

DIRECTION FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

JUNE 2019



Direction
for Bedfordshire

HMP BEDFORD COMMUNITY EVENT 18/06/2019

The Learning and Skills Department at HMP Bedford hosted an Education and Employment Event for the residents to get some more information on what skills and training are available inside the prison, and also what opportunities there are for them once released. Through our conversations we could gauge what typical barriers and obstacles offenders face on the outside that impacts their likeliness to reoffend. Many commented on their close release dates and their anxiety around what support they will receive on the outside. These first-hand conversations with offenders allowed us to promote our service and explain how we can be an extra support system out in the community. We would like to thank Danny Baylis & Jody-Sue Williams for inviting us to attend this worthwhile event.

This newsletter is an overview and update for partners of all that has been going on with regards to the Direction for Bedfordshire Offender Hub in June 2019.

Written and Edited by: Lauren Cox (Offender Hub Coordinator, YouTurn Futures)

These first few months of working on Direction for Bedfordshire have been both exciting and eye-opening to the lengths of which this service can grow. We have had the pleasure of attending a number of events and met with various partners to discuss how we can best work together.

So, what have we been up to?

- Following our first few months of service the conversations we've had with our various partners has indicated already how our directory can be expanded. Therefore, we now have sections for Services for Women, Youth Services, Cyber Crime and Gangs & Exploitation. This has meant that our website will be getting a re-design to best present our partner services in a clear, user friendly way.
- This month we have met with MARAC and IDVA to discuss how our Offender Hub can be of use to them. Working together we could tackle domestic violence in a holistic way, especially in situations where victims want to stay in their relationship. The victims can still receive the support and empowerment they need, while the perpetrator can be referred to us for signposting to services that can address the issues an individual is facing that could motivate their violent behavior.
- Attending the residents group meeting at the Bedford Approved Premises enlightened the women there on bail about how easy it is to access services that can support their rehabilitation through contacting Direction for Bedfordshire.
- Meeting with National Probation Service in Luton and Bedford opened our eyes to the difficulties they face in dealing with high risk offenders. We want to continue to build our knowledge of services and agencies who are willing to work with those more difficult offenders.

YouTurn

Restore, Reform & Reintegrate



Bedfordshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

CASE STUDY

We received a referral from a BeNCH CRC probation officer about a service user based in Houghton Regis who had their electricity cut off and therefore could not cook any of the food that was offered to him at the Foodbank. I therefore needed to find somewhere that could provide a hot meal for this individual. After speaking to various providers, I managed to get in contact with **The Salvation Army** in Dunstable and found out that they can top up an electricity card and offered to do this the same afternoon. Although this seemed like a resolution to this issue, when reporting back to his probation officer it came to light that his electricity meter was actually removed due to debt issues. When continuing my search for a positive outcome to this situation I was able to contact **Street Life**, a Dunstable based group who look after the homeless and vulnerable, who could provide Greggs and Morrisons vouchers so this individual wouldn't go hungry. This referral not only provided a solution to this service user's hardship, but also gave me insight into what these services can offer. I can then store this information and confidently refer to these services in the future when receiving relevant referrals.



- Our attendance at the PCC's Partners Meeting gave us a further opportunity to promote our service to our collaborating agencies and to take advantage of this networking setting to be proactive in making links between all our services. The services we were not aware of, or had limited knowledge of, have now been added to our website to be utilised by our service users. The table discussions allowed our partners to question Direction for Bedfordshire and how it will be effective for their service users. We were able to assure them that our service has been introduced to create better joined up working across Bedfordshire, and to enhance their already established services.
- When discussing Direction for Bedfordshire with Sharon Scully, the Community Safety Strategy Officer for Central Bedfordshire Council, we were able to identify areas of their community safety strategy that we could play a part in. As our service's main aim is to reduce crime and re-offending it is critical that those posing a possible threat to the safety of communities around Bedfordshire, and their families, can gain access to the services they need to get their lives back on track.

Here's some of the valuable services we've added to our website this month:

Calm

Runaway Helpline

Fatherhood Community Solutions

Cyber Prevent

Grove Corner Youth & Community Centre

Prosper 4 Jobs

Imkaan

Azalea

Luton Town Football Club Community Trust

Link to Change

YMCA Bedfordshire's Domestic Abuse Outreach Resettlement Project

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, WANT US TO COME AND SPEAK AT YOUR TEAM MEETING, OR WANT TO MAKE A REFERRAL CONCERNING AN INDIVIDUAL PLEASE GET IN TOUCH THROUGH ONE OF OUR PLATFORMS:

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