

# Newsletter

## March 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](http://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: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 2pm**

**North Forum: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 10am 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](mailto:name.surname@youturnfutures.com)

Or [info@directionforbedfordshire.co.uk](mailto:info@directionforbedfordshire.co.uk)

This month we caught up with Poets In who a Creative Mental Health charity; they had some good news that they are going to be working with the East of England Probation to offer their programme to service users. They provide a range of bespoke and tailored mental health services that focus on utilising creativity at the core. The specialised programme uses various creative mediums to reduce the symptoms and impact of mental illness, whilst improving the mental wellbeing of participants.

This month we were invited to attend the Liaison & Diversion Team meeting, the Reconnect team was also present. We were able to share with them what we do and hear about the services they provide. This was a great networking opportunity for us, and we have already been able to joint work with them to support a service user together. The Liaison and Diversion Team work at Luton and Kempston police custody and Bedfordshire Magistrates' Courts. They offer screening and triage services to vulnerable adults who are going through the criminal justice process. There positive outcomes can include liaison with and referrals to other support agencies and diversion away from the criminal justice system, e.g. Under the Mental Health Act. The Reconnect Service is for people coming out of prison (HMP Bedford and HMP Peterborough). It is a new pilot project and is part of the National project to improve health outcomes for people released from prison. We look forward to continuing to work together with them and develop links for all.

We are pleased to announce that we have 2 new members of staff, we know you will join us in welcoming Teri and Stephanie to the Youturn Team, Stephanie will be assisting the Charity with Performance Analysis and Teri is our HR and Business Manager. They will both be a great addition to our team as we hope to expand and develop.

We are working on plans to offer a safe space for our clients to meet with us and offer some drop-in sessions. Please get in contact if you would like to collaborate to set something up or like us to come to speak to your own clients or offer a drop in for them. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Case Studies

We have been working with Vincent for a while and he is keen to find work. He had a meeting with the Job Centre who referred him for an SIA course to try and get into the security industry, however with the type of conviction and lengthy sentence that he has served, we were able to advise him that he would not pass the DBS check for the SIA for working in that industry. We were supportive to Vincent and he was grateful for us to prevent him from wasting his time, and we were then able to help him into a different construction industry course that he is interested in instead and liaised with his work coach to ensure that he could get enrolled as soon as possible.

Michael was released from prison recently and is a recovering addict but has come out clean and on a script. Michael realised himself that he needs to keep busy to eliminate temptations to try and stay out of prison so asked for some guidance with this. We have been able to refer him onto a service whose purpose is supporting ex-offenders to resettle successfully onto the local community and not reoffend. We recognised the importance of the need to work quickly with other supporting services together to ensure we were able to keep Michael motivated in engaging with these positive life changes.

**[Direction for Bedfordshire](#)**

**Phone: 0800 917 5579**

**Email:**

**[info@directionforbedfordshire.uk](mailto:info@directionforbedfordshire.uk)**

**[www.directionforbedfordshire.co.uk](http://www.directionforbedfordshire.co.uk)**

**Twitter: @Direction4Beds**

**[https://twitter.com/](https://twitter.com/Direction4Beds)**

**[Direction4Beds](#)**

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.

## 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.*

### **Tommy McCollin, Direction Hub Coordinator.**

As a Direction Coordinator, my role is to help people get their lives back on track and support them by finding the right agency to help them achieve the best outcome. I also work closely with HMP Bedford, attending their Discharge Board meetings and Departure lounge so early help can be offered to the people leaving prison. Another facet of my role within the wider YouTurn Futures organisation is to work alongside Luton Youth Offending Service and attend the MAGPan (Multi-Agency Gang Panel) to identify and support 17-year-olds who are at risk of exploitation by organised crime gangs. I do this by mentoring, identifying suitable ETE and helping them get away from offending behavior.

In my personal life I coach rugby, and against my body's wishes play as much as I can (which I always pay for in the morning), being bullied by my 2 dogs is also a regular occurrence. As father I spend as much time as I can seeing my 2 sons and helping my youngest son lead his best possible life and cope with a life with Tourette's syndrome and raise awareness of the difficulties of living with this and ASD.

*Email: [tommy.mccollin@youturnfutures.com](mailto:tommy.mccollin@youturnfutures.com)*

## Service Shout Out!

### **Att1otive**

Att1otive work with communities, schools, colleges, and youth groups across Bedfordshire. We aim is to bring communities together. We work to build partnerships and facilitate networking events (in person). We always have opportunities for organisations to engage. If you would like to work in partnership to problem-solve and your themes are either educational, social justice, health and wellbeing or equality, diversity and inclusion please contact us to arrange a TEAMS meeting. In addition, we have a radio show which goes out on a Wednesday to a young audience which talks about issues important to them. The coverage is county wide. If you would like to appear on the radio show, please contact us on-

*[Att1otive@gmail.com](mailto:Att1otive@gmail.com)*

