Promoting and supporting advice and information services in Bedfordshire

## Annual Report 2020-2021

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.

## BAF aims to:

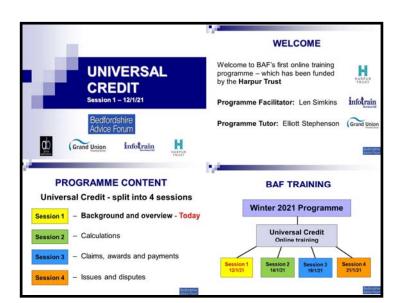
- Promote and support the provision of social welfare advice and information services in Bedfordshire.
- Provide a forum for exchanging information on the provision, gaps and resource requirements of advice and information services in Bedfordshire.
- Deliver and support training, in collaboration with BAF member agencies.

## Our activities this year:

Bedfordshire Advice Forum currently has 24 member organisations from across the voluntary and public sectors.

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

- Facilitating four online forum meetings for BAF members to network and discuss the issues affecting their service users. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has remained the dominant theme throughout the year, with organisations sharing how they have adapted services to keep staff, volunteers and service users safe.
- Leading the **Bedfordshire Benefit Network**, bringing together BAF members, the DWP and the Housing Benefit offices from Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council,
- to discuss the specific issues relating to benefits, such as Universal Credit and disability benefits. Four online Benefit Network meetings were arranged in 2020/21
- Facilitating the **Central Bedfordshire Advice Strategy Management Group** and overseeing the Delivery Plan for the **Advice Strategy**, with financial support from Central Bedfordshire Council.
- Arranging two online training programmes on Universal Credit for local advisors, thanks to funding from the Harpur Trust.



# **Bedfordshire Advice Forum**

Promoting and supporting advice and information services in Bedfordshire

#### **BAF Website**

Documents from BAF's meetings, training courses and projects can all be found at:

#### 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.



### Financial Summary 2020-21

Opening Balance:	£2,003
Income	
Grant Income BAF Membership Fees Project Management Fees Other Income - Donation <b>Total Income</b>	1,000 865 300 755 <b>£2,920</b>
Expenditure	
BAF Facilitation Fees BBN Facilitation Fees <b>Total Expenditure</b>	1,700 750 <b>£2,450</b>
Profit/loss	£470
Closing Balance:	£ 2,473

#### **Contact BAF**

For more information on the work of BAF, email:

baf@cvsbeds.org.uk

Bedfordshire Advice Forum is supported by:







Community Voluntary Service Strengthening local social action