

**Present:**

Amanda Ryan	BPHA (chair)
Martin Trinder	CVS Beds (minutes)
Sylvia MacDowell	Money Advice at St Andrews
Melanie Gomez	Hightown Housing Association
Anne Perera	Hightown Housing Association
Len Simkins	Autism Bedfordshire
Elliott Stephenson	Grand Union Housing Group
Chiara Mac Call	Queens Park Community Organisation
Beccy Campbell-Grieve	Project 229
Mags Brady	PBIC
Nigel Rees	PBIC
Jenny Harris	Carers in Bedfordshire
Clare Anderson	Sight Concern Bedfordshire

**Apologies:**

Trevor Moisey	Three Rivers Church, Bedford
Rawshana Noor	Disability Resource Centre Beds
Kim Daisley	Citizens Advice Bedford
Caroline Cook	Mind BLMK
Chera Gilbert	Disability Resource Centre Beds
Emma Branch	Counselling Foundation
Noor D'Agostino	Catalyst Housing Group
Brian Cunningham	BRASS
Maureen Sheridan	Sight Concern Bedfordshire
Paulette Rennie	Bedford Community Support Group
Wendy Jephcote	Autism Bedfordshire
Georgia Bowers	Bedford Libraries

Amanda Ryan welcomed everybody to the meeting.

**3. Minutes of last AGM and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last AGM (26<sup>th</sup> June 2021) were accepted. There were no matters arising.

**4. Presentation** – PBIC – Supporting Ukrainian Guests. Mags and Nigel provided a useful update on their work with Ukrainians hosted in Bedfordshire. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

There was a Q and A session after the presentation.

**5. BAF Annual Report and Finance Report for 2021/22**

The annual report and finance report was circulated to those attending the meeting.

The Financial Statement to 31 March 2022 was discussed at length. The income from annual membership has reduced, and the grant from Central Bedfordshire Council has now ended.

The annual report and finance report were agreed.

## **6. BAF membership fees for 2022/23**

It was widely recognised that members will need to increase their contributions if BAF is to continue. It was agreed that the membership fees should be increased to the following rates:

- £10 - lower rate for organisations with 0-2 employees.
- £50 - standard rate
- £100 - higher rate for organisations with over 100 staff

## **7. BAF elections - BAF Officers (Chair, Deputy Chair and Treasurer) and Steering Group members for 2022/23**

Following discussions, the following were elected unanimously:

- Chair - Amanda Ryan
- Deputy Chair - Elliott Stephenson
- Steering Group Member - Brian Cunningham
- Steering Group Member - Paulette Rennie
- Steering Group Member - Chera Gilbert

Martin Trinder will continue to undertake the functions of the Treasurer

## **8. Any other business**

None

## **9. 25 years of BAF**

Len provided an overview of the work of BAF over the past 25 years (attached to this minutes), which was followed by a celebratory cake.

# Supporting Ukrainian Guests

## PBIC MODEL





# Coordinating Support for Ukrainians temporarily living in Bedford Borough



### VARIOUS INITIAL REQUESTS FOR OUR INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS
- ▶ MATCHING GUESTS WITH HOSTS
- ▶ VOLUNTEERING

### PBIC is set to offer a central point of contact in Bedford Borough

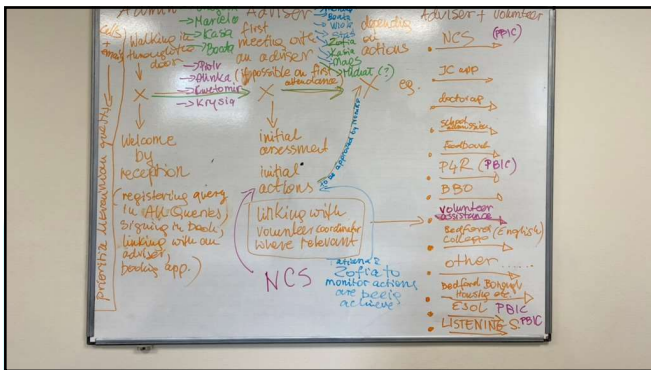
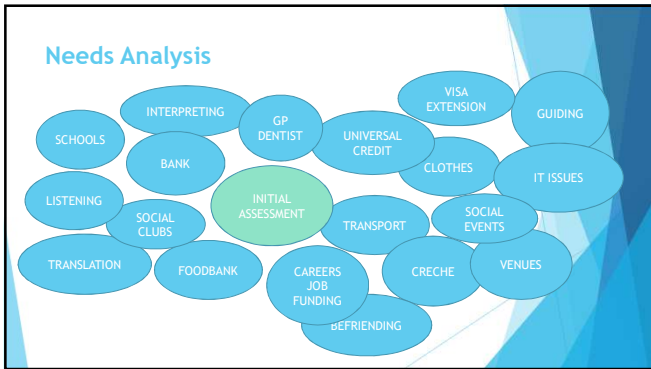
- ▶ to help co-ordinate offers of support
- ▶ to avoid duplication and to make sure that the most appropriate support is provided to those who need it.
- ▶ to inform organisations of Ukrainian Guest needs as they are arriving in Bedford
- ▶ There are two levels of coordinating activity
  - Volunteers - [UGV@pbic.org.uk](mailto:UGV@pbic.org.uk)
  - Partners - Ukrainian Guest Support Forum [UGF@pbic.org.uk](mailto:UGF@pbic.org.uk)

### What are we best at and where does our expertise lay?

- Since 2007 supporting migrants holistically with adequate language and cultural sensitivity (recognized by our assessors for Matrix)
- Package of support with general advice, careers advice, very basic language learning and recently added listening service (various projects including Big Lottery Community Fund *You Are Valued*, *ESF Pathways For Recovery* and DLUHC ESOL for Integration Project).
- Experience in coordinating volunteers and partnerships in relation to a specific group (Polish Forum).

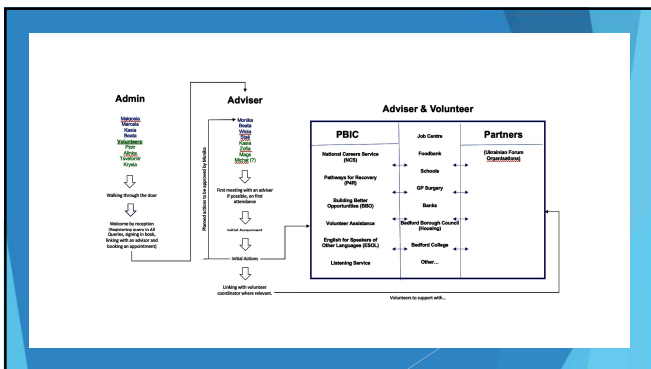
### Ukrainian Guests Client Journey

- Needs Analysis
- Action Plan
- Support with implementing Actions



### Challenges

- Issues with hosts
- Worry of what will happen after 6 months not all guests might be ready to move into independent living for various reasons:
  - accommodation (deposits, references etc)
  - visa extensions
  - readiness for work (childcare, language, qualification conversion, transport, mental health and managing client and host expectations)
- Communication issues with some departments: attempts to do similar work. Instead of using what was already done; this causes confusion for guests and wastes resources
- Ukrainian Guests from outside of Bedford Borough requesting support and therefore capacity/funding issues



### Changes at PBIC

Employing	Employing Ukrainian staff
Training	Training advisers in mediation skills
Training	Training existing immigration advisers to a higher level
Moving	Moving partly to CVS

### Ukrainian Led Initiatives

- ▶ Emergency Centre in Wilstead
- ▶ Refugee week involvement ( including artists; Sergey and Maria)
- ▶ Ukrainian Supplementary School
- ▶ Volunteering
- ▶ Citizen Alliance participation (led by Father Luke at St Paul's)



Координація догляду та підтримки гостей з України у Бедфордському районі  
Coordinating Care and Support for Ukrainians in Bedford Borough

### PBIC relationship with DLUHC

- ▶ Invite to 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister
- ▶ Meeting Lord Harrington (minister for Refugees)
- ▶ Participation in Round Table discussion with Secretary of State Michael Gove.



Thank you  
Any questions please email:  
[mags.brady@pbic.org.uk](mailto:mags.brady@pbic.org.uk)



# 25 YEARS OF BAF


1997 - 2022



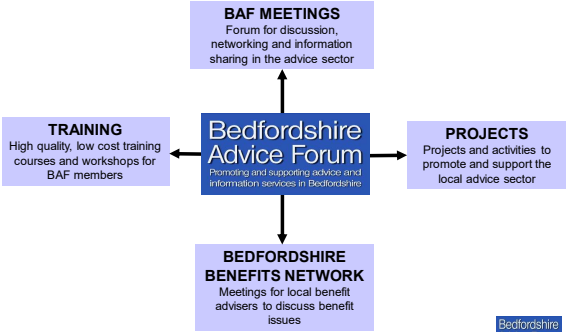
## HISTORY OF BAF

BAF was founded in July 1997 to bring together and promote the local advice sector – and to provide training and support

- 1997** **Bedford Advice Forum**  
(covering Bedford Borough)
- ↓
- 2001** **Bedford Advice Forum**  
(extended to also cover the old Mid Bedfordshire area)
- ↓
- 2007** **Bedfordshire Advice Forum**  
(extended to also cover the old South Bedfordshire area)
- ↓
- 2009** **Bedfordshire Advice Forum**  
(covering Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire)



## BAF SERVICES




**BAF MEETINGS**  
Forum for discussion, networking and information sharing in the advice sector

**TRAINING**  
High quality, low cost training courses and workshops for BAF members

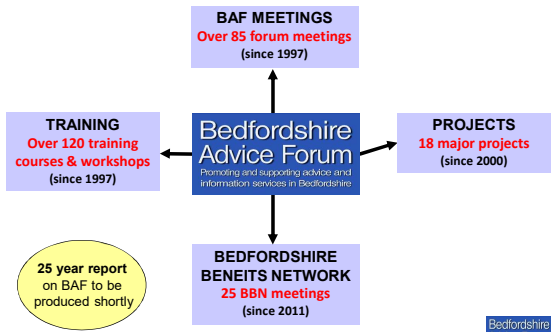
**PROJECTS**  
Projects and activities to promote and support the local advice sector

**Bedfordshire Advice Forum**  
Promoting and supporting advice and information services in Bedfordshire

**BEDFORDSHIRE BENEFITS NETWORK**  
Meetings for local benefit advisers to discuss benefit issues



## 25 YEARS OF BAF



**BAF MEETINGS**  
Over 85 forum meetings (since 1997)


**TRAINING**  
Over 120 training courses & workshops (since 1997)

**PROJECTS**  
18 major projects (since 2000)

**Bedfordshire Advice Forum**  
Promoting and supporting advice and information services in Bedfordshire

**BEDFORDSHIRE BENEFITS NETWORK**  
25 BBN meetings (since 2011)

25 year report on BAF to be produced shortly



## BIG THANKS TO


All the members of BAF's Training Sub-Group – which later became its Steering Group

**BAF's Officers**

- 8 Chairs
- 4 Secretaries
- 3 Treasurers

And all of BAF's members over the 25 years

25 year report on BAF to be produced shortly



## REMEMBERING BAF SUPPORTERS

**Balbir Dutt**  
Indian Workers Association and Luton Law Centre  
A founder member of BAF  
Long-term campaigner in the local community  
Died July 2010

**Rob Brady**  
PBIC  
Central to PBIC and its advice service for the Polish community  
Died October 2017

**Annette Pacey**  
BPHA  
A founder member of BAF  
BAF Officer for 20 years - Secretary (1998 - 2001) and Treasurer (2002 - 2018)  
Died June 2018

**Susannah Rastall**  
Infotrain  
BAF Administrator (2008 - 2012)  
Died May 2020

