

Bedfordshire Advice Forum

Promoting and supporting advice and information services in Bedfordshire

About BAF

Bedfordshire Advice Forum is the network of social welfare information and advice providers in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire. All members of BAF are not-for-profit organisations from the voluntary and public sectors that provide advice or information on civil legal matters.

Aims of BAF

- to promote and support the provision of social welfare advice and information services in Bedfordshire
- to provide a forum for exchanging information on the provision, gaps and resource requirements of advice and information services in Bedfordshire
- to deliver and support training, in collaboration with BAF member agencies
- to seek funding for projects to develop advice services relevant to local needs

Annual Report 2015-2016

Our Activities

Bedfordshire Advice Forum has been involved in a number of initiatives over the past year, including:

- Facilitating Forum Meetings for BAF members to network and discuss the issues affecting their service users, and receive presentations from different organisations.
- Leading the Bedfordshire Benefit Network, bringing together agencies to discuss the specific issues relating to benefits, such as Universal Credit and Disability benefits.
- Facilitating the Central Bedfordshire Advice Planning Board and overseeing the refresh of the Advice Strategy, with financial support from Central Bedfordshire Council.
- Arranging briefings on Universal Credit for advisors and other local organisations.
- Working in partnership with the Voluntaryworks Consortium and developing the Building Better Opportunities project.

Bedfordshire Advice Directory

The online Directory, provides an opportunity for BAF members to publicise their agencies and their services.

The Directory also has links to other useful advice-related websites and contacts. The Directory is regularly updated.

www.bedsadvisedirectory.org.uk

BAF Website

Documents from BAF's meetings, training courses and projects can be found on the BAF website. There are also links between the BAF website and the online Advice Directory.

Thanks to David Wood for maintaining the website during 2015-16.

www.bedsadviceforum.org.uk



Advice Bedfordshire

Advice Bedfordshire is BAF's trading company.

The company, which is a community interest company, oversees all of BAF's projects and trading activities

Contact BAF

For more information on the work of BAF contact:

Email: baf@cvsbeds.org.uk

Website: www.bedsadviceforum.org.uk

Age UK Bedfordshire
Amicus Trust
Aragon Housing Association
Autism Bedfordshire
Asian Women Foundation
Bedford Citizens Advice Bureau
Bedford Borough Council - Business Support Unit
Bedford Borough Libraries
Bedford Community Self-Help Group
Bedford Credit Union Ltd
Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity
bpha - Money Advice Team
BRASS
Carers in Bedfordshire
Central Bedfordshire Council - Libraries
Citizens Advice Dunstable
Citizens Advice Leighton-Linslade
Citizens Advice Mid Bedfordshire
Disability Resource Centre
Hospice at Home Volunteers
Langley House Trust
Luton Law Centre
Money Advice at St Andrews
PoHwer
Polish-British Integration Centre Ltd
Richmond Fellowship Bedfordshire
Rutland Road Church
Sight Concern Bedfordshire
SSAFA Forces Help
St Mark's Church
Tax Help for Older People
The Harpur Trust
The Learning Partnership
The Salvation Army
Voluntary and Community Action

BAF Steering Group 2015/16

The Steering Group is elected at the AGM and normally meets three times a year to plan and oversee BAF's work. The members of the Steering Group in 2015/16 were:

David Verney (Chair)
Brian Cunningham (Deputy Chair)
Annette Pacey (Treasurer)
Elliot Stephenson
Paulette Rennie
Jason Tsiricos
Advice Bedfordshire
BRASS
BPHA - Money Advice
Aragon Housing Association
Bedford Community Self-help Group
Polish British Integration Centre

Bedfordshire Advice Forum is supported by:



Community
Voluntary Service
Strengthening local social action