



**BUSINESS LEADERS**  
PARTNERSHIP

Milton Keynes Business Leaders  
Partnership Spring 2019 update

# Business Voice

[mkblp.co.uk](http://mkblp.co.uk)

## Business Achievement Awards Celebrate Skills and Education in Milton Keynes



Faye Carruthers MKBAA 2019 Compere

This years Milton Keynes Business Achievement Awards proved to be a fantastic event with over 700 people in attendance at the biggest business event to date at the new venue of the Marshall Arena.

With more entries received than ever before, businesses from across the city came together to celebrate innovations and success, in an awards night themed around Skills and Education.

With MKBAA's Headline Sponsor, The Open University, celebrating 50 years of revolutionary learning in 2019, the awards organisers praised the immense expertise The OU has developed in Milton Keynes, and acknowledged their success with a special dedication award.

The big winners of Milton Keynes most prestigious awards were Integral Powertrain, who picked up Business of the Year, as well as a category award for Best Technology Business.

Integral Powertrain is a leading independent engineering consultancy, with a key focus for advanced powertrain services and unique e-Drive technologies. As it approaches the future, the company continues to evolve and embrace new technology to meet tomorrow's requirements. The judges were unanimous in awarding Integral Powertrain the title of Business of the Year 2019. MKBAA Business of the Year, sponsored by The Open University, was chosen by the judges from the winners of each of the twelve categories and is the highest accolade any business in Milton Keynes can achieve.

The MKBAA Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by Barclays Bank, was awarded to David Locke, Founder of David Locke Associates, for his extraordinary contribution to town and country planning. As well as being Chair of his own company, David was Chief Planning Advisor to the Department of the Environment and has also Chaired the internationally renowned environmental education charity, the Town and Country Planning Association.

Guests were invited to view a number of business stallholders in the "Business City" before the dinner commenced and to enjoy taking part in the "Entertainment City" afterwards where dancing, casino and skills games were available to finish off a fabulous evening's entertainment.

Main sponsors of the evening were the Open University, KPMG and MK Council.



Business of the Year Winners, Integral Powertrain

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business community

# The Winners

## Charity of the Year

sponsored by: Bletchley Park  
MK Hospital

## Business Impact in the Community

sponsored by: Cranfield University  
Red Thread Partnership

## Leisure & Entertainment

sponsored by: Jurys Inn  
MK Biergarten

## New Business

sponsored by: BSI  
Naturally Tribal Skincare

## Design & Creativity

sponsored by: Niftylift  
Vantage Event Structures

## Small Business

sponsored by: Transport Systems Catapult  
SJD Electrical

## Customer Service

sponsored by: ATL Ltd  
Wed2B

## Culture & Arts

sponsored by: MK Business Improvement District  
The Stables

## Technology Business

sponsored by: Hillier Hopkins  
Integral Powertrain

## Professional Services

sponsored by: dbfb  
David Locke Associates

## Best Training Scheme

sponsored by: Mazars  
BSH Home Appliances

## Entrepreneur of the Year

sponsored by: Keens Shay Keens  
Matt Bowler



Baroness Martha Lane Fox - guest speaker



David Lock, Winner of MKBAA Lifetime Achievement Award

**Chair of MKBLP, Dr Philip Smith MBE said:** "This years awards represented a further celebration of the fantastic, vibrant success of the business community we have in Milton Keynes, and the world leading skills, education opportunities and facilities, including the Open University, Cranfield University, the University of Buckingham and the MK College, all of whom are helping to pave the way for MKBAA winners of the future.

"Now in its sixth consecutive year, Milton Keynes Business Achievement Awards continues to go from strength to strength, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors, as without their support this celebration of great business success would not be possible, and to all our entrants around whom our evening is based."

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# MKBLP Q&A with new member, Simon Green, CEO of YMCA Milton Keynes



## **What do you bring to MK Business Leaders?**

I grew up in Milton Keynes and I continue to live here with my family. Over the years I have seen the city grow, and I have a strong commitment to helping improve the quality of the community and its civic engagement. At the YMCA we support some of the most vulnerable adults in our community. Homelessness has been an increasing blight on Milton Keynes in recent years and we can help the business community to address this issue in a meaningful and sustainable way. This will make our city better for everyone. Homeless encampments do not send the message that we have a successful economy or that we are a place open for business! We are undertaking a £20m regeneration project in Central Milton Keynes to provide 199 homes for young people and structured pathways into employment as a sustainable route out of homelessness.

## **What challenges face the Milton Keynes business community?**

My business is interested in the problem of affordable housing, which is a huge problem in Milton Keynes, particularly for our young people. This should be a concern for any employer whose workforce need to find somewhere pleasant and affordable to live and raise their families.

## **What makes Milton Keynes special for you?**

We are growing. We are ambitious. We are multi-cultural. We are close enough to London but far enough away! We are bold enough to be different.

## **Your tip for success in business and/or life?**

Retain focus, work hard and persevere when the going is tough. Gather the best people you can around you. Keep a healthy work / life balance, and attend the occasional networking event!

## **Why being a member is important?**

Business Leaders provides an excellent opportunity for me to network with people who share a commitment to Milton Keynes, and who want to see great things happen here. We have a successful business community and I wish to be active within that.

## JULIA UPTON, MBE, RETIRES FROM MKBLP BOARD



We are sad to be losing Julia from the board of MKBLP, but taking up the role of High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire is an onerous and full time task requiring maximum attention.

Her experience and knowledge gained through long service with the MK Community Foundation has been of great value to the MKBLP board and her contribution has been much appreciated. We wish her well in her new role.

## MKBLP AND THE OXFORD/CAMBRIDGE ARC



The MKBLP board are committed to its support of the evolution of the Oxford/Cambridge Arc, and have partnered with the Fred Roche Foundation and the Academy of Urbanism in providing seminars in Milton Keynes to bring business awareness of the implications and opportunities emanating from the project.

MKBLP is also working closely with the CBI across the region and with Cranfield University in co-ordinating the business contribution to the Arc development.

# Over the last quarter, MKBLP have hosted three well attended Breakfast Briefings, below is an overview of the speakers and topics raised at each of these events:



## **Professor Lynette Ryals OBE unveiled plans for the 'new model' university: MK:U**

The pledge from the leaders behind the proposed MK:U, is to produce a new breed of graduates, with the right blend of skills, to specifically help Milton Keynes businesses reach their full potential.

Lynette Ryals OBE, Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Cranfield University and Programme Director for MK:U, outlined

her ambitions for MK:U to become a fully fledged, average sized university by 2038, with a student population of 15,000 - with the first wave of undergraduates arriving in 2023.

In a move away from the more established university system, MK:U will not offer traditional courses, opting for a syllabus designed around 21st Century business needs. A large proportion of this will be framed around the digital economy, and entrepreneurship, with plans to create a 'living laboratory, for students to work on real projects within MK businesses, enhancing their employability and life skills. "Our intention is to use the whole of Milton Keynes, not just the MK:U campus, as an experimental test bed for new technologies. We are designing our education around the jobs MK business leaders want and need."



## **A new charity for Milton Keynes' 'lost generation' of care leavers**

In January, Ron Overton, Founder and CEO of charity Transitions UK, reached out to business leaders to support young people in the local community who are leaving the care system. Transitions UK works with adolescents, with a wide range of needs, who have left the care system providing them with an intensive and comprehensive level of support and mentoring, teaching them

everything from life planning and budgeting skills to courses and activities. Setting up in Milton Keynes at the end of 2018, Transitions UK aims to help the 250 young people within the city who will leave the local care system over the next two years.

These 250 fall under the so called 'lost generation, who, according to national statistics, are 75% less likely to enter higher education, compared with young people not in care, and 13% more likely to have a criminal record. "These figures are massively disproportionate. Put simply, these vulnerable young people do not have the support to make an effective transition from care to the outside world."



## **£20 billion cash injection into the NHS is not enough**

In March, Simon Lloyd, Chairman of the Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, told MKBLP that the £20 billion investment into the NHS, outlined under the Government's 10 year NHS plan, is insufficient to cover essential needs. During his speech, Mr Lloyd discussed recent developments at the hospital, which members were keen to hear about, and agreed that, as the city's biggest employer, plans for the hospital need to be clearly communicated to the wider community.

Encouragingly, Mr Lloyd announced that the Government's budget funding model will now be based on population, as opposed to activity based funding. A significant step forward for Milton Keynes, particularly as the hospital's current funding figures are based on population statistics which are five years old: "As we know these figures have grown significantly, so this is a major positive for us."

The hospital is making great strides forward, from the opening of the new cancer centre at the end of this year, to the fact that the A&E department is one of the best performing in the country. He also acknowledged that there is plenty of scope for development with half a ward being added each year to the hospital – in line with the expectation that the population of Milton Keynes is set to grow by 50,000 over the next decade.

One area which needs continuous improvement is education and research to overcome the national problem of recruiting and retaining NHS staff. Mr Lloyd updated the audience on the pathways which have already been implemented to do this, including the opening of the pioneering Academic Centre with University of Buckingham last year.

# Judge Francis Sheridan speaks out to MKBLP on the impact of digitalisation

The role of technology in the workplace has evolved dramatically and digitalisation has reshaped the processes and efficiency of businesses throughout Milton Keynes.

Many of the MKBLP members from those businesses were audience members at the March Quarterly Dinner, where His Honour Judge Francis Sheridan presided and discussed everything from the impact the digital age has had over the judiciary system – to tackling knife crime and domestic abuse.

Introducing His Honour, Chair of MKBLP Dr Philip Smith MBE, who noted the fact that Judge Francis had brought his own lectern for the occasion, raised the technological age in which we live and the impact digital processes has had on how businesses operate today. Dr Smith referenced how digitalisation has heightened the need to 'get things done correctly, and the impact this has had on the Government and businesses, before asking Judge Francis to elaborate the effect this has had on the courts.

One of four new deputy lieutenants for Buckinghamshire, and presiding judge at Aylesbury Crown Court, Judge Francis has had a long, well-documented career within the judiciary system.

At a time when courts are moving to systems in which documents are submitted electronically, file rooms are disappearing and the judicial departments are going paperless, following the Government's £1 billion reform to bring new technology and modern ways into the UK's courts, Judge Francis conceded that he had avoided using technology for as long as possible!

Whilst admitting that using digital systems is good if used properly, he reminded business leaders that they are also dealing with human beings and their businesses can not manage without them.

"In this digital age, technology has evolved and the way we work has changed dramatically. Traditional processes have been superseded, but in the judiciary system, in the same sense as government, we have to make sure these digital processes are appropriate and fit for purpose."

Recounting tales from his court days in the years before technology took over, Judge Francis commented that common sense ruled – and this was still needed in court today, above and beyond digitalisation. Referencing his declaration that domestic violence should be a top priority throughout Crown Courts in England and Wales, and testament to his statement that common sense should prevail above all else.

Further fuelling his argument that digitalisation has overtaken common sense, Judge Francis acknowledged the case of a lorry driver responsible for the 2017, M1 mini bus crash which saw 8 people die. "Due to computer systems being out of date the lorry driver's disqualification letter was sent to an old address

– the driver was unaware, and his insurance was negated so compensation was left to the Motor Insurers Bureau."

Nevertheless, reflecting on an incident when, through technology, his 9-year-old son completed a task in one sitting which should have taken two men three months to process manually, Judge Francis stressed that; "technology lies in the hands of the little ones coming up behind us."

Reinforcing this fact, he called for the attending business leaders to welcome children, particularly those in their first year of GCSEs, into their place of work, to encourage the future generation into business. "Even if it's just for a day, it won't take long to sow the seed."

Lamenting on the days when children used to be more afraid of the possible repercussions they would face from their parents rather than the law, Judge Francis admitted that now, UK courts face a struggle to encourage parents to accompany their child to hearings. "We need to keep families together and steer people away from the justice system – in favour of rehabilitation." Urging businesses to consider offering jobs to people who had faced the court system: "Otherwise they hit a slippery slope of living life through the bottom of a bottle or the wrong end of a needle."

Acknowledging that mental health plays a pivotal role in rehabilitation, Judge Francis is an advocate for the Milton Keynes P3 Health team.

Questions raised at the end included how police should be tackling knife crime. Raising comparisons to the 'Glasgow Smile, crimes, Judge Francis concluded that when the harsh, consistent sentences of 18 year prison stretches were brought in, it put an end to the razor blade epidemic.

Reinforcing his belief that above all else common sense should prevail, Judge Francis concluded: "There's something in that message. When dealing with knife crime today, we don't just need to be tough - we need to be consistently tough."





Save the date: 12th March 2020

## Directors of Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership

**Dr Philip Smith MBE** Chair  
**Nicholas Mann** Vice Chair, Interdirect  
**Dr Julie Mills** Milton Keynes College  
**Jan Flawn CBE** PJ Care  
**Jean Gowin** CityFibre  
**Ruby Parmar** PwC  
**Simon DeMaid** Howes Percival  
**Freddie Guilnard** The Red Thread Partnership

Milton Keynes Business Leaders Partnership is an independent organisation, funded through member subscriptions. MKBLP works to identify and develop interests, specific to the business community in the City.

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### Your contact details

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## For your diary

The remainder of 2019 promises to be a success for MK Business Leaders Events. From Breakfast Briefings to Quarterly Dinners, each of the events will continue to feature quality guest speakers covering a diverse range of topics. These thought provoking speeches, coupled with good food and great company, always make for interesting occasions.

If you have not yet attended a Business Leaders event, it is an integral part of your membership, so please do come along and see what you are missing. Book your place early and, if you subsequently cannot attend PLEASE do let us know as soon as possible. If a senior colleague is able to attend in your place this is acceptable.



### Quarterly Dinner

Jurys Inn  
20th June  
Speaker: Richard Harrington, CEO Bucks & TV LEP on the Oxford/Cambridge Arc



### Breakfast Briefing

MK Brasserie  
July 16th  
Speaker: Angela Novell, CEO MK SNAP, on the education plan for the future



### Breakfast Briefing

MK Hospital  
September 12th  
Speaker: Simon Lloyd, Chairman of the Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, on the new Cancer Centre



### Quarterly Dinner

Holiday Inn  
October 10th  
Speaker: Nick Du Bois, Confessions of a recovering MP



### Breakfast Briefing

MK Brasserie  
November 12th  
Speaker: Ken Tomkins, Kaizen Restaurants, McDonalds – A local success story