

Milton Keynes Council Neighbourhood Employment Programme

*The Council's regeneration team leads on the delivery of regeneration across MK, RegenerationMK, focusing on People, Place and **Prosperity**. The Prosperity strand is financially supported by £150k Aspers funding.*

Prosperity: In 2012 the council launched a Neighbourhood Employment Programme (NEP). The NEP provides community based employment and skills support to unemployed individuals who live across MK, targeting twenty two designated areas with the highest levels of unemployment and greatest needs along with specialist support to unemployed people who are 50+, 18-24 year olds, those with children under 5 and those who present to the Council in housing need.

The Aspers funding contributes to the overall NEP budget. The funding specifically covers the cost of delivery of the NEP by commissioned partners who provide front line job club delivery in community venues on designated estates. This cost includes the operational delivery for their staff hours, venue costs and administrative support (hours of delivery various, hence so does the payment value – see Budget).

The NEP operational delivery provides a bespoke Information, Advice and Guidance service to unemployed individuals and requires all commissioned partners to provide a set amount of staff time for an agreed number of hours to deliver the Job Clubs. They are required to deliver consistent tracking and mentoring support, identification of suitable vocational training, IT support, CV writing, providing interview skills and job search support.

It also covers attendance at monthly NEP operational team meetings (to discuss performance/upskilling, sharing of good practice and benchmarking) and an agreed level of attendance at local events and Job Fairs to promote the service.

The fund contributes to the wider NEP delivery in the form of promotional material i.e. flyers/timetables, A-frames, posters with time tables/availability/venues etc. It has also paid for the creation of a NEP database and pays for ongoing maintenance and updates, ad-hoc IT equipment/ services, advertising materials and other erroneous items.

Since the NEP started in 2012 the service has exceeded expectations by:

- *supporting over 5,000 local residents to attend NEP job clubs*
- *supporting over 1,390 people into employment (of which 345 were aged 18-24 years old, helping 1 in 4 people into work)*
- *facilitating over 4,700 people to enter employment related training*
- *enabling a £2.4m saving to the state by reducing the welfare bill and increasing tax revenue by £559k as a result*
- *evidencing that 75% of those supported into work show an improved financial situation as being better off by an average of over £1,500 per year*
- *Breakdown by Parish as follows:*

Estate	New customers to NEP	Referred to training	Paid Jobs (25+)	Paid Jobs (16-24)
Beanhill	122	101	33	25
Bradville	133	105	27	4
Central MK	169	143	35	11
Coffee hall	71	89	17	3
Conniburrow	163	114	15	3
Eaglestone	39	29	9	1
Fishermead	300	263	53	6
Fullers Slade	79	66	17	6
Greenleys	79	88	14	4
Hodge Lea	39	35	12	2
Lakes Estate	404	235	84	23
Leadenhall	18	70	7	1
Netherfield	226	178	49	6
New Bradwell	103	98	25	4
Oldbrook	138	139	26	6
Peartree Bridge	27	25	2	0
Springfield	52	32	8	2
Stacey Bushes	48	44	20	3
Stantonbury	90	58	24	2
Tinkers Bridge	62	53	29	1
West Bletchley	472	324	82	22
Wolverton	148	307	28	19
NFA	111	26	14	5
Sub Total.	3093	2622	630	159
Other Estates	1925	2112	415	189
Total	5018	4734	1045	348

Additional information

The NEP is delivered in partnership with a range of commissioned providers such as Community Learning MK, MK College, MK MIND, National Careers Service, Bletchley & Fenny Town Council, Connexions and Job Centre Plus. The NEP works closely with the Council's Children and Families Practice service, Housing and Community, AGE:UK and the YMCA to target those who are long term unemployed and/or have complex needs and multiple barriers to employment.

Budget:

The breakdown for commissioned delivery partners for the NEP in 14/15 is as follows:

CLMK	£50k
MK College	£50k
MKEA	£10,082
MK MIND	£6,084
Spotlight	£6,000k
Teenzone	£925
Staff salary cont.	£26,909
Total	£150k

Within the wider NEP budget, the Aspers monies also contributes towards the NEP administrative and management support in the form of the NEP Apprentice and Operational Manager' time, along with the miscellaneous support costs mentioned above.