

Newsletter

February 2022



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, which are next being held:

South Forum: 24th March 2022, 2pm

North Forum: 9th March 2022, 10am via Microsoft Teams.

Please get in touch for the Teams link.

In this newsletter we will also explain what

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

We attended the BPHA Community Engagement Support Group which is a fantastic opportunity to engage with BPHA who offer a great deal of housing in the Bedford area and are doing a lot of work to improve community engagement and work in partnership with other agencies such as Direction for Bedfordshire. The meeting was well attended by Council representatives as well as other community services. We were interested to hear from Beds Fire Service about their Home Safety checks and they are looking for volunteers to assist and ensure they can complete more of these vital checks.

We attended a meeting with JTL Traineeship who provide training for Wilmott Dixon alongside Luton Youth Offending Services. Together we were able to put forward 14 people. They will be taking part in an 8-week Traineeship programme in general construction. We are also supporting 5 of the young people who are accessing our supported pathway in Central Bedfordshire and Luton to engage with this programme. We are going to support the clients at the site prior to the taster day to ensure a better engagement and breakdown of barriers. We are working closely with these services, and this has been a brilliant networking opportunity for us. We are looking forward to being able to work with Bedford Youth Offending Services soon to bring this opportunity to clients in Bedford also. If this is something you feel as though could help your clients, please get in touch and we can provide more details.

Each quarter YouTurn coordinates a forum for all the staff from partners involved in delivering Integrated Offender Management. In January, Neill Waring led this online meeting that was very well attended. The forum discussed how the new IOM Strategy has been implemented: the new referral form [Referral Forms – Welcome to YouTurn Futures](#); and, the Probation led EMS Tagging project. If any of our partners wish to know about IOM or can add into the scheme, then please contact neill.waring@youturnfutures.com. We hope that future forums will be in person again to help the networking that drives IOM business.

We are starting to do drop-in sessions again; if this is something you feel would be beneficial to yourselves and clients please get in touch.

Case Studies

Ben has been working with Direction for 5 months now on and off; Ben is disabled and has struggled to find something for him to do which motivates him and excites him to progress. He has always been interested in Music Production but unfortunately due to lack of qualifications this is something he cannot enroll in college with. We were able to let him know about the fantastic Outreach Music Group which offers a free 10-week programme offering training in many aspects of Music production which he has enrolled in, and we look forward to catching up with him to see how it went.

Luke came to Direction after struggling to engage in work or training after being released from prison. Luke was able to get support from Direction and given multiple job vacancies he was interested in to give him a choice of what to apply to, we also supported Luke with what he needed to say to his employer around his GPS tag. Direction was able to support Luke with photo ID also and he has been accepted in work and making positive life changes.

[Direction for Bedfordshire](#)

Phone: 0800 917 5579

Email:

info@directionforbedfordshire.uk

www.directionforbedfordshire.co.uk

Twitter: @Direction4Beds

<https://twitter.com/Direction4Beds>

Getting to know the team!

YouTurn Futures is growing, and we have decided to dedicate this section each month to a different team member for you to get to know a bit about what we all do.

Stuart Smith, Director.

I am delighted to be asked to complete the first of our new regular series of YouTurn team pen pictures.

As the Director of YouTurn my role is to work with the charity trustees to set the strategic direction for YouTurn. It is an interesting and rewarding role which involves identifying new services, managing budgets, supporting team members in their work and in overall terms making sure that YouTurn delivers effective services for those that need them.

The most satisfying part of my job is seeing the difference YouTurn can make to an individual's life. That could be by helping a prison leaver find a job, a young person leaving home with an uncertain future find suitable accommodation or help a drug user access the services they need. It all helps to make Bedfordshire a safer place to live.

When not working I try and push back the years by getting out on my bike or playing 5 a side football.

Service Shout Out!

The BRDIGE Project

The BRDIGE Project offers a 33-week Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme to men and women in Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, and Luton.

They aim to identify, challenge, and address abusive behaviours and patterns in relationships.

Individuals referred into the programme need to have a level of insight and willingness to change.

They accept referrals from professionals and self-referrals. Bedford and Central Bedfordshire referrals: bridgeproject@ecpbedford.org Luton referrals: bridgeproject@oneymca.org

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.

