



## **Vital Signs Long Report 2015**

Released by MK Community Foundation 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015

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@MKComFoundation #VitalSigns2015

Charity Number 295107

## **What is Vital Signs?**

We live in the information age, yet despite many of us having easy access to the internet, the information most useful to us is not always easy to access or even to locate. Anyone wishing to know more about the current state of their community will need to locate and collate a wide variety of research, published by a diverse range of organisations, each written with a different audience in mind.

Vital Signs - a new tool first devised by the Community Foundations of Canada - seeks to provide a single, easily accessible and understandable source of relevant data, measuring the qualities and challenges of our society, at a local level. Vital Signs is a kind of health check, illustrating where we can find our strengths and weaknesses as a community; highlighting where we excel and can be proud of our achievements, as well as where we have great need and where future attention and resources should be focused.

The 2015 Vital Sign MK report is an update report, rounding up the new data on Milton Keynes to appear in the past year since our last report. It focuses on the new research published regarding our health, education, our local economy and poverty and disadvantage in our city. Next year will see the publication of the next full Vital Signs MK report, rounding up the newest data on a whole host of various themes for 2016.

### **Themes for 2015:**

#### **Health and Wellbeing**

#### **Education**

#### **Local Economy**

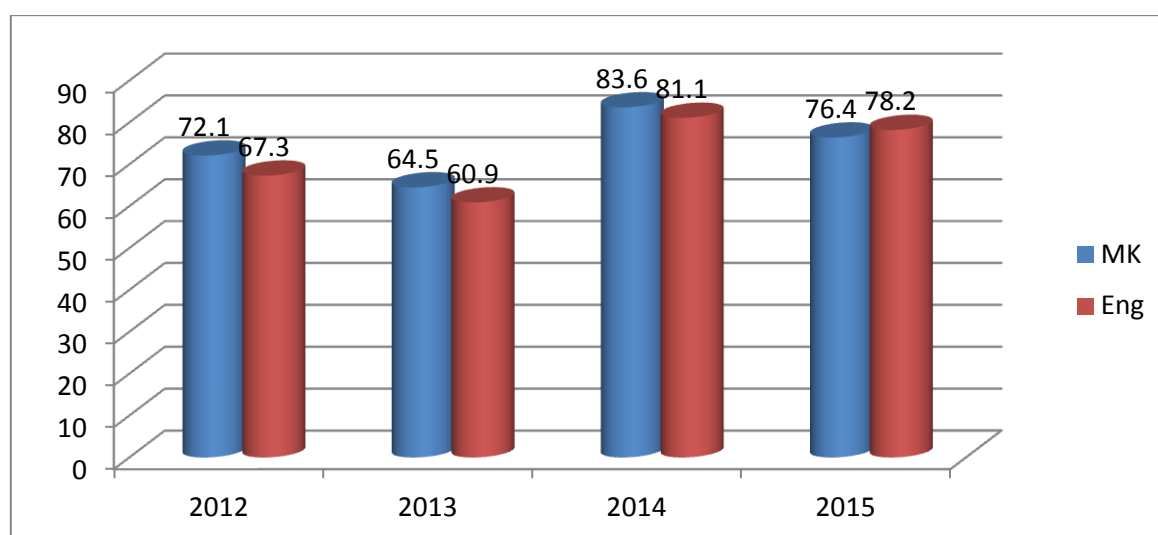
There are links included within each theme to the original research upon which this report is based. Some are embedded in the content of the report and major sources of data are listed at the end of each theme.

Interspersed throughout this report are excerpts from the Vital Signs MK 2015 People's Poll, an informal online survey completed in August / September 2015. This is a self-selected survey of a relatively small sample of local residents (107) but does give a flavour of current local opinions on some key issues.

## Theme 1: Health and Wellbeing

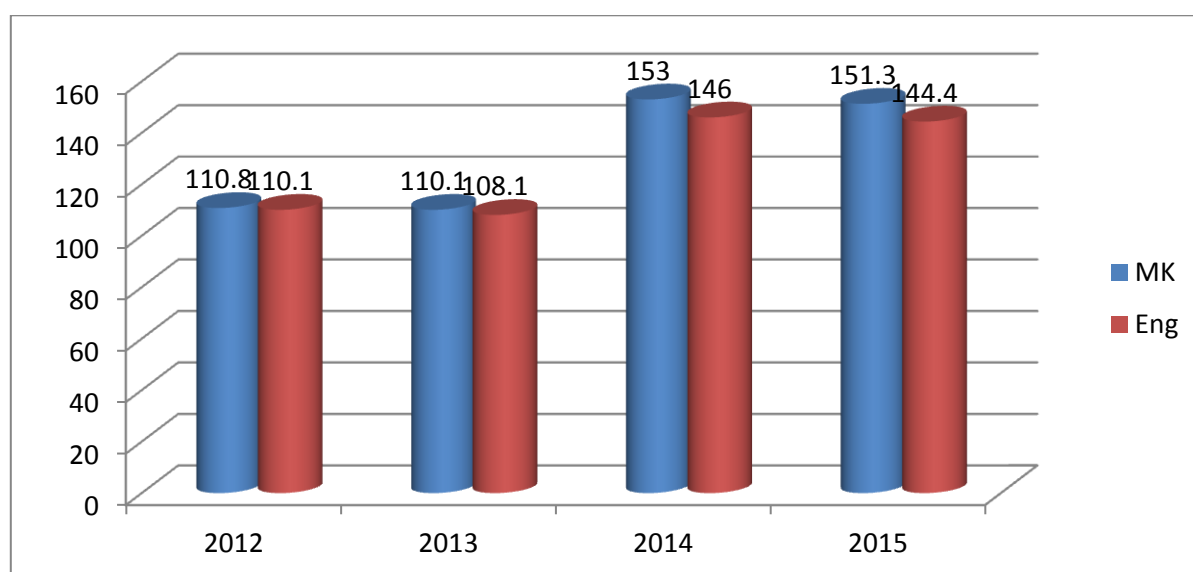
Feeling 'healthy' is important to our sense of vitality and wellbeing. Health is more than the absence of illness, it includes both physical and mental health as well as healthy lifestyle choices and opportunities. Building a greater awareness and understanding of our local social conditions, including differences in gender, income, ethnic background, education and early childhood development can also help to inform us about the overall well-being of our communities.

In Milton Keynes, most measures of public health stay fairly close to the national averages, but there are exceptions. Early deaths from heart disease and stroke in Milton Keynes have long been found in greater numbers here than on average across the nation, but in recent years that gap has shrunk, and this year new data shows that we have actually seen a drop below the national average:



*The chart above shows the number of early deaths in MK due to heart disease and stroke, per 100,000 residents under 75.*

Early deaths due to cancer, on the other hand, have climbed higher than we would expect, compared to the national average across England.



The chart above shows the number of early deaths in MK due to cancer, per 100,000 residents under 75.

The overall impact on life expectancy is modest, with our local averages falling only slightly behind the national figures.

### Life Expectancy

	2015	2014	2013
Male	79.1 (79.4 national ave.)	78.7	78.4
Female	82.6 (83.1 national ave.)	82.5	82.6

When we consider disadvantage and poverty in Milton Keynes, the impact on life expectancy becomes clear, although we have seen a gradual lessening of the gap between economic groups:

### Life Expectancy – Gap in years between residents in the most and least deprived areas of MK

	2015	2014	2013
Male	6.6 yrs	7.1 yrs	7.3 yrs
Female	5.7 yrs	5.3 yrs	6.0 yrs

Another indicator of long term health is excess weight and especially obesity. People who are obese are at greater risk of heart disease and stroke, diabetes, cancer, depression / anxiety, osteoarthritis, asthma, reproductive problems and life expectancy.

***“Obesity is the new smoking, and it represents a slow-motion car crash in terms of avoidable illness...”***

***Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England***

The percent of adults in Milton Keynes who are classified as either overweight or obese was measured most recently in 2012 at 72.5%. This is almost 9% higher than the national average, which is cause for great concern. Looking specifically at those who are clinically obese, the figure was 23.4% or nearly one in every four adults.

Research has demonstrated repeatedly over the past twenty years that parental obesity increases the risk of obesity in children, for reasons that may include genetics or environmental factors within families. According to a report from the [National Heart Forum in 2007](#), the earlier in life someone

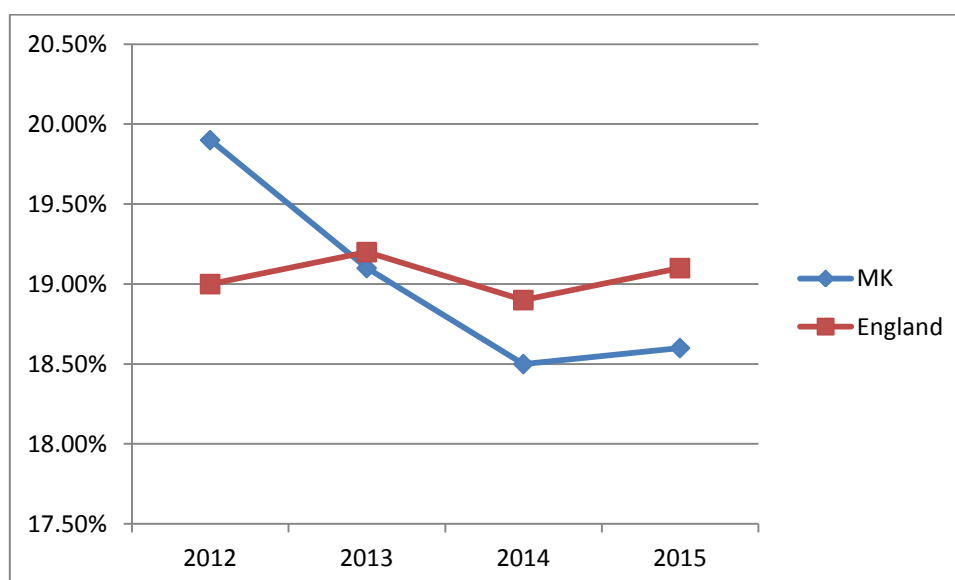
becomes obese, the greater the impact on their life expectancy. In Milton Keynes, 18.6% of 10-11 year olds are clinically obese, or nearly one in every five. As worrying as this is, it is still very slightly below the national average.

#### **MK People’s Poll 2015**

**87% of respondents report that they are now being more careful about ‘what and how much’ they eat**

#### **Obese Children – % of children in Year 6 (age 10-11) in MK who are clinically obese**

2012	2013	2014	2015
19.9% MK / 19% Eng	19.1% MK / 19.2% Eng	18.5% MK / 18.9% Eng	18.6% MK / 19.1% Eng



This indicator was moving modestly in the right direction, but appears to have stalled. Have we reached a floor in our efforts to reduce childhood obesity in MK? One complicating factor may be our children’s ability to recognise when there is a problem:

**National Statistic – [Health Survey for England](#):**

**“...only 60% of overweight/obese adolescents (53% of boys, 68% of girls) correctly identified themselves as ‘too heavy’, while 39% (47% of boys, 32% of girls) underestimated, identifying themselves as ‘about the right weight’ or ‘too light’.**

While this is a troubling statistic for young people, there is better news in other areas.

**Under-18 Conceptions – number of pregnancies per 1,000 local females between the ages of 15-17 years old**

<b>2012</b> <b>37</b>	<b>2013</b> <b>29.7</b>	<b>2014</b> <b>25.5</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>24.1</b>
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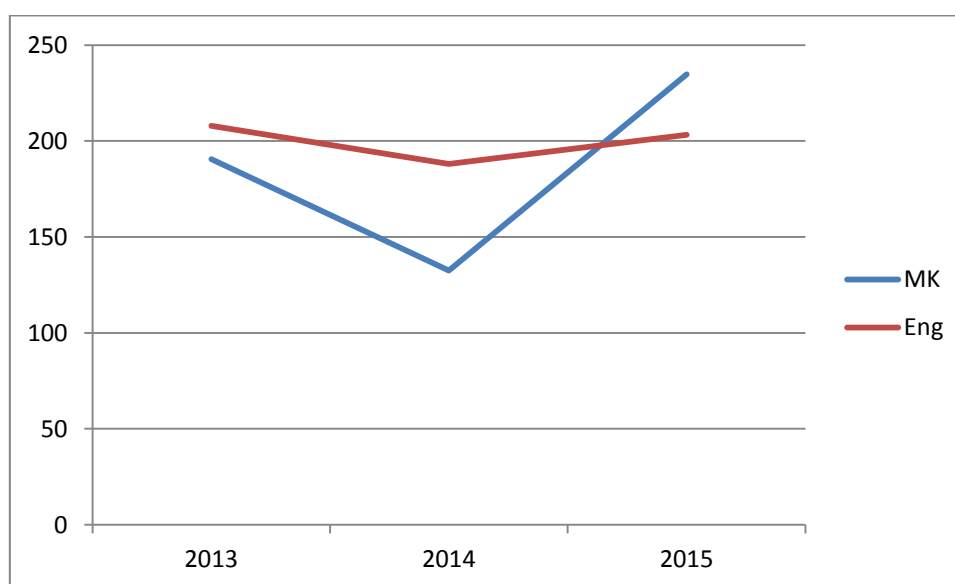
The numbers of teen pregnancies in our District is continuing to move in the right direction, with significant reductions over the past four years.

**Alcohol-specific Hospital Stays for Under-18s per 100,000 residents in that age group**

In Milton Keynes, we had a significantly lower result for under 18's alcohol-related hospital stays - 16.9 compared to 40.1 in England as a whole. Last year was 16.2 MK / 44.9 for England.

**Hospital Stays for Self-Harm – per 100,000 residents**

<b>2013</b> <b>190.5 MK / 207.9 Eng</b>	<b>2014</b> <b>132.5 MK / 188 Eng</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>234.7 MK / 203.2 Eng</b>
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For the previous two years, MK was significantly below the national average on hospital stays for self harm, but this year we are significantly higher. Why are so many more people being hospitalised for self-harm? We have not seen a similar increase in the local suicide rate.

### Prevalence of Opiate and / or Crack Use per 1,000 residents

There is some indication that drug abuse is significantly less common in Milton Keynes, with a score of 5.6 compared to the national average of 8.4. Why would this be?

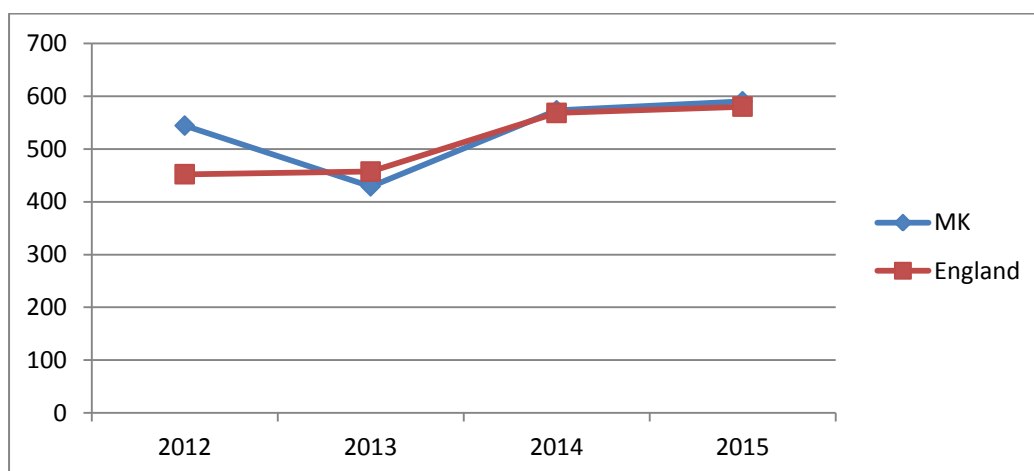
### New diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (excl Chlamydia for under 25s) per 100,000 residents

Again, Milton Keynes records substantially fewer diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections that you would expect, given the national average. The score is 606 in MK, compared to 832 nationally. The last set of figures for this indicator from 2013 also showed MK lower than the national average, at 672, versus 804 nationally.

### Hip Fractures in People Aged 65 and Older, per 100,000 residents

There had been some improvement on this indicator, but the numbers are steadily rising again, with an increase of 3% in the last year, and roughly 8.5% since 2012. We also exceed the national average, raising the question of why older people are suffering these dangerous injuries with greater frequency in Milton Keynes.

2012	2013	2014	2015
544 MK / 452 Eng	429 MK / 457 Eng	573 MK / 568 Eng	590 MK / 580 Eng



**MK People's Poll 2015**

**31% of respondents believe that older people in MK have adequate access to the services and support they need**

**Infant Mortality per 100,000 live births**

**2012**  
5.3 MK / 4.6 Eng

**2013**  
4.3 MK / 4.3 Eng

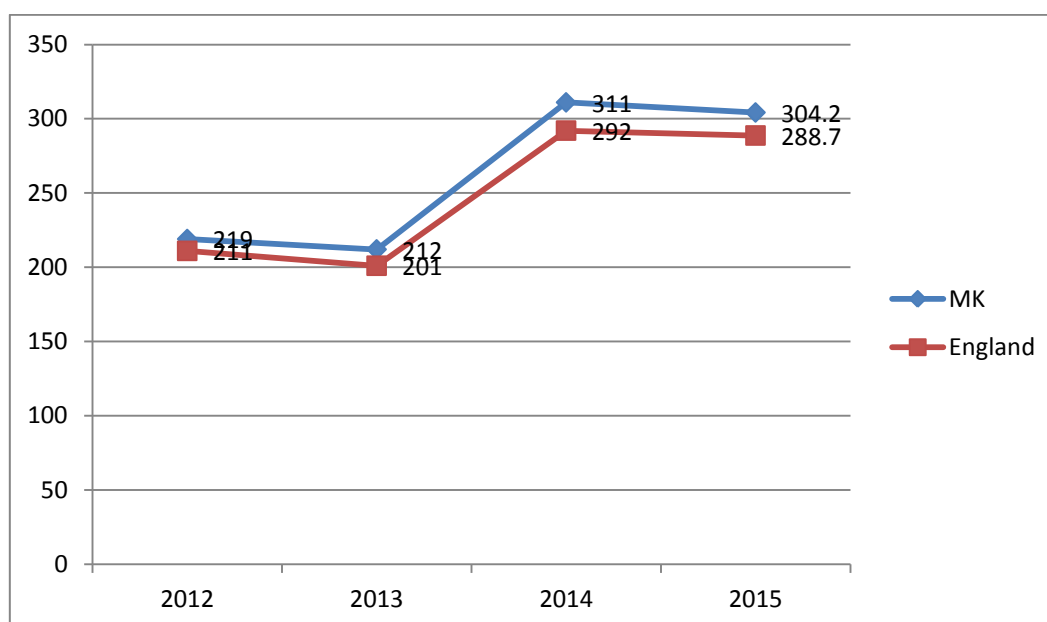
**2014**  
3.8 MK / 4.1 Eng

**2015**  
4.7 MK / 4.0 Eng

Having briefly dipped below the national average on infant mortality, we are once again exceeding it. With recent reports (July 2015) in local press regarding a string of five/six infant deaths at Milton Keynes University Hospital in an eight month period between 2013 and 2014, this issue has caught the attention of the wider community. Questions regarding the quality of care have been raised and the hospital reports that a number of measures were put into place, including new management, equipment and additional training for staff.

**Smoking Related Deaths per 100,000 residents aged 35 and older**

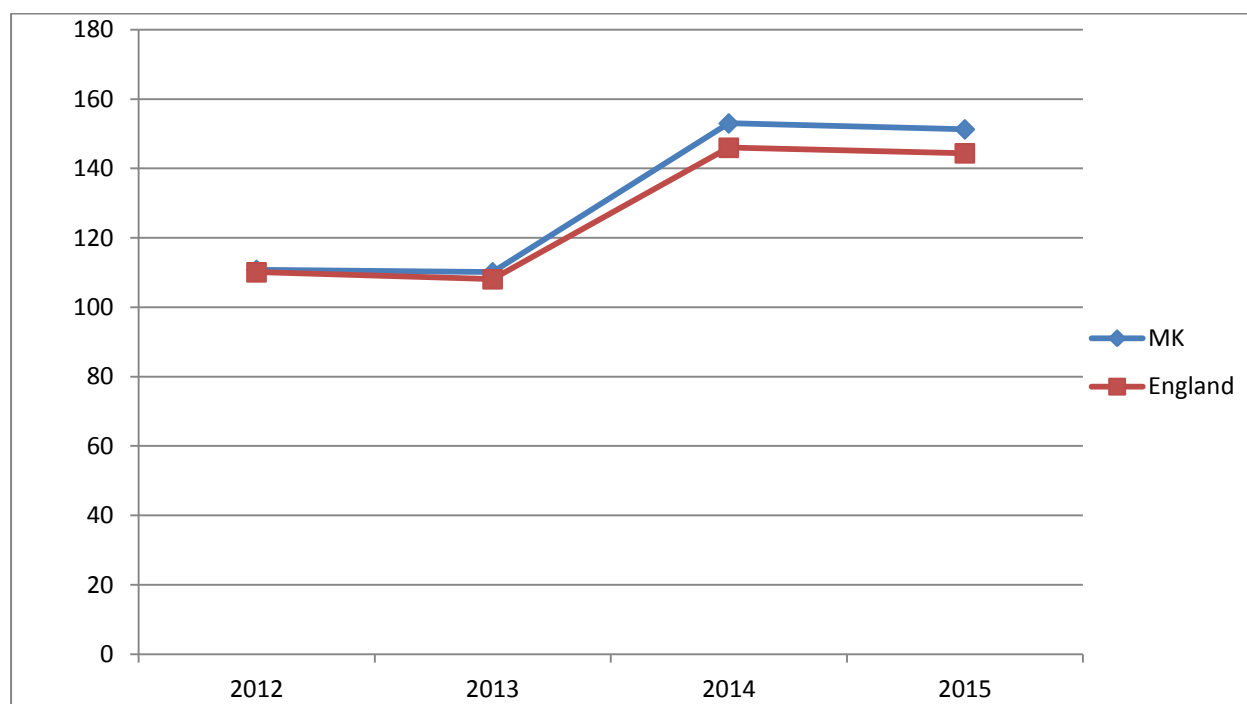
It will likely come as a surprise to no one that smoking can significantly shorten a lifespan. What may prove more surprising is the fact that smoking related deaths have increased so dramatically in Milton Keynes – 38% between 2012 and 2015. This is despite the banning of cigarettes in most enclosed public spaces and the UK levying some of the highest cigarette taxes in the world. Will the benefit of those changes (assuming there will be a benefit) take some years to impact the smoking related death rates?



*Smoking related deaths*

### Early death due to cancer per 100,000 residents under age 75

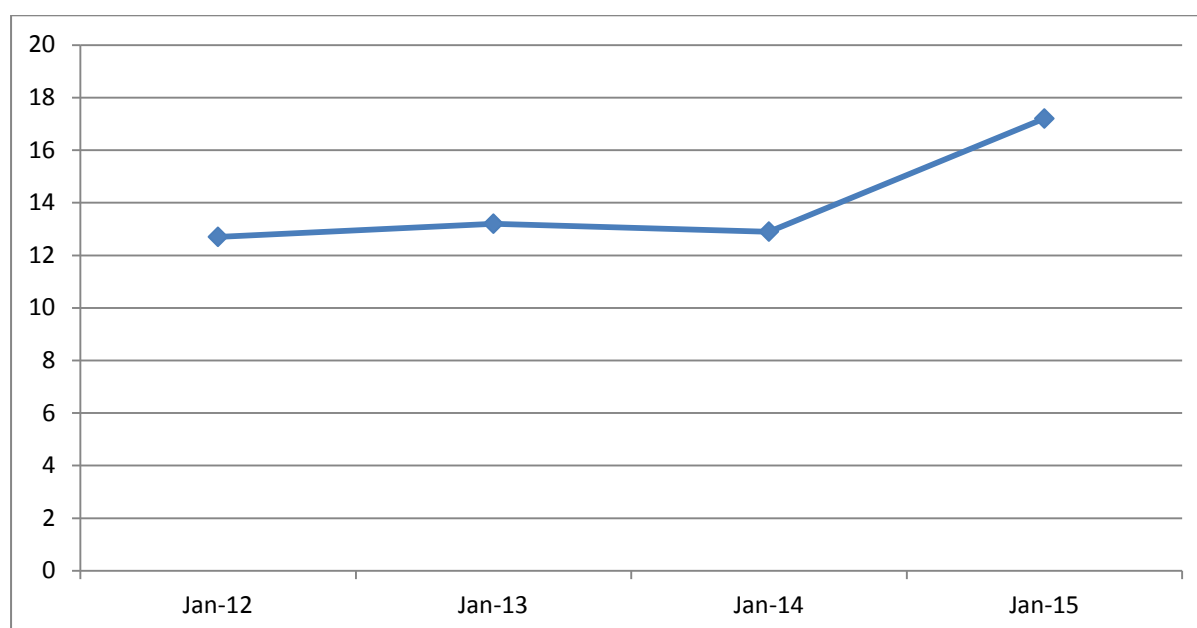
<b>2012</b> 110.8 MK / 110.1 Eng	<b>2013</b> 110.1 MK / 108.1 Eng	<b>2014</b> 153 MK / 146 Eng	<b>2015</b> 151.3 MK / 144.4 Eng
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While the trends for cancer mortality rates are showing a worrying increase nationwide, we are ahead of the trend in MK, reporting even more deaths than would be expected, according to the national average. Are cancer treatment options proving less successful or are more cases going undiagnosed in the early stages of disease? What is the cause of this worsening situation?

### Cancer - Incidence of Malignant Melanoma per 100,000 residents under 75 years old

<b>2012</b> 12.7	<b>2013</b> 13.2	<b>2014</b> 12.9	<b>2015</b> 17.2
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Malignant melanoma is the 5<sup>th</sup> most common cancer in the UK. This year's figure for Milton Keynes is a significant increase on last year's. What might account for this?

	Number of Local People	Local Value	England Average
Hospital stays for self-harm	607	234.7	203.2
Road injuries and deaths	93	37.0	39.7
Drug misuse	949	5.6	8.4
People diagnosed with diabetes	11,895	5.4	6.2
Smoking related deaths	289	304.2	288.7
Acute sexually transmitted infections	1027	606	832
Hip fracture in 65s and over	173	590	580
Excess winter deaths (three year)	79.3	15.3	17.4
Life expectancy – male	n/a	79.1	79.4
Life expectancy – female	n/a	82.6	83.1
Early deaths: heart disease and stroke	130	76.4	78.2
Adults classified as overweight or obese	423	72.5	63.8
Suicide rate		7.8	8.8

*(Items in green are at or better than the national average, those in red are worse)*

#### Additional Sources of Data

[MK Health Profile 2015](#), Published by Public Health England on 2/6/15

NHS Publication – [Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives](#), published 2008

## Vital Action – Case Study

Ride High works with some of our community's most vulnerable young people. Their combined approach of horse riding, horse care and clubroom sessions help children attending overcome self destructive behaviours like self harm and confidence issues. As a result of their dedicated programme, which has received several grants from MK Community Foundation since it began in 2009, Ride High is proud to report, amongst other benefits, a significant reduction in self harm amongst their visitors.



## Theme Two: Education

While local schools are much more autonomous now, the local authority does still have the responsibility to promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential so that all children and young people benefit from an education that could be categorised at the very least as 'good.' To this end, the local authority monitors provision and outcomes, challenges local schools to raise their standards, commissions support to address weaknesses in provision and to intervene when a school or setting is failing to provide a positive learning experience or standard of education.

Although the local authority is expected to offer 'challenges' to local schools to improve their standards, they have no apparent authority to enforce them.

The local authority launched a Milton Keynes School Improvement Framework called 'Being the Best' in June of 2013. Through further engagement with the National College of School Leadership, local schools have now seen several new accreditations amongst local school Head Teachers, including three that are now National Leaders in Education, and six that are Local Leaders in Education. Milton Keynes also now has two National Leaders of Governance. These accreditations were obtained as part of a focused effort to develop a local school system with the capacity and skills needed to self-improve.

Using national data to benchmark performance and assess progress of individual schools towards their own improvement, the local authority reports that the number of local schools that were categorised as 'causing concern' had reduced and that they had measured a sustained improvement in performance.

Amongst the good news, however, are some worrying new statistics:

In measures of reading, writing and maths for disabled students at Key Stage 1 with statements of special educational need, the proportion achieving L2+ dropped from 25% in 2013 to 14% in 2014.

In the same measure, disabled students with a 'school action' statement of special educational need performed at a lower level, with 86 meeting the L2+ standard in 2013 and 79 meeting the standard in 2014.

Students eligible for free school meals at Key Stage 1 were also included in this review, where 77% performed at L2+ in 2013, that number dropped to 72% in 2014.

#### MK People's Poll 2015

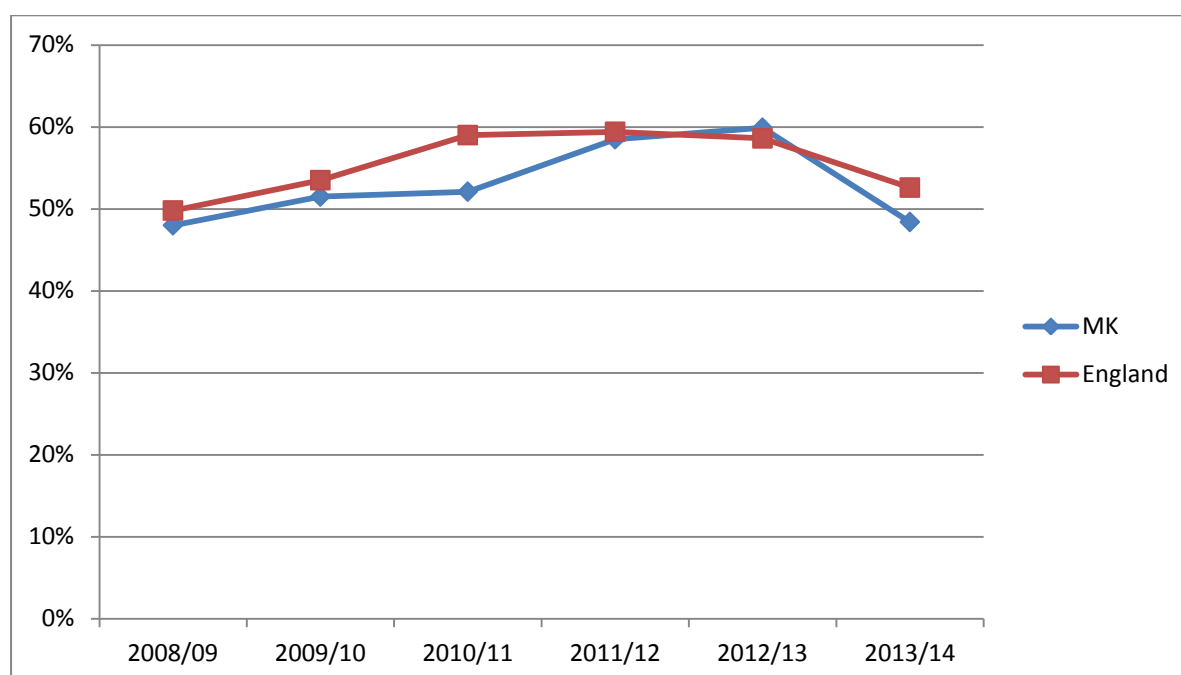
**30% of respondents feel that everyone in MK has equal access to schools, healthcare and housing**

**GCSE's:** A standard caution has been issued regarding the comparison of GCSE results from 2014 to previous years. This is due to a number of changes in the system that make comparisons less valid. These things included curriculum changes, a removal of the ability for students to improve their GCSE scores by retaking the exam later in the year and also a move to doing away with the GCSE modules spread throughout the duration of a course and changing to a single end of course exam to cover the whole of the year.

While the kinds of conclusions that can be drawn from such a comparison are limited, it is worth looking at what has happened to our local results since the changes were implemented:

	% of Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 who are achieving at GCSE and equivalents:				GCSE or Level 1 / 2 Certificate English & Maths at A* - C	
	5+ A* - C Grades	5+ A* - C including English and Maths GCSEs	5+ A* - G Grades	5+ A* - G including English and Maths GCSEs	Percent Entered	Percent Achieved
Milton Keynes	60.6	48.4	93.6	90.2	95.8	50.0
National Average	63.2	52.6	89.4	84.8	89.6	54.8

Graph below - comparisons of the proportion of young people in MK who achieve 5 or more GCSEs A\* - C including English and Maths with the national averages for England since 2008/09. This illustrates a reversal of a five year trend of improving GCSE scores in Milton Keynes, and a reversal of the trend of reducing the gap between local scores and the national average.



The disappointing results of the last round of GCEs is compounded when you look specifically at the scores of our most vulnerable students.

Students on Free School Meals (FSM) that met the same criteria as those above dropped from 41.3% in 2013 to 25.4% in 2014.

Those students with a statement of special educational need ('School Action') that met the same criteria as those above dropped from 46.2% in 2013 to 27.4% in 2014.

Looking specifically at local students' progress from Key Stage 2 through to Key Stage 4, there is an expectation that students who reach level 4 at the end of Key Stage 2 should achieve at least a 'C' at GCSE English and Maths. In Milton Keynes, 63% of these students achieved that level of progress in English (72% nationally) and 63% achieved it in Maths (compared to 66% nationally).

**A Levels:** in Milton Keynes, students have a higher than the national average total point score for their A levels and equivalent exams – 719.4 compared to 698.5 nationally. However, if you look at the average score for individual exams, the average scored locally on each is lower than the national average – 206.9 compared to 213.4 nationally. This would indicate that local students are taking more A-Level and equivalent exams than their counterparts in other parts of the country, accounting for the higher than average total score.

Looking more closely, the percentage of students in Milton Keynes achieving 3 grades of A\*-A or better on their A levels were 6.3% in 2014, compared to 12.3% nationally. This is a reduction from the local result of 7.1% in 2013.. Similarly, the proportion of students who secured grades AAB or better on 3 or more exams was only 11.2%, compared to 19% nationally.

**Progress in MK Education:** there are several areas of improvement and progress from the prior year's results, most notably in the Early Years Foundation Stage scores. Assessments of communication and language development, physical development and personal / social / emotional development in young children are showing an increase in those demonstrating 'good' levels of

improvement. Milton Keynes increased from 49% in 2013 to 62% in 2014 (the national average is 60%). The local authority notes that this improvement was seen after interventions and moderation of the assessment was implemented at a number of local schools.

Another positive indicator on this measure of early development was the percentage of children eligible for free school meals who had achieved 'good' levels of development. In 2013, this was at 33%, which increased to 48% in 2014. Children with English as a secondary language scored 60% where the previous year they had scored 42% and Black and minority ethnic (BME) children increased their 'good' development score from 46% in 2013 to 63% in 2014.

32 School inspections took place in the 2013-2014 school year. No local schools were rated 'inadequate' in Milton Keynes, making us one of only two Local Authorities in the South East region that can boast that.

Ofsted Inspection Ratings in MK	2012/2013		2013/2014	
“Outstanding”	21	20%	24	22%
“Good”	60	58%	66	61%
“Requires Improvement”	20	19%	19	17%
“Inadequate”	3	3%	0	0%

## Vital Action – Case Study

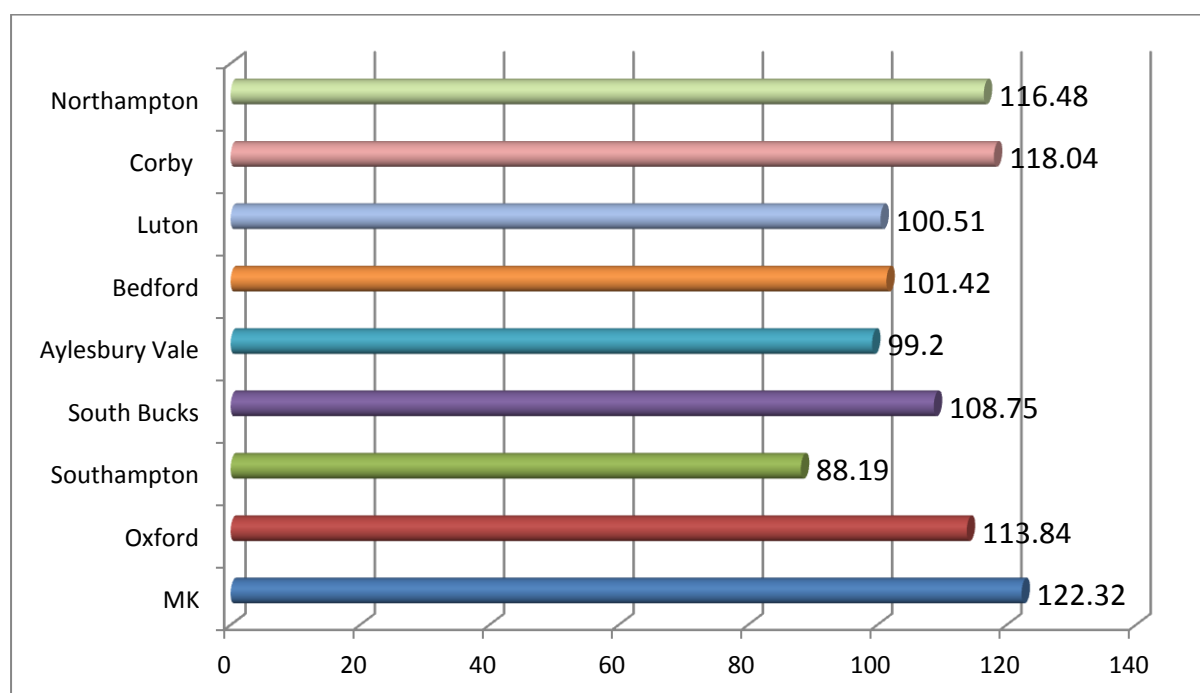
St Francis Children's Society (SFCS) runs a parent training programme called Preparation Group Training to help new adoptive parents prepare to welcome adoptive children into their homes. SFCS offers life time support to adoptive families at any point of their journey. MK Community Foundation funded this project to ensure that adoptive children are taken into stable and supportive family environments. This in turn helps adoptive homes and improves their chances of doing well.



### Theme Three: Local Economy / Employment

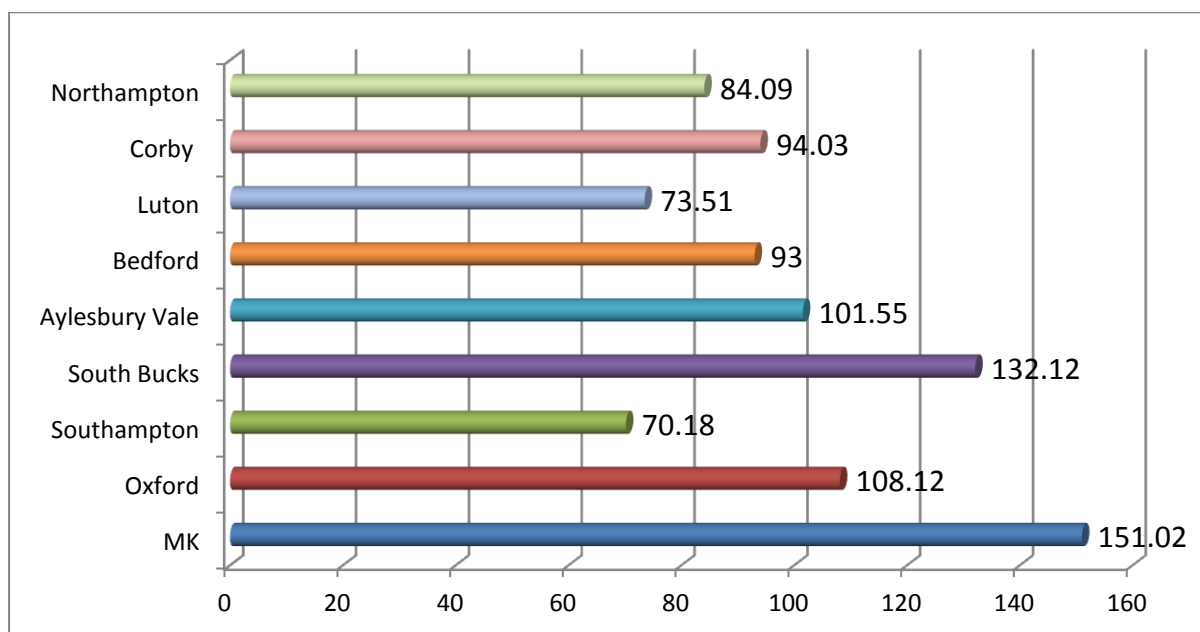
Prosperity and opportunities to grow businesses large and small can contribute greatly to the vitality and vibrancy of an area. Promoted as one of the most recession-proof local economies in the nation, Milton Keynes has proven itself to be a natural home to creative enterprise and innovative business practice, boasting robust growth and a healthy diversity in its business sector. Measures of any local economy include productivity, presence of diverse industries, and opportunities for enterprise and innovation.

**Business and Enterprise Score** - This chart illustrates the scale of the enterprise of businesses within the locality. The higher the score, the more business enterprise found in an area. Business enterprise takes into consideration an area's business formation rate, the rate of change in VAT registered business stock, and new business survival rates. Each one of these 3 indicators was indexed to the national Great Britain value (business formation rates and new business survival rates were treble weighted), and then all 3 indices were summed and averaged. [Data from 2013, released 11/14]

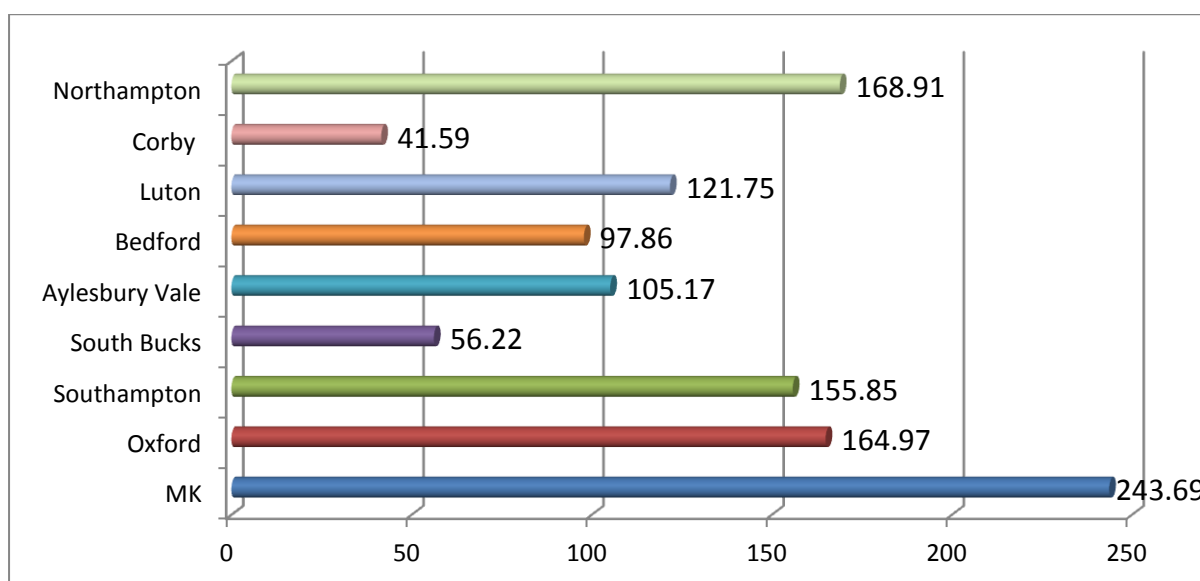


Commentary: This indicator shows MK's relative strength in enterprise and business compared to our neighbours in this part of the country.

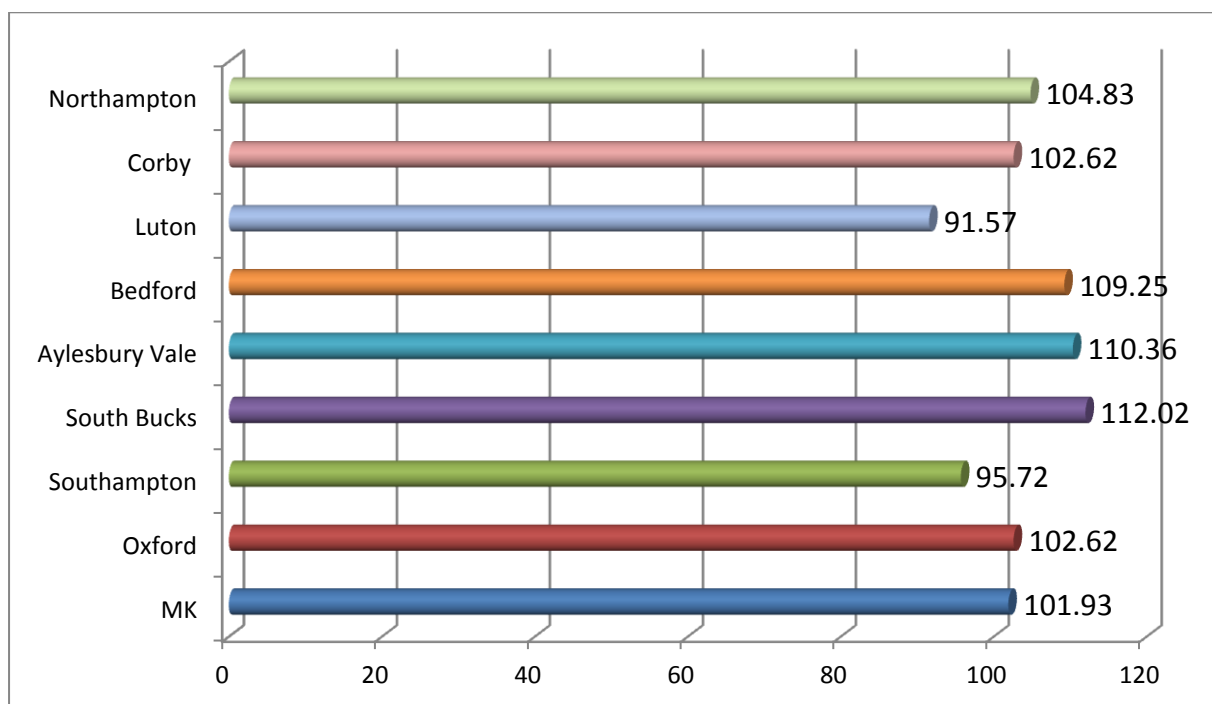
**Economic Change** – The chart below provides an index of the percentage long term change in the total number of employees (by workplace) in relation to the national average, illustrating Milton Keynes' rapid economic growth, and the relatively high availability of employment in MK. [Data from 2013, released 10/14]



**Economic Scale** – Here we see an indicator of the size of our area’s economy. It is created by weighting the area’s GVA (Gross Value Added – a measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area) by the areas employment. These two indicators are then indexed to the Great Britain average. This indicator also lends credence to the view that Milton Keynes has one of the strongest local economies in the region. [Data from 2013, released 12/14]



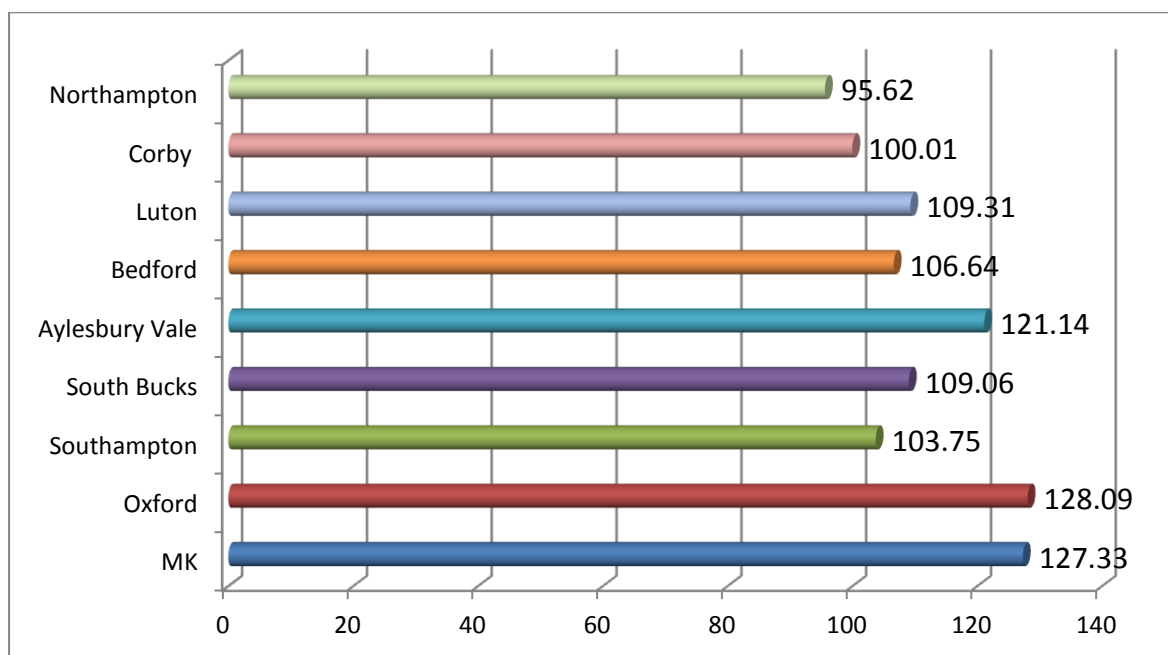
**Labour Market Score** - This residence based indicator provides the proportion of local people aged 16-59/64 (women/men) in employment indexed to the national average to provide a comparable figure in relation to the national trend. The labour market score is closely in line with the national average, which is interesting given the above-average performance of our local economy in the tables above. Some of this will be accounted for by the significant numbers of non-residents who come into MK for work. [Data from 12/14, released 04/15]



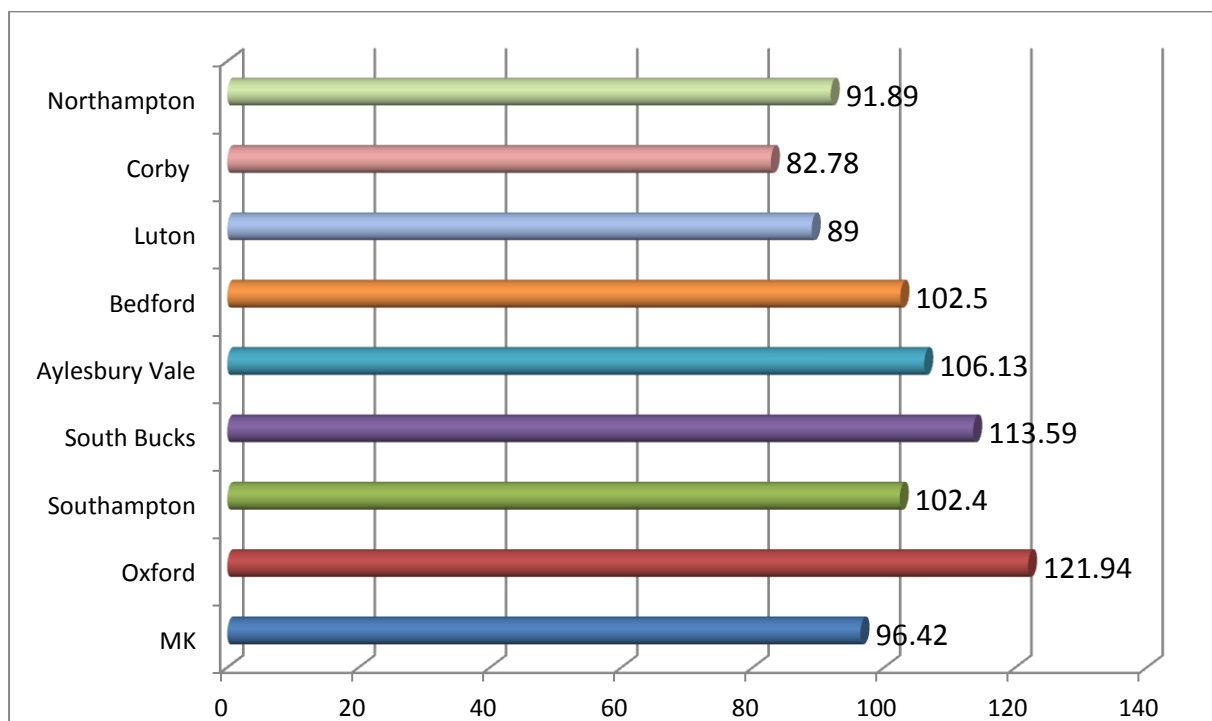
#### MK Median Gross Weekly Earnings April 2014

All	£473
Men	£560
Women	£381
Men (Full Time)	£583
Women (Full Time)	£483
Men (Part Time)	£145
Women (Part Time)	£174

**Productivity Score** - This indicator shows the productive capacity of an area. It is calculated from average gross weekly earnings and GVA per head. Both these indicators are indexed to the GB value, and then summed and averaged. Again, MK rates highly against neighbours and the national average, and shows that our local economy has great capacity and a significant proportion of highly paid jobs. [Data from 2013, released 12/14]



**Skills and Qualifications** - This composite presents an index of the qualifications of an area's workforce, relative to the GB value. A higher score indicates a high level of local area qualifications amongst the labour market. Skills and qualifications scores are generated from summing the weighted percentages of an area's workforce qualified below NVQ2, at NVQ2, NVQ3 and NVQ4 and above, with each indicator indexed to the GB value. The sum of these indices are then divided by 4 to gain an overall composite. [Data for 2014, released 04/15]



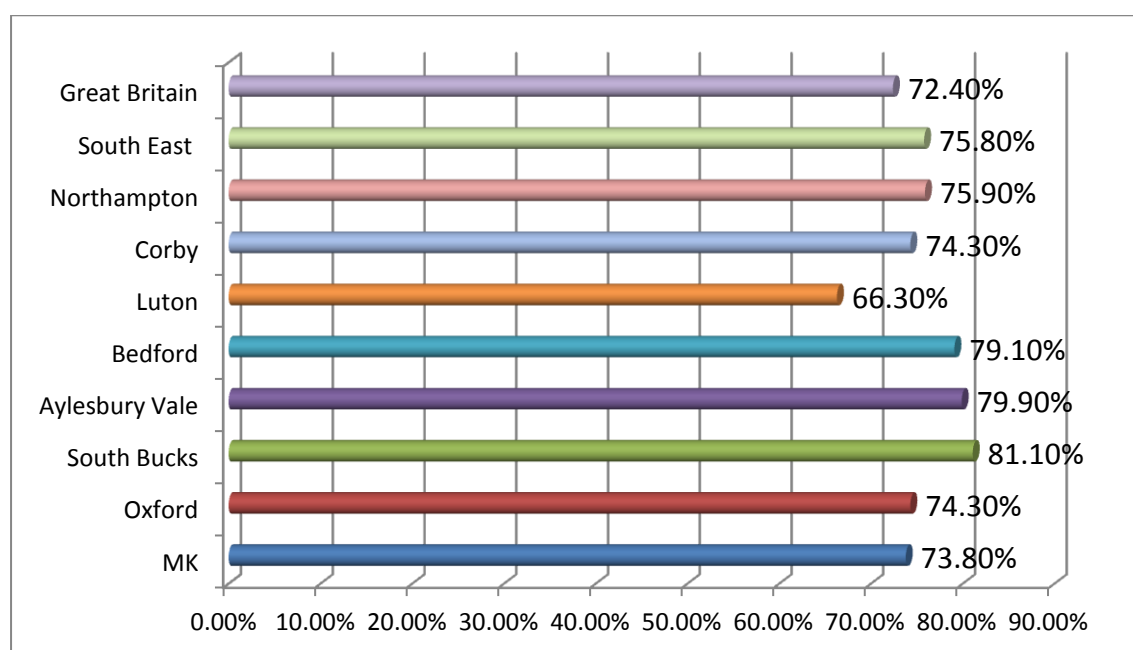
You can see that the skills and qualifications of our local workforce are more in line with our neighbouring cities of Northampton and Luton than they are with the Oxford / Aylesbury / South Bucks areas, which are substantially higher. This begins to draw a picture of a stratified local

economy, with surging enterprise, burgeoning capacity and many high-paid Executive roles, all contrasting with a large number of unskilled, low wage residents who are not partaking in the successes of our thriving local private sector.

### MK People's Poll 2015

**57% of respondents believe that people's skills in MK do not match what local employers need**

**Employment Rate** - This residence based indicator below provides the proportion of people aged 16 to 64 in employment. [Data from Annual Population Survey 12/14, released 04/15]



Our low unemployment rate does not have a correspondingly high employment rate, in fact we have one of the lower employment rates amongst major cities and towns in this part of the country. The employment rates commonly used by government are actually a count of people in receipt of job seeker's allowance, and does not include those people termed 'economically inactive.' This is a classification for people who are not employed, but not technically classed as 'unemployed' either. Students, carers, 'discouraged workers' who have given up looking for work and the long term sick all fall into this category. Does MK have a higher proportion of economically inactive residents than other cities and towns in our region? No:

### Economic Inactivity (Jan 2014 - Dec 2014)

	Milton Keynes (Level)	Milton Keynes (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People				
Total	34,100	20.3	20.3	22.7
Student	8,700	25.4	28.1	26.7

looking after family / home	9,400	27.5	25.6	25.3
temporary sick	*	*	2	2.2
long-term sick	6,800	19.8	16.7	21.5
discouraged	!	!	0.4	0.5
retired	5,400	15.7	16.3	14.5
other	3,000	8.7	11	9.3
wants a job	7,200	21.2	26.9	25
does not want a job	26,900	78.8	73.1	75

Source: ONS annual population survey

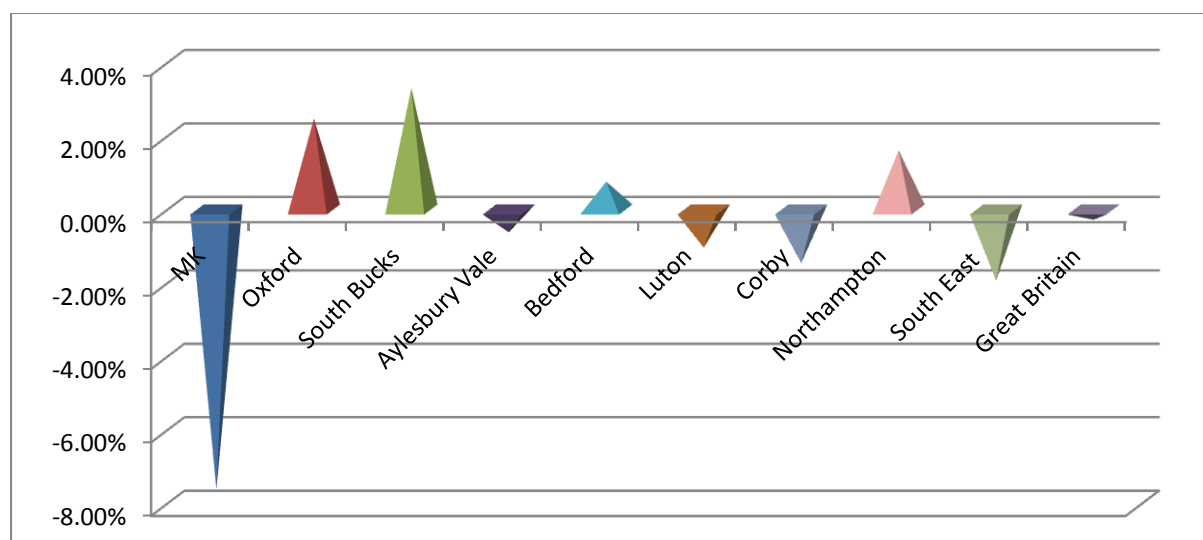
\* Sample size too small for reliable estimate

! Estimate is not available since sample size is disclosive

Notes: numbers are for those aged 16-64.

% is a proportion of those economically inactive, except total, which is a proportion of those aged 16-64

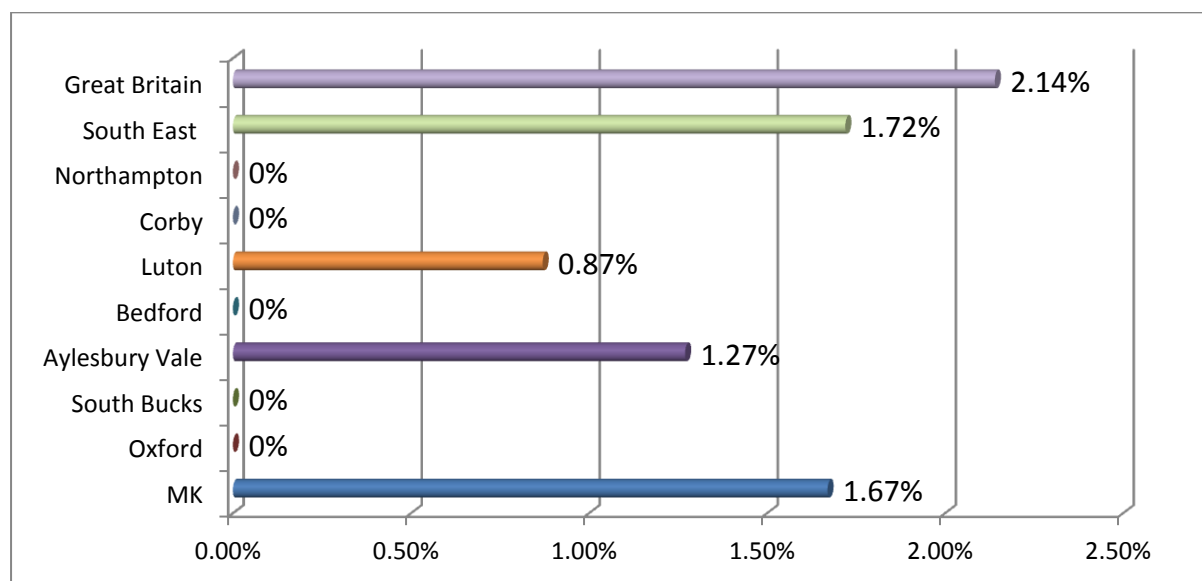
**Employment Rate, Long Term Change** - The percentage change, between 2005 and 2014, in the resident employment rate. Only those of working age are factored in. [Data from 12/05 – 12/14, Released 04/15]



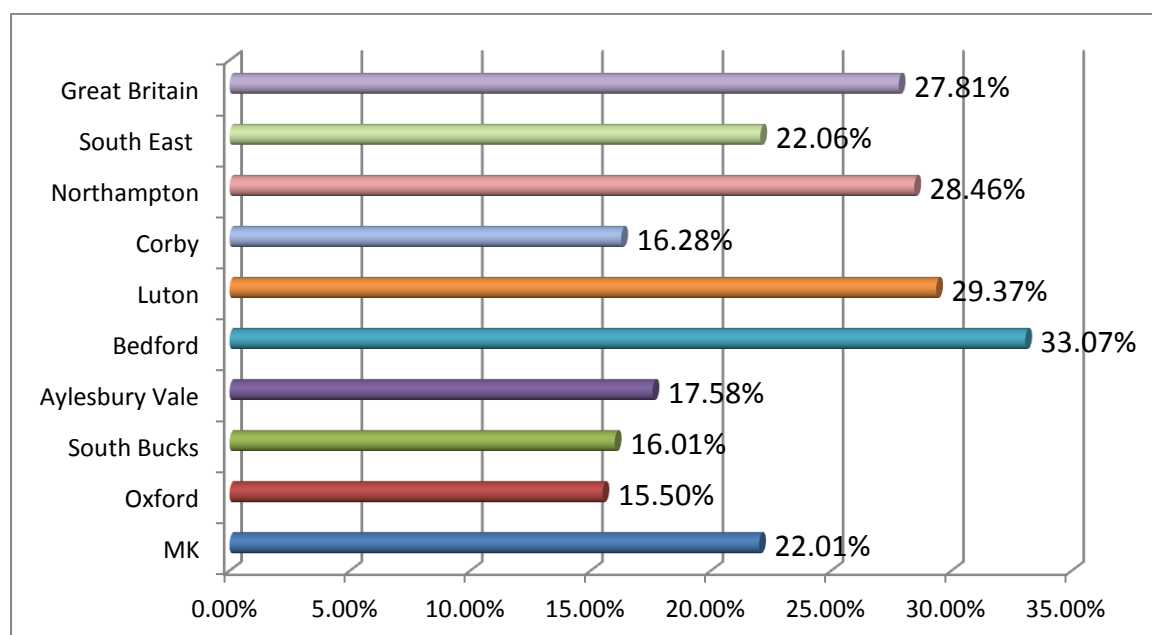
Here, MK stands out as showing a marked drop in the resident employment rate. Since this is not reflected in the overall strengthening of the local economy, it is possible that the influx of non-resident workers could be lifting the economy, while leaving many local residents behind. This is also reflected below in the 'Unemployment, Annual Population Survey' statistic.

**Inactive Long Term Sick** - The proportion of the working age who are economically inactive due to suffering from long-term sickness. The long term sick are one category of the 'economically inactive'. There are a number of missing results for this indicator above, so we can draw only limited conclusions on the stats that we can see. At a minimum, what we can identify is that MK has a lower

rate of workers who are 'long term sick' than is the national average. [Data from 09/14, Released 01/15]



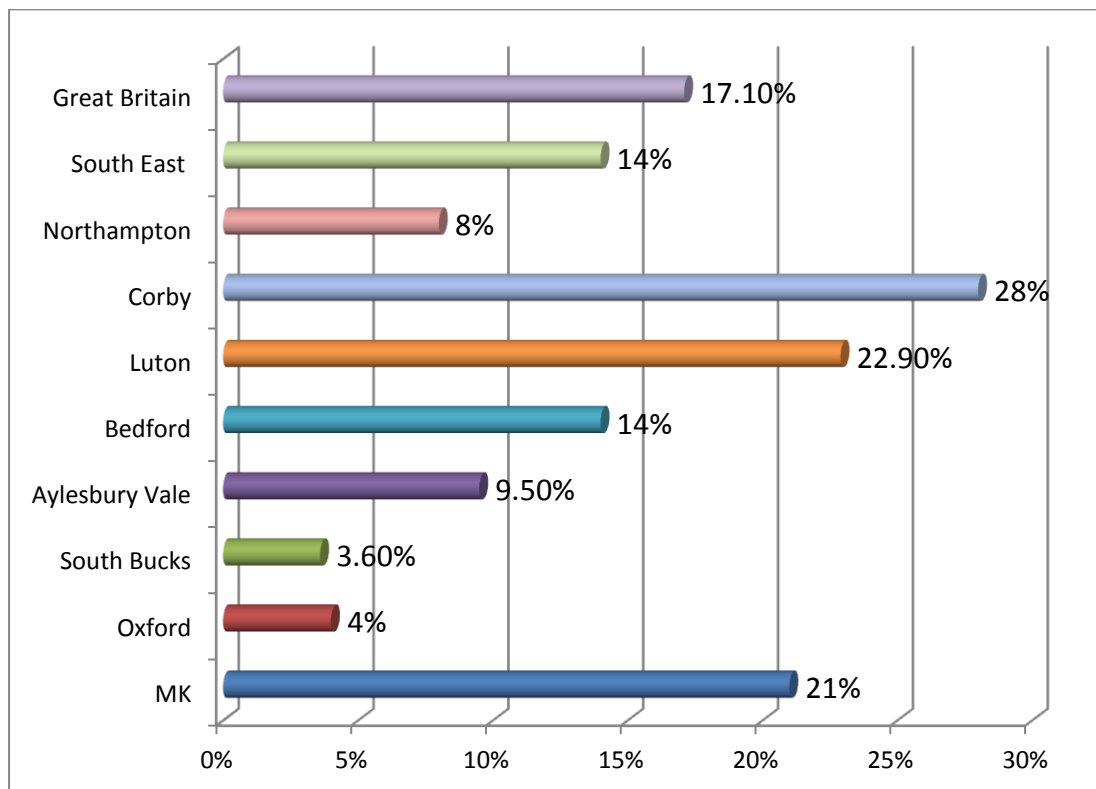
**Long Term Unemployment** - The proportion of people aged 16-59/64 (men/women) claiming Job Seekers Allowance or National Insurance Credits who have been doing so for 12 months and over. This data is residence-based. [Data from 01/15, Released 02/15]



Between one in four and one in five of all people on job seekers or National Insurance benefits in MK have been receiving them for at least a year. This result puts us squarely in the middle of the results in our neighbouring cities and towns, who range from one in 6-7 to one in 3.

**Unemployment 16-24** - The proportion of 16-24 year olds who are unemployed. This data is residence-based. MK has a worryingly high unemployment rate amongst young people of working age, at one in five. This is more than double the rate in nearby Northampton and 33% higher than in

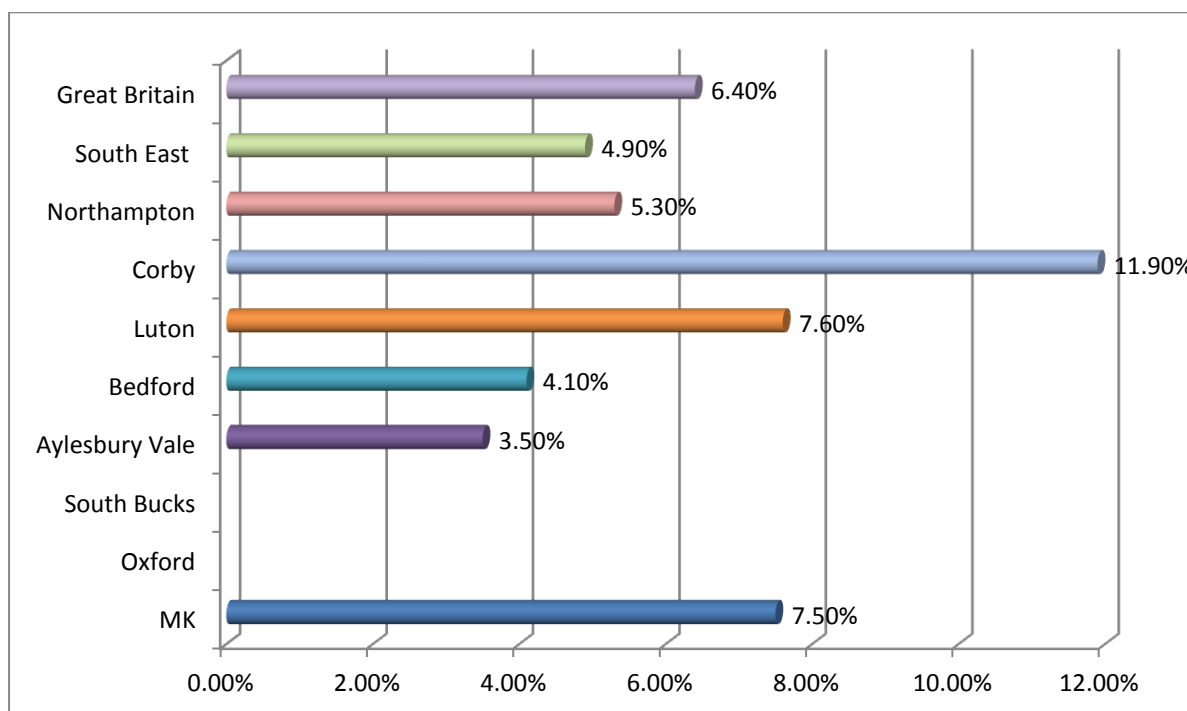
Bedford. As this number does not include the economically inactive, it does not reflect the numbers of students in this age range. [Data from 12/14, Released 04/15]



#### MK People's Poll 2015

**49% of respondents agree with the statement that young people in MK are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to find employment and to contribute to the local economy**

**Unemployment, Annual Population Survey** - Proportion of people aged 16-59/64 (women/men) who are economically active but unemployed. In other words, these were the people without a job who were available to start work within two weeks and had either looked for work in the past four weeks or were waiting to start a job they had already obtained in the next two weeks. This data is residence-based.



This is an interesting statistic in that it indicates those people who are primed for work and ready to go, but still not currently employed. Again, we are higher than neighbours Northampton and Bedford, and on a par with Luton. (Just to be clear, the stats in the chart are the proportion of those who report as 'unemployed', not of all working age residents.)

### Who is unemployed?

Much of our economy-related discussion and debate is focused on unemployment figures and their relative change over time. What do these figures actually show?

The Unemployed are narrowly defined by government as those individuals of working age who are currently in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) benefit. In order to qualify for Job Seekers Allowance, an individual must be / have:

- At least 18 years old (in some circumstances, 16 and 17 year olds may also be eligible)
- Made National Insurance contributions for two consecutive years prior to the tax year in which you apply for JSA
- Not currently employed for more than 16 hours per week
- Actively looking for a new job

If a couple lives together (and does not have a dependent child) both will usually have to meet the job seeking conditions to get income-based Jobseeker's Allowance. This means both have to sign on and look for work.

Those who are successful in their application for Job Seekers' Allowance can receive this benefit for up to six months before they must then apply to 'restart' it. Once someone is deemed no longer

eligible for JSA they are categorised as 'economically inactive.' Once you have moved into that category, the government no longer includes you in their count of the unemployed.

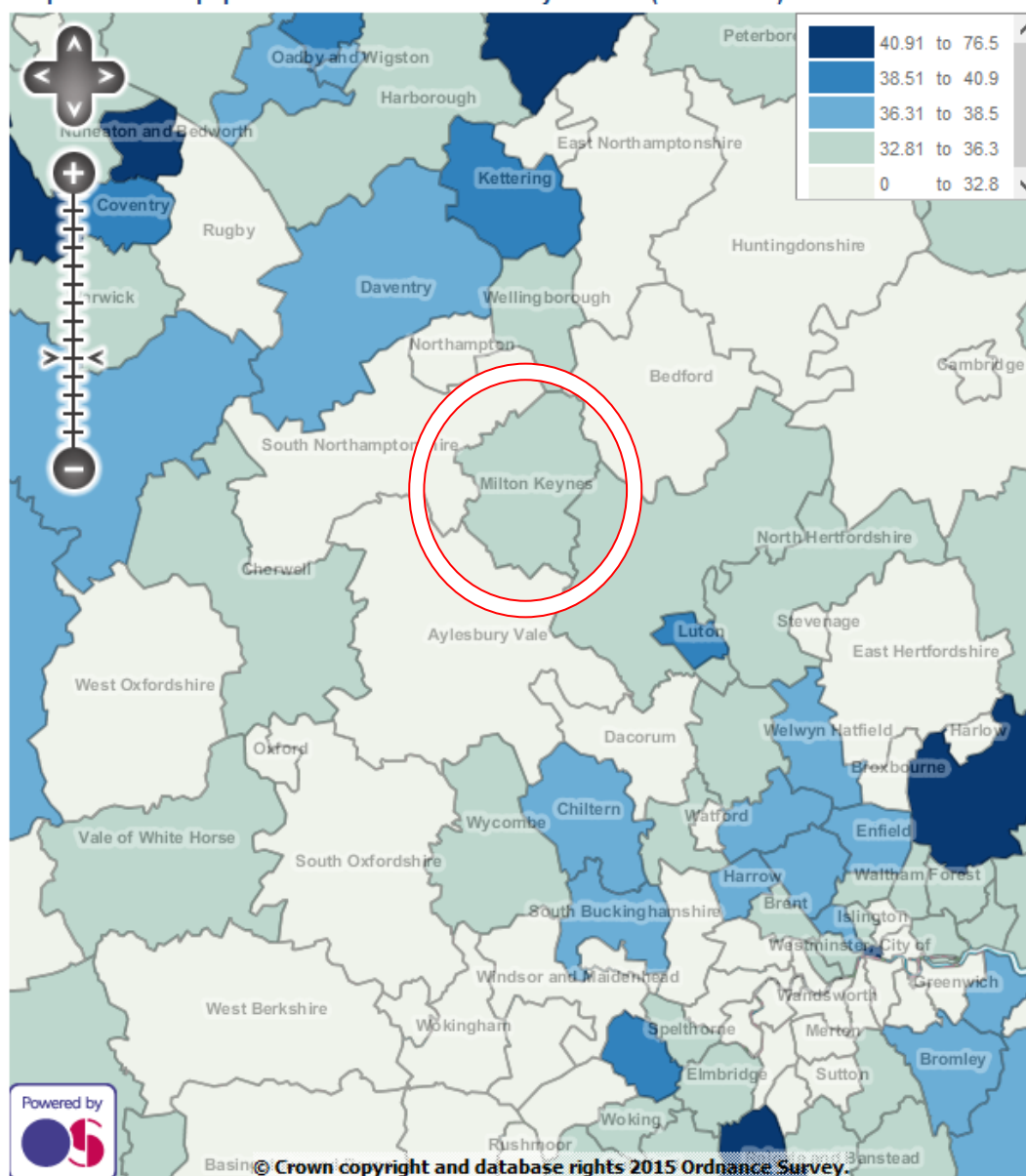
Economic Inactivity, for the purposes of this classification, includes people who are of working age but are neither employed nor unemployed (as defined above), such as:

- 'Discouraged Workers' – People who have given up looking for work / no longer eligible for job seekers allowance
- Students
- Unpaid Carers
- Long Term Sick
- Early Retirees

**According to the Annual Population Survey, published in July 2015, while unemployment in MK is just under 2%, the numbers of economically inactive comprise 20.3% of working age residents. This is slightly below the national average (also published in July 2015) of 22%.**

Here is a graphic that shows economic inactivity in MK (roughly in the centre of the map) in relation to the rest of our region:

Proportion of the population who are economically inactive (March 2015)



From Nomis: Official Labour Market Statistics as of June 2015:

Employment and Unemployment

	Milton Keynes (Raw Numbers)	Milton Keynes (%)	South East Region (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People				
Economically Active†	136,900	79.7	79.7	77.3
In Employment†	126,800	73.8	75.8	72.4
Employees†	111,000	64.9	64.1	61.9
Self Employed†	15,200	8.6	11.4	10
Unemployed (Model Based)*	8,700	6.4	4.8	6.2

	Males			
Economically Active†	73,000	85	84.7	82.8
In Employment†	66,600	77.5	80.7	77.3
Employee†	56,900	66.6	65.3	63.3
Self Employed†	9,200	10.5	15.1	13.6
Unemployed*	6,400	8.8	4.6	6.5

	Females			
Economically Active†	63,900	74.4	74.9	71.9
In Employment†	60,200	70	71.1	67.5
Employee†	54,100	63.2	63	60.6
Self Employed†	6,000	6.8	7.7	6.5
Unemployed*	3,700	5.8	5	6

Source: ONS annual population survey

† - numbers are for those aged 16 and over, % are for those aged 16-64

\* - numbers and % are for those aged 16 and over. % is a proportion of economically active

## Employment and Poverty

It is also worth noting that being employed is no longer a guaranteed way out of poverty. According to [research from the Joseph Rountree Foundation](#), there are now more people in working families living below the poverty line than all the workless and retired families living in poverty put together. Wages simply have not kept up with the cost of living. In a [survey](#) of 5,000 low-paid workers, JRF reported that only 32% state that they are always able to pay their basic household bills.

### MK People's Poll 2015

**61% agree that it is not easy to find a permanent job in Milton Keynes**

## Deprivation – Proportion of MK residents living in the 20% most deprived areas in England

2012  
12.4%

2013  
12.9%

2014  
12.9%

2015  
12.9%

### MK People's Poll 2015

**55% report that their households are still feeling the negative effects of the recessions**

### Children in Poverty – Proportion of children (under 16) in families receiving means means-tested benefits and low income

2012 21.4%	2013 20.8%	2014 20.2%	2015 19.0%
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### Earnings by Residence (2014)

	Milton Keynes (Pounds)	South East (Pounds)	Great Britain (Pounds)
Gross Weekly Pay			
Full-time Workers	517.5	567	520.8
Male Full-time Workers	586.7	620.6	561.5
Female Full-time Workers	465.4	493.7	463
Hourly Pay - Excluding Overtime			
Full-time Workers	12.95	14.39	13.15
Male Full-time Workers	14.29	15.38	13.7
Female Full-time Workers	12.1	13.13	12.34

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis

Note: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area.

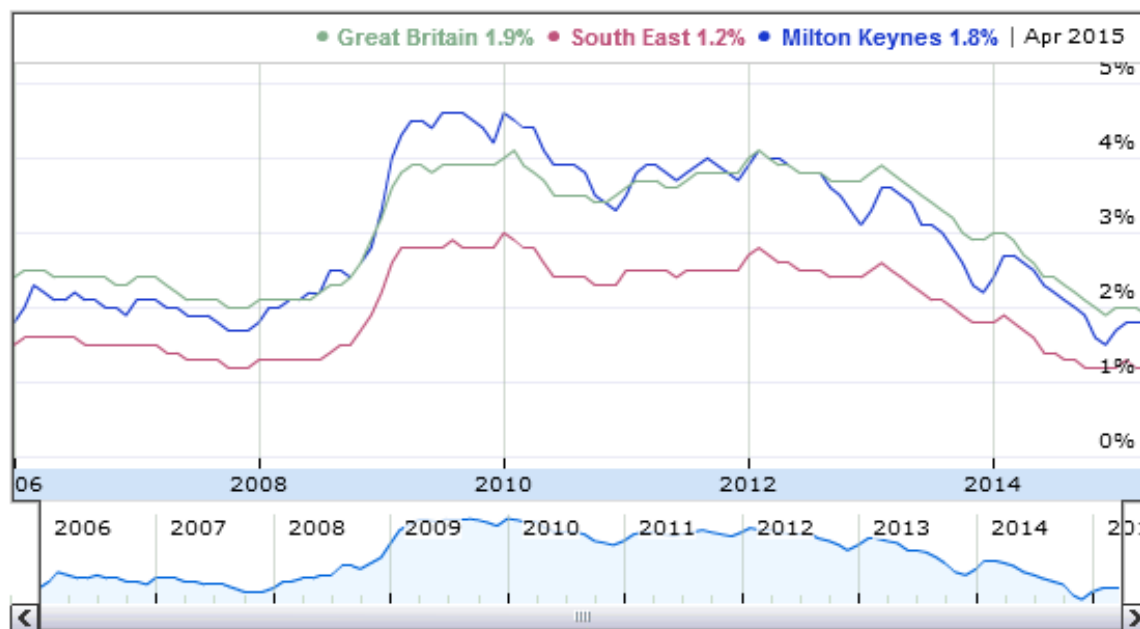
### Total JSA (Job Seekers Allowance) Claimants (April 2015)

	Milton Keynes (Raw Numbers)	Milton Keynes (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People	2,979	1.8	1.2	1.9
Males	1,903	2.3	1.5	2.4
Females	1,076	1.3	0.8	1.3

Source: ONS claimant count with rates and proportions

Note: % is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64 and gender

## JSA Claimants Historical



JSA Claimants – Also the figure often used to report ‘unemployment’ in Milton Keynes

Date	Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Apr-13	5,844	3.5	2.4	3.7
May-13	5,627	3.4	2.3	3.6
Jun-13	5,194	3.1	2.2	3.5
Jul-13	5,172	3.1	2.1	3.4
Aug-13	5,086	3	2.1	3.3
Sep-13	4,734	2.8	2	3.2
Oct-13	4,291	2.6	1.9	3
Nov-13	3,853	2.3	1.8	2.9
Dec-13	3,630	2.2	1.8	2.9
Jan-14	3,956	2.4	1.8	3
Feb-14	4,455	2.7	1.9	3
Mar-14	4,438	2.7	1.8	2.9
Apr-14	4,275	2.6	1.7	2.7
May-14	4,180	2.5	1.6	2.6
Jun-14	3,777	2.3	1.4	2.4
Jul-14	3,708	2.2	1.4	2.4

Aug-14	3,568	2.1	1.3	2.3
Sep-14	3,291	2	1.3	2.2
Oct-14	3,092	1.9	1.2	2.1
Nov-14	2,723	1.6	1.2	2
Dec-14	2,529	1.5	1.2	1.9
Jan-15	2,817	1.7	1.2	2
Feb-15	3,000	1.8	1.3	2
Mar-15	2,990	1.8	1.2	2
Apr-15	2,979	1.8	1.2	1.9

## Working-age Client Group - Key Benefit Claimants (November 2014)

	Milton Keynes (Raw Numbers)	Milton Keynes (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Total Claimants	16,980	10.2	9.1	12.5
By Statistical Group				
Job seekers	2,450	1.5	1.2	1.9
ESA and incapacity benefits	8,110	4.9	4.5	6.3
Lone parents	2,140	1.3	0.9	1.1
Carers	1,820	1.1	1.1	1.5
Others on income related benefits	410	0.2	0.2	0.3
Disabled	1,730	1	1	1.1
Bereaved	320	0.2	0.2	0.2
Key out-of-work benefits*	13,110	7.9	6.8	9.7

Source: DWP benefit claimants - working age client group

\* Key out-of-work benefits includes the groups: job seekers, ESA and incapacity benefits, lone parents and others on income related benefits. See the Definitions and Explanations below for details

Note: % is a proportion of resident population of area aged 16-64

## Job Density (2013)

	Milton Keynes (Jobs)	Milton Keynes (Density)	South East (Density)	Great Britain (Density)
Jobs Density	172,000	1.03	0.83	0.8

Source: ONS jobs density

Notes: The density figures represent the ratio of total jobs to population aged 16-64.

Total jobs includes employees, self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces

# Employee Jobs (2013)

	Milton Keynes (Employee Jobs)	Milton Keynes (%)	South East (%)	Great Britain (%)
Total Employee Jobs	154,300	-	-	-
Full-time	110,000	71.3	66.5	67.7
Part-time	44,400	28.7	33.5	32.3

## Employee Jobs By Industry

Primary Services (A-B: Agriculture and Mining)	0	0	0.2	0.3
Energy and Water (D-E)	400	0.2	1	1.1
Manufacturing (C)	9,700	6.3	6.4	8.5
Construction (F)	3,400	2.2	4.7	4.4
Services (G-S)	140,900	91.3	87.7	85.7
Wholesale and Retail (G)	29,100	18.9	17.3	15.9
Transport Storage (H)	11,700	7.6	4.1	4.5
Accommodation and Food Services (I)	7,200	4.6	7.3	7
Information and Communication (J)	13,900	9	6.3	4
Financial and Other Business Services (K-N)	37,900	24.6	20.8	21.8
Public Admin, Education and Health (O-Q)	32,300	20.9	26.6	28
Other Services (R-S)	8,800	5.7	5.2	4.6

Source: ONS business register and employment survey

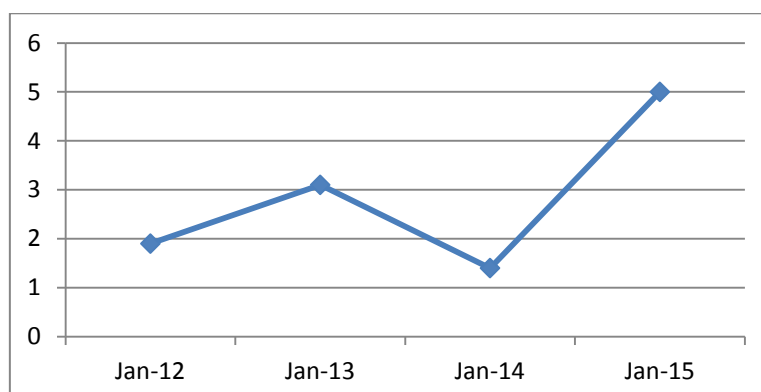
- Data unavailable

Notes: % is a proportion of total employee jobs

Employee jobs excludes self-employed, government-supported trainees and HM Forces

Data excludes farm-based agriculture

## Statutory Homelessness – number of homeless per 1,000 local residents



### MK People's Poll 2015

89% of respondents believe that there is not enough housing available in MK for people on low incomes

### Vital Action – Case Study

MK Community Bank (a branch of Swan Credit Union) helps people to open current accounts and secure low-interest loans when banks can't help them. They have recently appointed a Development Worker funded by MK Community Foundation to raise the profile of the bank and to make sure local people are aware of how the bank can help them.



### Sources of New Statistics:

Nomis: Official Labour Market Statistics (June 2015)

[www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

Neighbourhood Statistics, Office of Public Sector Information

[www.neighbourhoodstatistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodstatistics.gov.uk)

Grant Thornton – Place Analytics

<http://gt-placeanalytics.com/>

