

Newsletter

April 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: 28th April 2022, 2pm

North Forum: 5th April 2022, 10:30am via Microsoft Teams.

Please get in touch for the Teams link.

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

After a great deal of planning, a collaborative event was held with Att1otive at Putteridge High School promoting teen safety. Topics such as bullying, online safety, exploitation were all covered. A multitude of agencies attended to deliver an insight into their roles in the community and their accessibility to young people as well as special guests from the Police, Youth Offending Service and even the Police and Crime Commissioner himself for a Question-and-Answer session. Overall, the event was a great success and kudos to Att1otive and their youth ambassadors for speaking so confidently and allowing us to join them for the event.

We have met with Mary Seacole who are a housing provider. They also provide youth support, activities, mentoring and group support sessions. We are in conversation on the best way we can work together and support them to utilise the Intervention Hub. Mary Seacole is also helping support Bedford Prison for residents on release to ensure they are housed.

This month we met with Jobs22 who are commissioned to provide the Restart scheme for the DWP. They will be working with anyone who has been claiming Universal Credit for 9 months or more, offering tailored support into sustainable employment. We look forward to working together to support our joint clients and will be linking Jobs22 with relevant partner agencies that we work with.

Direction for Bedfordshire attended the Safer Streets event at St Augustine's Academy in Dunstable on Saturday 19th March 2022. It was a lovely sunny day, and the event attracted a lot of visitors – follow the [link](#) to some photos from the event. It was useful to meet up with some of partner organisations at the event and a great opportunity to raise the profile the signposting services we provide to those attending.

Case Studies

Derek* was referred to us for support with managing his money. He lives alone and was struggling to pay off debts that he had only been told about on his release from prison. We advised that he should not have been charged Council Tax whilst he was in prison and supported him with trying to get that debt resolved. We also referred him to Better Housing Better Health who were able to offer him support regarding his energy bills and how to deal with a debt with his energy company. Derek* was signposted to Citizens Advice and Debtline to help him. The next steps for Derek* will be to engage with a Money Matters course to learn how he can make his money stretch a little further.

Jayden's* probation officer wanted to know if there is any funding for gym memberships in Luton for him to improve his health and wellbeing. We were able to signpost to Active Luton who provide free gym sessions to people on referral from their GP and have a scheme called Go4Less which is low-cost gym sessions for people who are claiming benefits.

**Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.*

[Direction for Bedfordshire](#)

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<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.

Nicky Stewart, Direction Hub Coordinator.

As a Direction Coordinator, I work on a variety of different aspects helping marginalised people. This involves Supported Pathway referrals that support young people from 16-24 years old in the Luton area. This work allows me to work more intensively with young people that are harder to reach and have barriers to engaging with services. I have helped find educational and training pathways, as well as providing training and input for a variety of different needs young people have. This support I truly feel helps guide young people away from other less constructive options, helping them lead a happier life. I also support with Direction referrals; I help to find the most relevant and useful course of action for them or another supporting agency which I can refer the person to. Within YouTurn Futures I also work with the Youth Offending Service and attend the Multi Agency Gang Panel to help young people at risk of being exploited by Organized Crime Groups. I enjoy working at HMP Bedford, again trying to support people with different obstacles prior to leaving prison, that helps make their transition easier and hopefully more successful.

As a mother I take pride in spending many evenings watching my son at football training and being shown different skills, and to improve my own very basic football skills!

Service Shout Out!

Project CATE started out as a 12-month pilot service launched in April 2021 to provide a specialist women's outreach service in Bedfordshire to work with wider partners as part of the Conditional Caution Pathway. Penrose have been successful in securing another year's funding for the project from the PCC.

The service supports women with complex needs, including offending history, drug and alcohol dependencies and exposure to all forms of violence, control, and coercion, including domestic abuse. Between April 21 -Dec 21, Project CATE supported 72 women across Bedfordshire.

CATE provides a dedicated Specialist Women's Support Coordinator who offers trauma-informed wraparound support coordination in a consistent person-centered approach, receiving referrals from agencies and community partners.

For more information about Penrose services in Bedfordshire, please contact Head of Services emmeline.irvine@penrose.org.uk and for information and referrals to the CATE Project, please contact Service Manager patricia.medford@denrose.org.uk or via Luton Penrose on 01582 343230

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.

