

Newsletter

January 2021



Direction
for Bedfordshire

What is Direction for Bedfordshire?

Direction for Bedfordshire is a service originally commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner. It was developed to provide a 'one stop shop' approach for professionals and service users to get guidance on how to access the myriad of services available across the county to help rehabilitate and make a positive contribution to our communities.

As a charity, YouTurn Futures has grown this service by sourcing additional funding from 2 members of staff in 2019, to 5 now in 2022.

We have also broadened the reach of Direction to also include delivering Conditional Cautions and Community Resolution interventions for Bedfordshire Police and Supported Pathways for Central Bedfordshire and Luton to help young people 16-25 years of age to be supported away from a life of gangs and crime.

At the heart of our service is still the website:

www.directionforbedfordshire.co.uk

& our Freephone number 0800 917 5579

We also pride ourselves in networking professionals through the online forums:

South Forum: 24th February 2022, 2pm

North Forum: 8th February 2022, 10am
both via Microsoft Teams.

In this newsletter we will also explain what else YouTurn Futures delivers.

At the core of Direction for Bedfordshire are our coordinators:

North of County: Emma Freeman & Olivia Ingle

South of County: Tommy McCollin, Nicky Stewart, & Sharon Simpson

Contact any of our staff: name.surname@youturnfutures.com

Or info@directionforbedfordshire.co.uk

Direction for Bedfordshire would like to give you a warm, welcome back after the Christmas period.

While we are really keen to try and get back to face to face engagement with our partners and service users we will be still working remotely as much as possible during January. Our ambition for the spring is to get back to dropping into partners and engaging face to face.

Direction, along with Community Led Initiatives and DWP, has been working for some time now with the Resettlement Team at HMP Bedford to help residents leaving the prison make a positive change in their life post release. While there was a COVID outbreak at the prison, just before Xmas, this now appears to have been resolved and face to face meetings are starting to resume.

In September last year Bedfordshire Police relaunched their out of court disposal scheme. Direction is integral to the scheme by delivering interventions for Conditional Cautions and Community Resolutions.

Community Resolutions have particularly taken off. We have recently gone over our 100th Community Resolution referral which far exceeded our expectations but clearly shows the need for this service. Around 1/3 of all these referrals take up our offer and engage with Direction.

We have delivered over 50 Conditional Cautions too. Bedfordshire Police recently reported back to us that none of our service users have gone on to commit any further offences. Something we are proud of.

In December we attended the monthly drop-in session run by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity at Christ the King Church in Bedford. Unfortunately, this session is suspended in January due to increasing COVID infections. We will update you as soon as we are able to restart this drop in - please keep an eye on our social media for updates.

Case Studies

Jessica had disclosed to her Probation officer that she was having sex with men for money to fund her drug addiction. There are no specific services available who offer support for women caught up in sex trafficking, but we contacted our much-valued friends Azalea who agreed to help by offering her some advice remotely despite her residing outside of their normal area. Thank you to Azalea for stepping up and being so helpful, I'm sure the support is much appreciated.

Dennis was being released from prison and had mentioned to his resettlement worker that he was interested in getting a CSCS card and gaining employment in the construction industry. His resettlement worker got in touch with us, and we were able to advise them about the face-to-face CSCS course offered in Bedford by the Job Centre, which takes place every few weeks in central Bedford. We also offered to support with other services available to him locally to find employment and asked the resettlement worker to put his probation officer in touch with us to also offer support with housing as he was being released

[Direction for Bedfordshire](#)

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What else does YouTurn Futures do?

Launched in 2014, YouTurn Futures is an exciting, innovative charity that aims to reduce reoffending and crime, combat anti-social behaviour and promote social inclusion.

We have now grown to 12 members of staff and our work has developed from a strategic response to delivering services directly to those we try to help.

As well as our front-line services that include Direction for Bedfordshire and Out of Court Disposals such as Conditional Cautioning and Community Resolutions, we also have other strands to our core business.

We provide coordination and management, as well as business administration and support for various partners across Bedfordshire. This includes the areas of Integrated Offender Management, Child Exploitation, Serious Youth Violence.

In the coming months we plan to highlight each of our valued staff and let you know what they do in their role, and we hope you enjoy hearing more about each of the You Turn Team!

Service Shout Out!

The EBONISTA Project

A Luton based service offering emotional and practical support to women and children who have been subjected to domestic abuse. We welcome women of any background to our service and have a strong focus on reaching women from the Black African and Caribbean community who may have experienced barriers accessing support due to systemic racism and a lack of cultural understanding in our society. Ebonista is led by a team of Black women who have lived and professional experience driving our passion and commitment to support others.

Ebonista launched in April 2021 and has a dedicated

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.



YouTurn
Restore, Reform & Reintegrate