

Newsletter

September 2021



Direction
for Bedfordshire

NETWORKING FORUMS

Our Networking Forums have been ongoing since April 2020 as a reactive resource to COVID-19 forcing professionals to be isolated and work remotely. Direction for Bedfordshire's vision is to enhance collaborative working and we have achieved this time and time again through the forums. We have received consistent positive feedback from new and returning forum attendees spanning a wide variety of sectors. This is an open space designed with our partners at the heart to ensure that everyone gets the most out of this platform.

We currently run the Networking Forums from Zoom, however in January they will be moving onto TEAMS.

The next forums will take place on:

South Forum: Thursday 21st October 2021, 2-3:30pm via Zoom

North Forum: Wednesday 27th October 2021, 10-11:30am via Zoom

Please promote the forums amongst your team, wider network, and anyone you feel would benefit from attending!

We have designed a **short feedback survey** to gather the thoughts and views of forum attendees, so please follow this **link** to share your opinions.

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 August 2021.

Direction for Bedfordshire:

Emma Freeman, Tommy McCollin, Nicky Stewart, Olivia Ingle & Sharon Simpson

- This month we have said goodbye to Lauren, and whilst it is sad to see her go, we have three new starters in the Direction Team, so it is also exciting times ahead! Olivia, Nicky and Sharon have joined Tommy and Emma and we will all have an input into the Direction for Bedfordshire service. This has broadened our experience and expertise, so we offer them all a very warm welcome and look forward to working together.
- We attended the Central Bedfordshire Council Community Safety Team conference on Partnership Working to Tackle Cuckooing and Exploitation. We joined Bedfordshire Police, Fire Service, St Giles and the Community Safety Team to talk about how we are all working to tackle this issue in different ways. We were able to highlight the You Turn Futures Supported Pathway for 16–25-year-olds where we try to divert young people away from the Criminal Justice System.
- Employment Links – we are making inroads into new partnership working with a range of employer in the construction sector. Meetings have been arranged with Wilmott-Dixon to look at helping young people find careers and apprenticeships in many facets of the construction sector. We are also working with Barratt Homes and their sub-contractors to facilitate work placements for 17–21-year-olds with an interest in gaining an insight into working as plumbers, ground workers, plasterers and even site management so watch out for more news on this.
- Bedfordshire Violence and exploitation briefings- There will be six 3 hour briefing sessions held across Bedfordshire on our response to Child Exploitation. The sessions will enable delegates to understand the Multi Agency Response to Child Exploitation in Bedfordshire, the tools to utilise when working with Children and the response in Bedfordshire Police & the Local Authorities. To join please Visit Safeguarding Bedfordshire- <http://www.safeguardingbedfordshiretraining.gov.uk/>
- Mind your language- This webinar enables us to discuss victim-blaming language and how we can accurately and sensitively record and report on victim experiences. The aim of this webinar is to share practice between agencies and to explore ways in which we can develop the language we use. To join please Visit Safeguarding Bedfordshire- <http://www.safeguardingbedfordshiretraining.gov.uk/>

CASE STUDIES

All names have been changed for confidentiality

*You've been
absolutely
brilliant*

Youturn service user

*I cannot think of
anything you could
have done better!*

Youturn Service User

PHONE:
0800 917 5579

EMAIL:
info@directionforbedfordshire.co.uk

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

TWITTER: @Direction4Beds
<https://twitter.com/Direction4Beds>

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

Valteri contacted us after he had been arrested by the Police. He was unhappy that his ex-partner was making allegations about him. We were able to support him to get him a free appointment with the Family Law Clinic who offer advice about family law, including making child contact arrangements in this type of situation. Valteri was able to get the advice he needed and was happy that he could move forward with their support. We hope that going through this route will help Valteri to resolve his differences for the benefit of their children.

This month a Young Farmers group contacted us to see if we could give a talk to their members about drug, alcohol and gambling addictions. We were able to put them in touch with **Aquarius** and **GamCare** who can provide group work for young people specifically in those areas. If you have a group of young people who would benefit from these inputs, please get in touch.

Service Shout Out!



Ormiston Families' Breaking Barriers service provides support for children and young people affected by the imprisonment of a close family member. Tailored one-to-one support reduces anxiety around prison, supports emotional wellbeing and school attendance.

By providing a safe space for them to talk, play and express themselves, we enable children and young people to explore their feelings and break down some of the barriers which may prevent them from maintaining positive ties with their imprisoned family member.



Breaking Barriers covers East of England, including Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton. For more information contact for Luton – sara.turner@ormistonfamilies.org.uk rest of Bedfordshire – kara.manning@ormistonfamilies.org.uk

More information can be found here - <https://www.ormiston.org/what-we-do/working-with-families-affected-by-offending/breaking-barriers/>

Please continue to use our online directory which we do try to keep up to date, if you have a new website or contact details that need to go on there, please let us know. As a reminder, referrals can be made with a quick phone call to **0800 917 5579** or email info@directionforbedfordshire.co.uk and one of the team will respond as soon as we can.

We accept referrals for signposting, advice and support for any ex-offenders and anyone who is at risk of being involved in crime. We work with people directly but also with professionals to offer support and guidance where needed.



YouTurn

Restore, Reform & Reintegrate

