

# Bedfordshire Advice Forum

Promoting and supporting advice and information services in Bedfordshire

## Annual Report 2016-2017

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.
- Seek funding for projects to develop advice services relevant to local needs.

### Our activities this year

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 Strategy Management Group** and overseeing the refresh of the **Advice Strategy**, with financial support from Central Bedfordshire Council.
- Arranging training courses and briefings on range of subjects including benefits, welfare reform and Universal Credit.
- Working in partnership with the **Voluntaryworks Consortium** and developing the Building Better Opportunities project.

**Bedfordshire  
Advice Forum  
is made up of 30 member  
organisations from across  
the voluntary and public  
sectors.**

### Financial Summary 2016-17

<b>Opening Balance:</b>	<b>1,567.83</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Grant Income	1,000.00
Membership Fees	1,005.00
Management Fees	854.25
Other income	17.71
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£2,876.96</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Meeting Facilitation Fees	2,000.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£2,000.00</b>
<b>Profit/loss</b>	<b>£ 876.96</b>
<b>Closing Balance:</b>	<b>£ 2,444.79</b>

# Bedfordshire Advice Forum

Promoting and supporting advice and information services in Bedfordshire

## BAF celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017!

### 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.

[www.bedsadvisedirectory.org.uk](http://www.bedsadvisedirectory.org.uk)

### BAF Website

Documents from BAF's meetings, training courses and projects can be found on the BAF website - [www.bedsadviceforum.org.uk](http://www.bedsadviceforum.org.uk) There are also links between the BAF website and the online advice directory.

Thanks to David Wood for maintaining the website during 2016-17.

### 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 email [baf@cvsbeds.org.uk](mailto:baf@cvsbeds.org.uk)

### Members of Bedfordshire Advice Forum

Age UK Bedfordshire  
Aldwyck Housing Group  
Amicus Trust  
Aragon Housing Association  
Autism Bedfordshire  
Bedford Borough Council - Libraries  
Bedford Citizens Housing Association  
Bedford Credit Union Ltd  
Bedford Foodbank  
bpha - Money Advice Team  
BRASS  
Carers in Bedfordshire  
CBC - Macmillan Welfare Rights Adviser  
Citizens Advice Bedford  
Citizens Advice Dunstable  
Citizens Advice Mid Bedfordshire  
Community Voluntary Service (CVS)  
Hospice at Home Volunteers  
Leighton Linlade Citizens Advice  
Luton Law Centre  
Money Advice at St Andrews  
Polish-British Integration Centre Ltd  
Reuse Centre  
Salvation Army  
Sight Concern Bedfordshire  
St Mark's Church, Bedford  
Stonewater  
Stroke Association  
Three Rivers Church - West (formally Rutland Road Church)  
Voluntary and Community Action

Bedfordshire Advice Forum is supported by:

