

# Newsletter



# Direction for Bedfordshire

## December 2021

### 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: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022,  
2-3:30pm via Zoom

North Forum: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022,  
10 -11:30 am via Zoom

Please promote the forums amongst your team, wider network, and anyone you feel would benefit from attending! Please get in touch with us if you would like an invite.

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 November and looking forward to December.

Direction for Bedfordshire: Emma Freeman, Tommy McCollin, Nicky Stewart, Olivia Ingle & Sharon Simpson

Direction for Bedfordshire are in the process of collating details of services opening hours over the Christmas period and what they can offer, if you would like us to update your service times on our website, please let us know! We will also share on twitter and Facebook!

Bed:Safe Pubwatch has teamed up with Direction for Bedfordshire to further make the Night Time Economy in Bedford a safer place for customers and staff. Following the success of BedSafe in gaining a National Pubwatch award, the venues in Bedford have initiated a project to reduce further violence by linking with the Direction service provided by YouTurn Futures to offer rehabilitation services to those banned from pubs and clubs in the town centre.

We attended the monthly BRCC Community Drop-In session at Christ the King Church Hall, Harrowden Road, Bedford, MK42 0SP – we will be there as well as other services such as Citizens Advice and Social Prescribing. The next one will be on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 10am-12pm. This drop in will be running every month on the first Thursday of the month. Last time we were able to get one of our clients signed up for a course with NOAH and this face-to-face contact has a real benefit for lots of people who need to engage with services. There is no need to book, just come along for a warm welcome, a chat and a hot drink.

At our last networking forum, BRCC had some positive news about a brand-new service to help people to access the internet via smart devices. Through our referrals it is often clear to see how important digital inclusion is for people to access services and it is great to hear that BRCC are planning to recruit volunteers in local communities to become digital champions to support those who need a bit of help.

We can provide more drop-in sessions across Bedfordshire so if you are interested in joining us to set something up or for us to come and meet your clients face to face please get in touch.

*As another year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.*

# We're Recruiting!

You Turn have a vacancy available for a Performance Analyst- 12 month Maternity Cover [We're Recruiting! – Welcome to YouTurn Futures](#) for more details.



**THANKYOU** to Barratts Home for donating £1000 to YouTurn to help us support offenders.

**Community Resolution service user:** "I found the Cannabis Awareness Programme really useful. It was a real eye-opener."

Thanks for another brilliant networking call last week- so helpful!  
**Retrack**

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# YouTurn

Restore, Reform & Reintegrate



## CASE STUDIES

\*All names have been changed for confidentiality\*

John was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. We worked jointly with CGL Resolutions in Luton, completing a conditional caution. They were able to support him, and he is now sober. John is continuing to do well and engage with services. He states he has found it useful to have a contact he can call when he is worried, he might start drinking again.

Alfie was referred to us via a Community Resolution (CR) having been caught in possession of cannabis. After a short telephone conversation with Alfie, we agreed that he would complete a Cannabis Awareness Program that helps people to understand the impact and long-term effects of using cannabis. Alfie felt the program had helped him to recognise his motivations better and put in place strategies to help him to break his habit and generally adopt a healthier lifestyle.

## Service Shout Out!

Horizons have been commissioned to deliver some Free workplace training regarding domestic abuse and want to share this fantastic opportunity with you. The new Domestic Abuse Bill is being rolled out and there is an emphasis on workplaces supporting those employees that may be experiencing domestic abuse.



They are delivering free training to organisations and workplaces across Bedford and Central Beds. It's a 3-hour one off workshop and following completion you will receive certificates and a window sticker for your organisation classing you as a "Safe Space in the workplace" You can also be featured on our website that will have all the local organisations that have taken part. This training can be for staff members and managers depending on your wishes. Contact [ali.garner@ecpbedford.org](mailto:ali.garner@ecpbedford.org) for more information.

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 email –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.

