

Milton Keynes College

Access and participation statement 2025/6

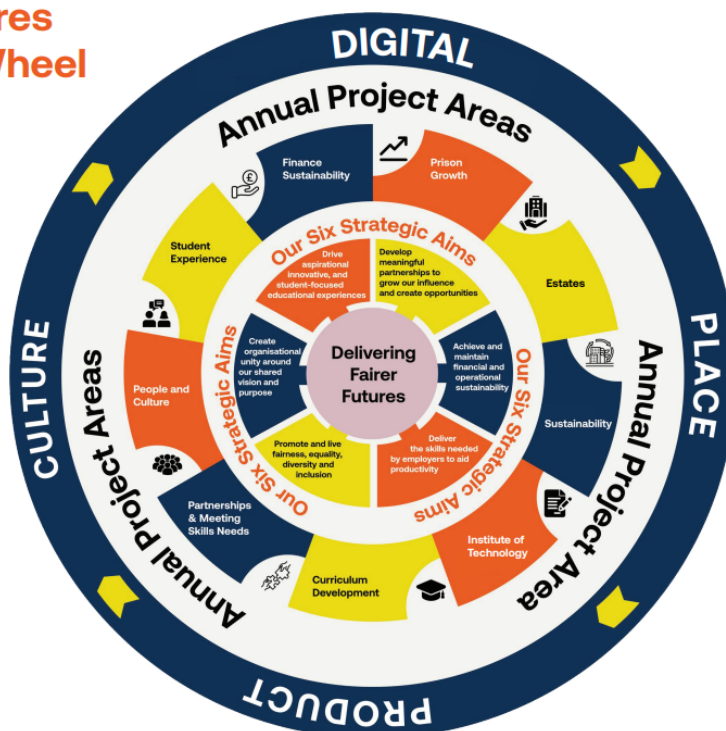
At Milton Keynes College Group we are deeply connected to the communities we serve. The courses we deliver, the skills we impart, and the experiences we offer our students are shaped by our communities and a commitment to meeting local skills need and regional and national skills priorities.

The Milton Keynes College Group vision is to 'use the power of education to create opportunities, champion talent, and build fairer futures.' We do this by inspiring positive social change in the people and communities we serve through delivering exceptional learning experiences to transform lives, achieving our vision of a fairer future for all.

Milton Keynes College Group uses a strategic wheel to drive organisational level priorities. Embedded within this wheel are nine project areas which link to our Access and Participation commitments.

Delivering Fairer Futures Strategy Wheel

 MK College Group



Our provision is extremely important to the growth and ongoing development of Milton Keynes. We are the largest provider of further education, adult education and apprenticeships. Post-16 education in Milton Keynes is shaped and defined by Milton Keynes College Group.

For over 20 years, Milton Keynes College has been central to meeting the need for excellent quality, locally delivered Higher Education (HE) serving over 5000 learners during this time. Milton Keynes College sets out to make a distinctive contribution to the higher technical skills landscape of the city, drawing on its own strengths of developing and delivering vocational and technical programmes,

linked to the priorities of employers, and reflecting the needs of local, regional, and national economies.

Over a 5 year period The College has an ambitious plan to grow and develop its Higher Education offer through:

- Demand led provision – meeting the needs of the increasing number of Level 3 learners in growth areas within the College.
- Meeting regional development needs – focusing new provision on meeting regional industry growth needs as identified by LEP/LSIP priorities, and employer-led developments.

Regional sectors identified for growth are:

- Tech/AI sector & the digital skills gap - LSIP priority
- Construction – predicted population growth & increases in infrastructure
- Leisure/Tourism – student demand and industry-led and linked to regional employment growth
- Health & active industries – LSIP priority
- Arts/Media – student demand and industry-led and linked to regional employment growth

Milton Keynes College is committed to raising aspirations and breaking down barriers to learning for all, including those from recognised underrepresented groups.

In terms of providing Access to HE our data shows that our learner community does not mirror that of our local population and in particular, minority ethnic groups, and students from low-income backgrounds are under-represented in our Higher Education cohorts.

Our primary objective at the access stage is therefore to not only raise overall learner numbers and progression opportunities for our Further Education cohorts, but also to focus on raising the proportions of learners from minority backgrounds enrolling on to HE programmes with us. The target here is to align our student community demographic with that of the local population. Raising access amongst Black and Asian applicants is a priority. Focused recruitment and aspiration raising activities through our schools engagement and STEMx programmes are focused on these targets.

Sizeable Equality of Opportunity risk gaps persist into the completion phase of the student lifecycle. Again, our sample is limited in size so the gaps we have year-on-year data for are highly inconsistent, so we are reliant on aggregate data. Aggregate data for completion indicates a significant gap between White British learners and those from all other ethnic groups. In line with our Fairer Futures Strategy the College will strive to reduce this gap, with focused support systems in place as a whole college approach through provision of hardship bursary funding and access to both academic and pastoral support to target groups.