

DIRECTION FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

MAY 2019



Direction
for Bedfordshire

THE BIG IDEA

Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway gave YouTurn Futures the opportunity to expand their services by commissioning us to deliver the 'Direction' Offender Hub. The online directory and free phone service can direct ex-offenders, their loved ones and professionals acting on their behalf to all the necessary support services that can change their lives, on leaving prison. The free and confidential service is a countywide initiative which promotes partnership working and aims to utilize all the vital services that are operating throughout Bedfordshire.

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-between the launch date on 2nd April 2019 and 31st May 2019.

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

Firstly, I would just like to thank all the team at YouTurn and numerous partners that I have met in my first month of working in the Direction Offender Hub for making me feel so welcome and for developing my knowledge of the wealth of services across Bedfordshire.

So, what have we been up to?

Our launch event on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 saw a collective of the PCC Kathryn Holloway and her office, Jackie Sebire ACC, probation and various Bedfordshire based agencies come together to unveil the Direction for Bedfordshire website, **directionforbedfordshire.co.uk** designed by Mike Smith. This event kicked off our one stop shop for those in Bedfordshire who are suffering with chaotic lives that have led them to the Criminal Justice System.

The IOM Team Meeting on Wednesday 15th May 2019 was also utilised as an opportunity for a further launch for Direction for Bedfordshire as police, probation and partners were in attendance. This event brought services across Bedfordshire together to inform and promote their work in each individual field. We would like to thank all the partners for attending, particularly PCC Kathryn Holloway, Joanna Barnett, Tina Hall, Bonita Murphy and Conroy & Elvis from Reactiv8.

YouTurn
Restore, Reform & Reintegrate





Since our initial launch we have been working hard to promote our aims and objectives for ‘Direction for Bedfordshire’ across a number of our partner agencies. Engaging with staff and attending team meetings has not only given us an opportunity to market our concept, but also get a better understanding of what our partners can provide throughout Bedfordshire and their latest projects. This has also given us a chance to put partners in touch with each other to merge services and create a holistic support system.

In the last month we have visited a number of key agencies and teams, including:

- Through the Gate
- Develop
- Cyber Prevent
- Bedford Approved Premises
- Signpost Victims Hub
- Criminal Justice Board
- Project Nova
- Bedford Women’s Centre
- Stepping Stones
- Bedfordshire Police Hate Crime Team

Through these meetings we have been able to improve our service further by adding additional niche pathways such as Services for Women, Youth Services, Cyber Crime and Gang Crime and Exploitation.

“Direction has everything under one umbrella including employability, housing, everything that somebody coming out of prison is going to need. It’s a great support and if you want to change, the help is there.” – Elvis Shaw, former offender and volunteer for Reactiv8



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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