

Bedfordshire Advice Forum

Promoting and supporting advice and information services in Bedfordshire

Annual Report 2017-2018

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 three 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 and new Delivery Plan for the **Advice Strategy**, with financial support from Central Bedfordshire Council.
- Arranging four **training courses** covering Universal Credit and Benefits Updates.
- Working in partnership with the **Voluntaryworks Consortium** and providing direct support for the Building Better Opportunities project.

Bedfordshire Advice Forum currently has 30 member organisations from across the voluntary and public sectors.

Financial Summary 2017-18

Opening Balance:	£2,444
Income	
Grant Income	1,000
Membership Fees	805
Management Fees	820
Other income	
Total Income	£2,625
Expenditure	
BAF Facilitation Fees	1,770
BBN Facilitation Fees	500
Other expenses	67
Total Expenditure	£2,337
Profit/loss	£288
Closing Balance:	£ 2,732

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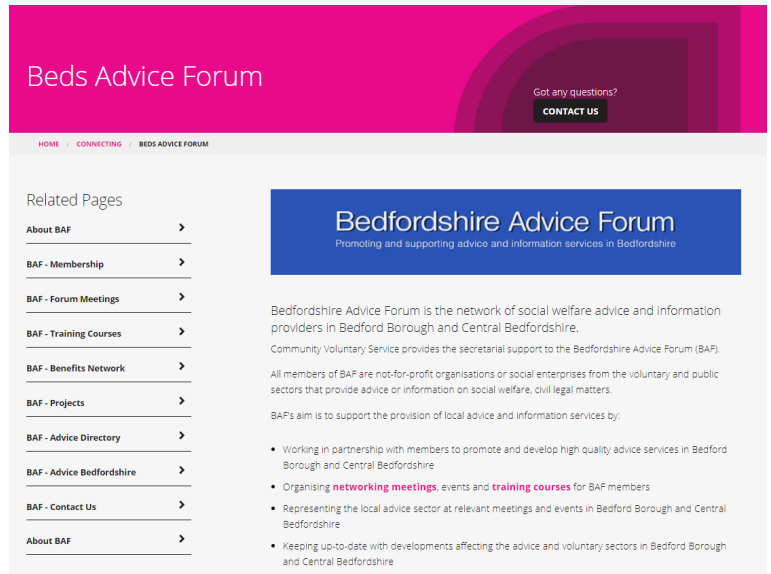
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BAF Website

Over the last year, BAF has developed a new website, hosted by CVS Beds.

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

www.bedsadviceforum.org.uk



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



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

Bedfordshire Advice Forum is supported by:



Community Voluntary Service
Strengthening local social action