve this vision for 2050 it is essential that our children and young people are presented with a breadth of creative and cultural opportunities. Whether developing their social skills, motivation or confidence, paving the way for a future career, or supporting their health and wellbeing, we believe that creative and cultural activities are an essential part of young people's development.

By working together as a Cultural Education Partnership, we believe that we can achieve more than we can on our own, that we can join up existing provision and provide better cultural opportunities for the children and young people of Milton Keynes. The 2015 Report by the Warwick Commission on the Future of Cultural Value, states: "There are barriers and inequalities in Britain today that prevent equal access for everyone to a rich cultural education and the opportunity to live a creative life ... This is bad for business and bad for society." This is the challenge that the MKCEP aims to address. We believe that through a collaborative approach we can provide all ages of children and young people with relevant and valuable creative and cultural experiences that develop skills, confidence, ambition and wellbeing and which enable individuals to go on to both pursue creative careers, and develop creative skills essential for the evolving workplace.

The MKCEP has a strategic steering group that advises and supports the network.



Consultation with cultural organisations, schools and young people, as well as desk research into the issues faced by children and young people in Milton Keynes (see Appendix 2) have informed this strategy. Our strategy and Action Plan will feed into the new Creative and Cultural Strategy for Milton Keynes, and supports the implementation of the MK Futures 2050 report.

## Aims

The MKCEP aims to support the cultural well-being of children and young people in Milton Keynes, it will:

- Increase the number of children and young people creating, participating in, and influencing arts and culture
- Improve access to information, training and work experience for young people in Milton Keynes to enable them to progress within the creative and cultural industries
- Increase the confidence, aspiration, achievement and well-being of children and young people from all communities
- Sustain effective collaborative working across education, youth, health and cultural partnerships based on a better understanding of needs and requirements.

In order to achieve these aims, the group has identified these three priorities in need of collaborative development:

### Happier and Healthier Young People

- Supporting well-being through creative and cultural participation, enabling children and young people to be happy and excited to participate in all areas of activity.
- Developing self-expression, confidence, self-esteem, positivity and motivation, as well as tolerance and understanding of diverse cultures.

### Exploring, Discovering and Enabling Creativity

- Supporting delivery of creative and cultural opportunities across the city, seeking out local spaces (schools, community centres, cultural organisations), and working with young people to develop inspiring and exciting creative opportunities.
- Creating a framework and opportunities for co-production and CYP-led commissioning.

### Careers, Skills and Opportunities

- Enabling activity that both paves the way for future careers in the creative and cultural industries, and develops essential skills for careers in any sector.

These themes are underpinned by three further considerations, which should be integral to everything that the MKCEP delivers:

- Delivering and working better with schools and MK College
- Better information and communication
- Digital opportunities

## Equality and Inclusion

The MKCEP is strongly committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. The MKCEP will support equal opportunities for all children and young people to engage in creative and cultural activities, building skills and empowering them to become active citizens of Milton Keynes.

Building meaningful, enduring and respectful relationships across different cultures is essential to social cohesion in Milton Keynes. Our population is increasingly diverse, now with over 40% of school children from BAME backgrounds and we want to help every child feel valued and included, as well as ensuring that young people from all backgrounds have access to, and can enjoy and excel in creative and cultural activities and aspire to creative careers.

The work of the MKCEP will be developed with conscious awareness of the specific groups facing disadvantage within the Milton Keynes population. The network will work in partnership with schools, MK College, agencies and organisations that have direct contact with these groups to develop projects that meet their needs. It is expected that a commitment to representation and nurturing of disadvantaged groups will run through all strands of MKCEP activity.

## Targets

The MKCEP Action Plan outlines a framework for collaboration and joint working. The network will advocate the benefits of cultural education and work to engage as many agencies working with children and young people to support our aims and develop partnership projects. The MKCEP does not have direct control over the delivery of cultural education, but these targets indicate the ambition for the activity.

By April 2020:

- 2,500 children and young people will have engaged with arts and cultural activity through the delivery of the Action Plan,
- 1,500 children and young people will have engaged with Arts Award, with at least 1,000 having achieved accreditation
- 25% of Milton Keynes schools will have achieved Artsmark status (compared to 13 at the time of writing (Autumn 2017))
- 50% of schools will be engaging with arts and culture
- 20+ partner organisations will actively participate/collaborate.

## Working with Schools

Cultural organisations working with schools and MK College will need to ensure that they have a good understanding of the education environment. All organisations and practitioners will be required to provide to the school in advance of any work:



- A risk assessment for the activity
- A method statement
- DBS certificate for all practitioners working with children and young people
- Copy of their Safeguarding Policy.

The MKCEP will encourage use of services that match schools and organisations/artists, such as:

- [Connecting with culture](#) developed by Artswork
- [Culture Challenge](#) a locally based website.

The MKCEP requires all members and partners to develop work in line with Arts Council England's seven quality principles for working with children and young people:

1. Striving for excellence and innovation
2. Being authentic
3. Being exciting, inspiring and engaging
4. Ensuring a positive and inclusive experience
5. Actively involving children and young people
6. Enabling personal progression
7. Developing belonging and ownership.

## Action Plan and Implementation

We have developed an Action Plan (see page 5), showing the key actions required to deliver our aims. To deliver this Action Plan, the MKCEP will meet quarterly, and working groups will be set up to develop the work streams required to deliver change in respect of each priority. The working groups will meet regularly, as required to progress their work, a representative of each working group will report in to full MKCEP meetings. Early work will focus on developing relationships and work streams.

To ensure that work and projects are created by, and with, young people, the MKCEP aims to increase opportunities for young people to engage and participate in project development and activities in cultural venues and organisations. A long-term aim is to create a youth forum for the MKCEP that helps to direct activity and develop projects. In the short term, the MKCEP will encourage member and partner organisations to take part in the [Takeover Challenge](#), [Twitter Takeover Day](#), [Children's Art Week](#) and [Fun Palaces](#).

In developing the MKCEP Action Plan we have identified a set of initial mapping tasks that are required to lay the building blocks for future activity. These tasks are:

- Mapping the Milton Keynes schools, FE and HE providers and the cultural organisations that they are working with (alongside Artsmark and Arts Award delivery)

### **[Exploring, Discovering & Enabling Creativity]**

- Mapping the contacts, networks and progression routes for CYP into FE, HE, apprenticeships and cultural work. Gaining an understanding of who is going where and recruitment activity

## [Careers, Skills and Opportunities]

In line with our diversity and inclusion statement all work should be reflective of the diverse population of children and young people living in Milton Keynes.

## Review and Monitoring

Progress against the MKCEP Action Plan will be monitored annually at an MKCEP full meeting. Working group leads will report to the MKCEP meetings on progress and to engage partners.

Targets will be updated as required in line with direction of travel.

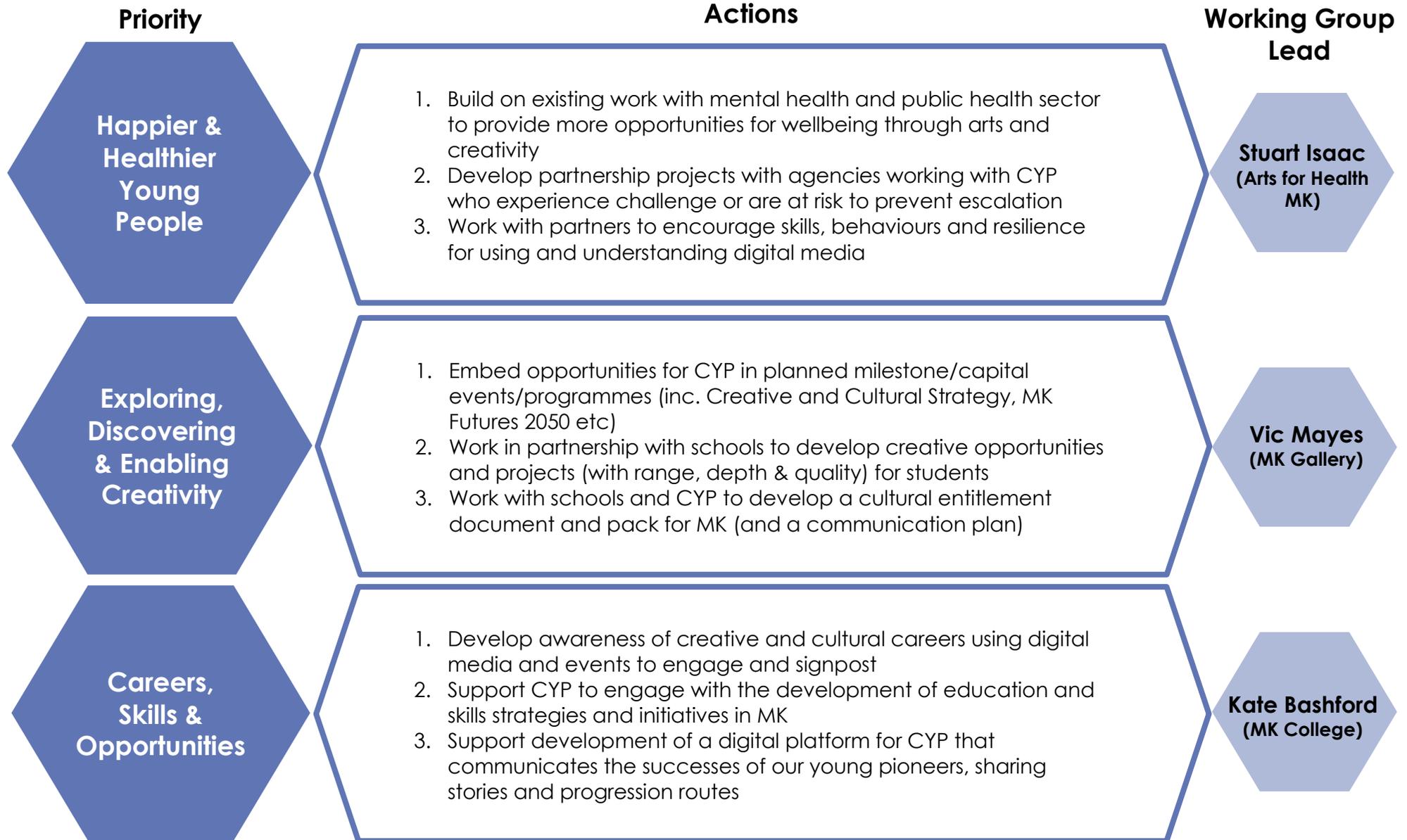
Each year the MKCEP will collect basic information from the network in respect of their activity with schools and MK College. This will enable monitoring of the level of work with our education providers, and how many are engaging with arts and culture.

## Fundraising

Funding will be sought for projects arising from the Action Plan as applicable to the aims, objectives and activity of each partnership project. Sources of funding include:

- Artwork multi-year partnership investment (requires 50/50 match)
- Arts Council Grants for the Arts (requires 10% match)
- Arts Council Strategic Touring Fund
- Children in Need (large grants)
- MK Community Foundation
- Sponsorship.

# Cultural Education Strategy 2018-2021 Action Plan



## Partnership Governance and Membership

The MKCEP is led by Arts & Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes and has a wide membership incorporating MK Council departments, cultural organisations and schools. All members are expected to act as ambassadors for cultural education.

The MKCEP members are:

### Individuals

- Jill Stansfield, Chair
- Ann Limb

### Organisations

- AHA-MK
- Action 4 Youth
- Anita Devi Ltd
- Arts 1
- Arts for Health
- Arts Gateway
- Artswork
- Black Sheep Collective
- Bletchley Park
- Bucks County Museum
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Christian Foundation
- City Discovery Centre
- Cowper and Newton Museum
- Festive Road
- Heritage MK
- Inter-Action MK
- Living Archive
- MK Arts Centre
- MK City Orchestra
- MK College
- MK Council Children and Families
- MK Council Culture Team
- MK Council Public Health
- MK Council Youth Faculty

- MK Council Youth Offending Team
- MK Gallery
- MK Heritage Association
- MK Islamic Arts and Culture
- MK Museum
- MK Music Hub
- MK Police
- MK SNAP
- MK Theatre
- MOTUS
- OYAP
- The Arts Excite
- The National Museum of Computing
- The Parks Trust
- The Play's the Thing
- The Stables
- Westbury Arts Centre
- Yaws House
- YMCA

### Schools

- Emerson Valley School
- Great Linford Primary School
- Greenleys First School
- Hazeley Academy
- Holne Chase School
- Lavendon School
- Long Meadow School
- Loughton Manor First School
- MK Academy
- Shenley Brook End School
- Stantonbury School
- St Francis' Children Society
- St Mary & St Giles C of E School
- Summerfield School