

Newsletter

July 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 holding online networking forums which have been well attended since they started 2 years ago. These forums are held on Teams. If you would like to attend and find out more about local support agencies, and how we can all work together to help our service users and clients then please just contact us to request and invite:

South Forum: 28th July, 2-3.30pm

North Forum: 26th July, 10-11.30am

Please note there will be no Forum in August.

We plan to hold another in person forum later in the year.

At the core of Direction for Bedfordshire are our coordinators:

North of County: Emma Freeman & Olivia Ingle

South of County: Nicky Stewart, & Sharon Simpson

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

Or info@directionforbedfordshire.co.uk

Following the success of our online forums we held our first face-to-face networking forum since covid; this was well attended and it was great for the team to finally be able to put names to faces and also meet some new faces too. With thanks to Festus Akinbusoye, Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner for supporting us and speaking at the event. Any feedback from those who attended would be welcomed. We would like to thank everyone who came and we are sure this is just the beginning! Please keep an eye on our social media platforms for footage from the day.

We also attended the Summer Chamber of Commerce event at Marston Vale. We have recently joined the Chamber of Commerce and so this was the first time we were involved, and we will look forward to attending future events. During the event we were able to network with lots of different organisations from colleges to recruitment agencies and many more. The event was well attended, and it was great to meet people face to face from some of the agencies who we have worked closely with and who attend our networking forum as well as some businesses so that we could advocate for our clients by encouraging them to consider taking on ex-offenders as employees.

We are delighted to let you know that we have just taken on an intern to support us. Arriana was introduced to us by Montel from A1t1otive and is already supporting us with the use of our social media. She has also introduced us to the world of 'Instagram' so please give us a follow on 'Youturn Futures', we would also like to welcome Olivia and Lucy to our team who will be supporting us with Analytical data. Our team is growing, and we are delighted to say how well everyone is adapting to this to ensure better opportunities and support is given to our service users.

This month, Tommy left his position at Youturn Futures and we wish him all the best in his new role. We are now recruiting and once again building on our talent pool. We are always looking to speak to individuals with experience (including lived experience) of the criminal justice and social welfare sectors, that are looking for a career in supporting marginalized and vulnerable adults. If you want to find out more about the work we do and the people we support please contact Teri.parish@youturnfutures.com for a confidential and informal chat.

Lloyds Bank kindly granted us some funds last year and with this we were given some marketing consultancy support which helped us to develop a new marketing video which we have now uploaded to our new YouTube account. Please find it here: <https://youtu.be/vg2Tg52-b4>

Case Study

*Mike was referred into us from probation after being released from prison. Mike was struggling to stay motivated whilst looking for a job. We were able to attend a Job Centre Plus meeting with Mike and provide him with Photo ID which he needed for applying for work. We spoke to Mike thoroughly about what to expect from the interview, what to wear and help him to think about questions to ask at his interview to ensure he was applying for a job which suited his capability and interest. Mike was very grateful for the kindness and patience we had with him and remarked that it was nice that we didn't 'give up' on him. Mike is now working full time and enjoying the job he does which is brilliant news.

**Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.*

Direction for Bedfordshire

Phone: 0800 917 5579

Email:

info@directionforbedfordshire.uk

www.directionforbedfordshire.co.uk

Twitter: @Direction4Beds

<https://twitter.com/Direction4Beds>

Facebook: @direction4beds

www.facebook.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.

Olivia Ingle, Caseworker for YouTurn.

My role as a Direction Caseworker is to help and support people with different aspects that they may be struggling with, this could be anything from looking into work, education, housing, and many other support agencies to try and help them. I also support the Bedford BID Pubwatch Scheme attending monthly meetings and completing interventions with some of the people who have been banned from pubs and clubs in the town, to try and minimize this happening again for themselves and reduce the impact on the community. I also support the team with Community Resolutions and am looking forward to completing some Conditional Cautions too. I gain a lot of knowledge and experience from my colleagues and don't think there has been a team meeting which I haven't learnt something new in yet!

In my personal life I enjoy spending quality time with my daughter. I look forward to the big break in the summer and deciding what we are going to do on the day, sometimes we pack up the car and go the seaside and other times we just do arts and crafts at home; she gives me great joy.

Service Shout Out!

Healthwatch Luton

Whether it's improving them today or helping to shape them for tomorrow, Healthwatch Luton is all about local voices being able to influence the delivery and design of local services.

Healthwatch is the independent champion for people who use health and social care services. We make sure that those who run the services put people at the heart of care. We have a statutory role to represent the views of patients and this gives us the power to make your voices heard. Whether it's good or bad, we want to hear your experiences of health and social care services in Luton. It could be about hospital visits or appointments with the doctor, dentist and optician, or your experience of residential care, services for mental health issues, home care, and more.

You can call us on 01582 817060 or email info@healthwatchluton.co.uk. You can also share your experiences at our listening events, which are monthly online discussions (with a phone-in option also available) centred around different topics.

More information here: <https://www.healthwatchluton.co.uk/listening-events/>

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