

DIRECTION FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

FEBRUARY 2020



Direction
for Bedfordshire

YOUTURN FUTURES NATIONAL SEXUAL TRAUMA CONFERENCE 2020

Youturn Futures are hosting another national conference on 23rd April 2020; this time around the theme of Sexual Trauma. This all-day event will provide a wealth of knowledge in a number of areas around this topic. The selected guest speakers have invaluable expertise to share on this sensitive subject, and they include:

Zoe Lodrick is attending as a guest speaker and to lead the day. She is recognised for having specialist knowledge in sexualised trauma, victim behaviour and sexual offending.

CYP First Helen Matthews and Andy Thompson will be discussing the impact of sexual trauma in gangs.

Sara Rowbotham played a key role in the Rochdale sex abuse ring and helped bring the perpetrators to court. She is attending the conference to share her experience of this.

Dr Lisa Thornhill will be exploring sexual offending from the perspective of the offender and their motive. She will also address child sexual abuse and how the internet is impacting this further.

Tickets are £100 per person
Please follow the link below to book:
<https://www.centralbedscpd.co.uk/safeguarding/cpd/default.asp>
For any booking enquiries please contact
LSCB.Training@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or call 0300 300 6676

Also find out more on the Youturn Futures Website:
<https://youturnfutures.com/youturn-national-conference/>

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 February 2020.

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

We are so close to having been in service for a whole year, and it is amazing to see the support we are continually receiving from partners on a county-wide basis to help Direction for Bedfordshire grow!

So, what have we been up to?

- **KINGSBROOK AND CAULDWELL MONTHLY DROP IN** – A Hub in the centre of the community where local residents can drop-in and access support and information from a number of organisations including: Beds RCC Social Prescribing BPHA, One Support, Direction for Bedfordshire and Mind BLMK. **Please encourage residents in this area to come along on the first Monday of each month!**
- We have been working with **Luton BeNCH CRC** and their Probation Service Officers to deliver a **'Building Links' Weekly Workshop** for their service users. We want to create an open space for discussion around various pathway needs, themes and current events each week. My role is to use the partnerships *Direction* has built to invite partners in to deliver a talk about their service to the attendees. We want to break down barriers and build links between service users and organisations in their local area. We want them to leave these sessions knowing more around the topic discussed, and feeling confident that they know where to go if they need any further support on the matter. We hope to have this running in March 2020, and thank you to all the partners that have already shown their interest in taking part.
- **Bedford Job Centre** brought together Direction for Bedfordshire, NACRO, Through the Gate and HMP Bedford for a **forum** to support the **'Square One Departure Lounge'**. We discussed ways of making the transition from HMP Bedford into the community as smooth as possible for the residents. Universal Credit is a particularly difficult area for individuals to understand, and therefore it was suggested for a monthly forum to be delivered in the prison by a Job Coach for those who are soon to be released. This can answer any questions they may have and get them up to speed on the latest Universal Credit procedures. It was also suggested that to ensure residents are making their Universal Credit claims at the earliest opportunity, that their Job Centre appointment could be the first upon release, and even offer this service at Bedford JCP for individuals who live out of area.
- The first Thursday of this month saw the launch of **Womens Aid in Luton weekly drop-in session**. This is to bring services that want to support women into a women-only space to give some information, advice and guidance. Women from all backgrounds living in the Luton area are welcome to come have a chat and a cup of tea, look through some of the clothing donations, and speak to professionals that they may have not otherwise come into contact with.

Central Bedfordshire College

Supported Internship - I attended the Dunstable Jobs Fair on 25th February which was organised by the Tenant Involvement Team at Central Bedfordshire Council. I spoke to Stacey, a Job Coach for Supported Internships at Central Bedfordshire College. This is a structured study programme designed to get 16-24-year olds with Special Educational Needs into paid employment. She is looking for organisations to take part in the programme. This is an opportunity for a young person to highlight that although they may have difficulties or disabilities, they can achieve their career aspirations and be on par with their peers in that related field. All training is carried out through education and the vocational element of the element is delivered through a Job Coach that will accompany them for the duration of the placement.

If you would like to get involved please contact:

supportedinternship@centralbeds.ac.uk



Do you need any student volunteers? Can you offer work experience to young people from Luton or Bedfordshire? Att10tive works with schools and colleges to enhance the learning experience for young people. We are looking for a range of opportunities which could be a varied number of hours for students.

For an initial conversation please contact Montell Neufville at Att10tive@gmail.com



ATT10TIVE
Social Enterprise

WEBSITE:

<https://directionforbedfordshire.co.uk/>

EMAIL:

info@directionforbedfordshire.co.uk

PHONE:

0800 917 5579/ 01582 721010

FACEBOOK:

[@direction4beds](https://www.facebook.com/direction4beds)

<https://www.facebook.com/direction4beds/>

TWITTER:

[@Direction4Beds](https://twitter.com/Direction4Beds)

<https://twitter.com/Direction4Beds>

- We attended the Bedfordshire Against CSE Conference: Unravelling the Web, Exploitation and the Digital World. This topic was addressed from a variety of angles to piece together the current picture of online exploitation. The presentations were delivered by Bedfordshire Police, The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, Lorin LaFave whose son was tragically murdered by his online groomer, Marie Collins Foundation and a survivor called Rhiannon, and Junior Smart. These presentations gave examples of the extent online exploitation can go to and the damage it can cause. They detailed how perpetrators are using the internet and social media apps to exploit young people, and how this is becoming increasingly difficult to tackle with the high turnover of apps being used.
- I introduced *Direction for Bedfordshire* to the team at **Squared**, formerly Luton Community Housing, who work with the residents in houses in multiple occupation. The team were especially looking to get the young people they work with on training courses and to find out if individuals can get support with funding for transport in their local area – **if anyone can advise further on this transport query** it would both further my professional knowledge and help Squared to support their residents!
- At the **Women's Resettlement Forum**, we had a presentation from Luton Sexual Health. They explained the different services that they offer and how they can triage individuals who need treatment urgently. This session gave all the professionals in the room an overview of STIs and contraception, to feel more confident in addressing these issues with clients if they need to.
- This month gave the opportunity for me to advance my professional knowledge through training on Homeless Law and Mental Health First Aid. JustUs are an advocacy service for those facing homelessness, and they want to educate professionals in knowing the laws around being homeless, so that we can support our clients better when they are in this situation. By having an insight into the law, we can challenge the councils and their processes if they are acting unlawfully. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England recognise that we all have varying resilience to life and its challenges, and therefore sometimes do not quite understand another person's struggles. This course teaches to de-personalise reactions to mental health and to approach them with empathy not sympathy; by reassuring people that you are trying to understand and will be there to support them. Both of these training courses are extremely relevant to *Direction's* work and will add value to the service.
- I joined the **NOAH 50+ Progress into Work** group to chat to them about *Direction* and the service we can offer. It was lovely to see how complimentary all the participants were of NOAH, and particularly their course tutor Paul. It is a real credit to the work that NOAH are doing for the community. The learners expressed the worries about wanting to progress with their training but that finances will hold them back.
- I met again with **Total Wellbeing Luton** this month to learn about the **Talking Therapies Workshops** that they deliver. The team are looking to organise set days in the week that workshops will take place for members of the public. This is a great signposting resource, as a regular routine of workshops guarantee for clients that there is somewhere to go if they are wanting to engage with support.
- **Safer Central** hosted their first **Housing Conference** centred around Exploitation. It was particularly interesting to hear from Bedfordshire Police to understand the real picture of county lines and 'cuckooing' in the county. There was a definite emphasis on changing the language around exploitation and that it is not simply a lifestyle choice for individuals. Perpetrators will identify weaknesses and use these to exploit and control.
- **Please encourage residents of Central Bedfordshire who are looking for training and employment to attend the Flitwick Jobs Fair at The Village Hall on 30th April 2020!!**

