

Newsletter

August 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:

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

This month, some of the Direction team attended another webinar run by JustUs (homeless advocacy service). It was great to learn more and get up to date advice to help improve our service when supporting people with homelessness applications to local authorities. Thank you to JustUs for continuing to provide such informative and insightful training sessions.

We have been able to secure some funded places for young people to complete their CSCS course and obtain their card to be able to work on construction sites. Often, funded places are for adults only so when we offered one of these places to a 17-year-old Supported Pathway service user, we were delighted that he passed his CSCS test, and we can now help him move into employment and hopefully an apprenticeship longer term.

Here at YouTurn Futures we are currently looking to recruit a Caseworker and a Mental Health Peer Support Worker to join our fabulous team. If you know someone that might be a good fit for us, please ask them to contact our HR Manager Teri Parish at teri.parish@youturnfutures.com for an informal and confidential chat.

Luton Youth Partnership: Neill attended a Luton Youth Partnership Service Meeting of all the staff now making up the YPS. We agreed with the staff to try and support 17-18 year old who were transitioning from the YPS into adult services where they were at risk of being influenced by gangs. This is a similar approach to one that we have been working with Central Bedfordshire Council, and extends our work aligned to the Multi Agency Gang Panel in Luton of diverting these young people away from this type of crime and anti-social behaviour.

This term Challney Girls School in Luton adopted YouTurn Futures as a charity and raised £175! Neill had a great time accepting the cheque and meeting Miss Burke and pupils.



Case Study

We have recently supported a young person who is on our Supported Pathway to find new accommodation. Having been evicted and initially turned down by the local authority for housing, we advocated for her and managed to secure appropriate housing with more support for her to be able to move forward and engage with services. Emma helped her to move, and we funded some essentials for her to get settled in. We hope that this is a positive move for her and will be continuing to offer her support on the next chapter in her life.

**Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.*

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.

Emma Freeman, Caseworker for YouTurn.

I joined YouTurn in March 2020; I was previously a Police Officer for 16 years so joining the Charity sector was a big decision for me but one that I was really pleased to be able to make. Since joining the Direction team our work has grown hugely and I have learnt a lot along the way about providing this kind of support service. The thing I enjoy most is having the engagement with people who commit criminal offences to really understand why that has happened and help them to identify what can be done for them to move forward positively. It is so clear to me that people don't generally choose to get into trouble, there are always reasons whether it be childhood trauma, something that has happened, or a lifestyle choice that leads them to make those decisions.

I've also enjoyed seeing the results of working with some young people more intensively under our Supported Pathway – helping them to change their mindset is really rewarding. One young person has gone from believing he was going to end up in prison and not caring if he did, to walking away from fights and having a really positive outlook on life. I was so pleased to hear him reflect on the changes he has made and that makes it all worthwhile.

Outside of work I enjoy walking my dog, going for a paddle out on the river, camping in the summer and snowboarding in the winter!

YouTurn are going to the Social Media side of life...

Within the next couple of weeks, the YouTurn newsletter will be transitioned to our social media platforms. We will continue to e-mail it out for the next month; however, we greatly encourage you to check out our social media platforms:

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA:



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www.directionforbedfordshire.co.uk

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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