

# Newsletter

## November 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: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 2-3:30pm via Zoom

North Forum: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 10 - 11:30 am via Zoom

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

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

Contact us by email: [firstname.surname@youturnfutures.com](mailto:firstname.surname@youturnfutures.com)

Our Director, Stuart, and Operations lead, Neill, both attended Peterborough Prison this month to see how they manage their Departure Lounge for Residents and the impact their outreach Centre, Outside Links, has had. They were both very impressed with the professionalism shown by staff and how residents from the prison were Released on Temporary License to help at the Centre. Stuart and Neill will be discussing this at the next Reducing Reoffending Board on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Tommy attended a professional's day which Emmaus Carlton held, where numerous agencies including Penrose, Bedford Homeless Partnership, the rural policing team to name but a few, were invited to attend the Emmaus site and listen to the excellent work that they do and ethos they live by. It was a great opportunity for us to make some more good contacts with agencies as well as being able to tour the site and see just how things work for the companions that reside there.

At Wilmott Dixon construction Ltd they are currently partnering with JTL Training to deliver an 8-week construction traineeship for young people aged 16 to 18 who live in Luton, Dunstable, and Central Beds and want to know more about the opportunities and career pathways within the construction industry. They have projects at the L&D hospital, Chiltern Vale project in Dunstable and at Wixams in Bedford. We have further meetings set up to discuss how we can develop these opportunities for our clients.

Nicky attended a meeting with Helen Jenkins who is the Partnership and Integration Manager at Jobs 22, they are running the government Restart Employment Scheme in Bedfordshire & Bucks. Helen secures partners for wraparound support services to help address some of the barriers that their participants have to the job market this could be Health, Mental Health, Disabilities, Ex-offenders etc. They run the restart program where people who have been working with the job Centre for 12-18 months can sign up to the program (which is up to 12 months long). Jobs22 will also be attending our forums.

## CASE STUDY

\*All names have been changed for confidentiality\*

Client X was referred into our services due to wanting to go back into education and training, unfortunately the course he wanted to enroll in had a high entry level, which he was unable to meet, this left client X very deflated and unmotivated with no drive. Whilst supporting client X we were able to motivate him to explore different opportunities and client X is now keen to enroll within a volunteering sector.

## We're Recruiting!

YouTurn have a vacancy available for a Business Manager / Executive Assistant, please see [We're Recruiting! – Welcome to YouTurn Futures](#) for more details.

*'You have really made me think outside of the box.'*

Direction Service User

*'I really thank you a hell of a lot!'*

Conditional caution service user

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# YouTurn

Restore, Reform & Reintegrate



YouTurn, through Direction, help Bedfordshire Police deliver Conditional Cautions and Community Resolutions as Out of Court Disposals by offering one to one support for offenders.



**Festus Akinbusoye** • 1st  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire  
56m • 🇳🇮

Thanks to the team at Directions4Bedfordshire for the update on some of the work funded by my office around Out of Court Disposals and preventing re-offending. 45 referrals and no re-offending so far.

We will be intensifying our effort on referrals from [Bedfordshire Police](#) as part of commitment to not only cut crime, but also tackle the causes of crime in our county. 🙌



## Service Shout Out!



Are you worried about your home energy? Better Housing Better Health is a charity now working in Central Bedfordshire to improve your domestic well-being and help you save money. Whether it's switching energy suppliers to get the best deal, help in accessing financial support, free LED light bulbs and other energy saving measures or signing up to the priority services register, BHBH are here to help. Call their FREE helpline on 0800 107 0044 to speak to one of their expert team or refer online at <https://bit.ly/3APvkYG>.

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](mailto: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.

