

July 2024 Update from BC for CBs

Volunteering with Buckinghamshire Youth Justice and Support Team

At Buckinghamshire Youth Justice and Support Service (YJSS) the core aim is to help prevent children and young people aged between 10 and 18 years old entering or re-entering the criminal justice system.

To help them achieve their aims YJSS depends on and values local community volunteering support. Volunteering is a great way to support your local community and support personal development. You will be reimbursed for any travel expenses you accrue during volunteering sessions and will receive regular group supervision and training. There are a range of opportunities available:

- Appropriate Adult Volunteer
- Referral Order Volunteer
- Community Engagement Mentors
- Education volunteers

For more information on the roles and to apply, please contact Sarah Legood Sarah.Legood@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Housing strategy

Buckinghamshire Council has set out its vision, priorities and actions to meet the current and future housing needs and challenges in its first countywide Housing Strategy.

The strategy has been developed with the input and support of a wide range of partners, including housing associations, developers, community groups and other public sector organisations.

The vision is to ensure a strong housing offer for Buckinghamshire: to provide affordable, accessible, sustainable and suitable housing choices for all life stages. It focuses on three key priorities:

1. **Responding to the needs of our diverse population.**
2. **Better homes:** to improve the quality and sustainability of existing homes.
3. **New homes:** emphasising the importance of affordable, accessible, and appropriate new housing.

Each priority includes actions the council is taking now and proposed actions up to 2029. Visit the council's website to view the full [Housing Strategy](#) document.

Could you join our fostering community in Buckinghamshire?

We currently have over 500 children in Buckinghamshire needing a loving home. Could you help our foster children to grow and thrive by joining our amazing community of foster carers?

Foster carers play a vital role in looking after our children in care, by providing them with a loving and safe home and supporting them in their everyday lives. In return, we provide all our foster carers with 24/7 support, extensive training, highly competitive financial allowances and a range of new perks and benefits in recognition of the invaluable role they play.

If you, or someone you know, is keen to find out more about what fostering involves, join one of our upcoming [information sessions](#). Visit our website to find out more about fostering with Bucks and our comprehensive support offer <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/care-children-and-families/fostering/>

If you can't make it to one of our events, but are still interested in finding out more about the latest news, events or joining our fostering community, you can [sign up to our newsletter](#).

You can also follow us on social media:

- Facebook: [@FosterBucks](#)
- X: [@FosterWithBucks](#)
- Instagram: [@fosterwithbucks](#)

Options to transform the Library Service

On 18 June, Cabinet agreed a proposal to deliver the next phase of transformation for the libraries service. As part of the council's agreed budget, Buckinghamshire Libraries needs to save £555,000 whilst continuing to deliver the [vision and strategy](#) adopted in March 2023. Several options were considered to achieve the resilient and sustainable service that is needed. The recommended option - Library Flex - will combine the expertise of library staff with new self-operated technologies and the support of volunteers, community groups and partners. This combination of resources will ensure all libraries remain open and through the introduction of new technology, hours of access will actually increase which will improve the availability of services for residents and community groups. Similar schemes are already successfully operating in several other local authorities.

The next step is to consult on the design of the service – further details will be shared with you soon.

[Read the Cabinet paper online](#)

[Help us shape the future of nature in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)

We are developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes to help reverse the decline in nature in our local area (also known as 'recovering' nature). Milton Keynes City Council and Natural England are partners in the process. We commissioned the [Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership \(NEP\)](#), our Local Nature Partnership, to lead the LNRS process on our behalf.

We want to hear your views on our draft priorities for nature so they align with the nature you think is important to see in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes in the future.

Opened July 8th, closes 18th August

News in brief

Bucks Online Directory

This is a really useful tool for sharing information locally and to [find activities, groups and services near you | Bucks Online Directory | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Household Support Fund extension

The Household Support Fund utilised through our Helping Hand service, has been extended until 30 September 2024.

Our [Help with the cost of living \(Helping Hand\) | Buckinghamshire Council](#) webpage remains the place to go for further information.

Consultations

A consultation which opened on Monday and closes on August 18th.

[Help us shape the future of nature in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes - Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#)

We are developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes to help reverse the decline in nature in our local area (also known as 'recovering'

nature). Milton Keynes City Council and Natural England are partners in the process. We commissioned the [Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership \(NEP\)](#), our Local Nature Partnership, to lead the LNRS process on our behalf.

We want to hear your views on our draft priorities for nature so they align with the nature you think is important to see in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes in the future.

Visit [Your Voice Bucks - Citizen Space](#) to view all current consultations.