



A history of the YMCA in Milton Keynes

- 1978** Work began on the building of the YMCA Flats.
- 1980** Milton Keynes YMCA was formally established and agreed a management contract for the flat with the Commission for New Towns.
- 1983** The YMCA purchased the freehold for the Flats and the commercial unit from the Commission for New Towns.
- 1984** 402 North Row was opened, managed by the YMCA and home for the Brook, Emergency Accommodation Project, Youth information Service and a City centre Youth Club.
- 1995** YMCA opened a small Fitness Gym in CMK.
- 2000** YMCA opened an After School Club in Ridgemont, Bedfordshire.
- 2001** [Luton's](#) Children's Right Services opened following a successful bid by MK YMCA.
- 2002** MK YMCA led a consortium of Voluntary organisations in supplying specialist personnel Advisors to the new [Connexions](#) company for MK, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.
- 2004** YMCA operated five After-school clubs across city and wider area.
- 2005** Professor Sir Al Aynsley-Green the Children's Commissioner for England addressed the MK YMCA Regional Conference in Oxford.
- 2006** Sir Bob launches the YMCA Re-development Program at The Stables, MK.
- 2007** [Vinvolved](#) Project opened in Luton following a successful bid.
- 2008** Y Base opened. New conference and training suite opened, new partnership with MacIntyre Care opening a Learning Centre and CMK Café.
- 2009** Detached Youth Worker Contract commences with Bedford Council and covering the Bedfordshire area.

YMCA Background

YMCA's in England

Helping Young people build a future.

The YMCA in MK is an autonomous locally based youth organisation. It is affiliated to [YMCA England](#), The YMCA is part of a national and international Christian Youth Movement that supports children and young people at every stage of their lives.

There are more than 140 YMCAs across England, and each responds to the needs of its community.

MK YMCA's affiliation enables us to access support and advice from a number of specialist departments at YMCA England while remaining completely independent.

MK YMCA is managed by a local Board of Management and works closely with other local YMCAs and National YMCA Departments notably the Development, Programme and Learning, Fundraising and Communications and PR Directorates, where high levels of expertise are available to supplement local capacity and resource.

What do YMCAs do?

YMCAs provide accommodation to homeless young people, carry out youth work, and offer vocational training and programmes to help children and young people stay active and healthy.

Through our many projects and programmes across England we provide safe places for young people to belong, contribute and thrive.

YMCA in Milton Keynes

The YMCA in MK is part of the YMCA National Movement that accommodates 7500 young people every night across England, in a wide range of accommodation types from direct access emergency accommodation to self-contained move-on accommodation.

MK YMCA was established as a charity in 1980. The residential properties were built by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation and were transferred to the Commission for New Towns (CNT) when the Corporation was wound up. The YMCA acquired the properties from CNT in 1983.

Milton Keynes YMCA is an autonomous charity governed by a Board of Management, with Board members elected each year at an Annual Meeting. It is affiliated to YMCA England, which enables it to access support and advice from a number of specialist departments at YMCA England while remaining completely independent.

The YMCA is a registered charitable company. The Board appoints a Chief Executive who is Secretary to the Board, who manages the association on behalf of the Board and oversees the staff team.

The YMCA property portfolio includes the residential units (including 6 commercial units and the David Baxter Centre freehold), the lease of 402 North Row from MK Council, and the lease of a Drop-In Centre in Luton.

The YMCA in MK has considerable experience in developing and managing a range of youth programmes, public sector service contracts as well as the provision of 125 flats and a 15-bed homeless persons' project in Milton Keynes, a Vinvolved Project in Luton, and numerous other sub-regional youth focused contracts.

The YMCA's Vision is to be the leading voluntary youth organisation on Youth matters in Milton Keynes and the surrounding sub-region. Therefore our primary focus of our all programmes and services are young people between the ages of 16 and 25. As well as providing universal services for all young people we will continue to offer and develop specialist services for those who are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged. This is delivered as part of the whole programme of service to avoid labelling young people as problem young people.

One of the key charitable objectives of the YMCA is the provision and management of excellent housing services for young people and excellent support and advice services which is 100% focused to responding to young peoples' needs. The Government Every Child Matters and the recent Youth Matters policy directives give all providers a clear framework for forming policy and strategy. MK YMCA's Strategic Plan identifies how we will work with partners from all sectors to improve the outcomes for young people. It gives our priorities for continuous improvement, outlines our approach and response to the ever changing policy environment nationally, regionally and locally and explains how we will transform the way we do things leading up to opening the re-developed regional YMCA based in central Milton Keynes.

It links to a number of other local and regional plans, particularly:

- [YMCA National Insync Standards](#)
- South East Regional Housing Board Regional Housing Strategy
- MK and South Midlands Development Plans
- MKOB Learning & Skills Council Plan
- Connexions Business Plan
- MK Community Plan
- MK Housing Strategy
- MK Supporting People 5 Year Strategy
- MK Youth Service Plan
- MK Economic Vision
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The YMCA organises itself into three operational service teams, Housing Services, Commissioned Services and Support services.