



Ayr Housing Aid Centre

WELCOME

Can hardly believe that it is April already and we are ready for the 2nd edition of our Newsletter.

We hope you find our publications interesting and they give you an insight of our journey since November 2013.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Above left –to right: Jennifer Riddell – Officer Junior, Sarah Bone – Senior Education & Engagement Officer & Karen Taylor – Administrative Officer

Bedroom Tax

The Centre has been very busy with Welfare Reform cases, in particular, the Size Criteria (bedroom tax) introduced in April 2013. To date the Centre has assisted more than 680 tenants in the last year applying for exemptions, Discretionary Housing Payments, help with Appeals & Tribunals and given advice and information to reduce the impact of these changes on families across South Ayrshire.

The Centre welcomes the announcement from the Scottish Government of additional funding which will deal with the impact of the tax in 2014/15 for social tenants. It is important to note the best way to deal with the tax is to abolish it but nevertheless this news is good and we await the details of how this will be implemented.

If you wish more information about our services please contact us:-

Tel : 01292 288111,

www.ayrhousingaidcentre.com

E-mail us - ayr_hac@hotmail.com

STAFF NEWS

Interviews were held on 13th February 2014 for the post of Tenant Advisor and we were very privileged to receive such high caliber applications. Leica Malkin was the successful applicant and is due to start with us on March 31st. The staff and Management at Ayr Housing Aid Centre would like to formally welcome Leica.

On a more sombre note we will be losing one of our Tenure Sustainment Officer's, Jennifer McCann who is moving onto pastures new. The team would like to wish her all the best in her new position. Jennifer will leave in March and we will be looking to fill this position very soon.

COMMITTEE NEWS

Our AGM was held 20th November 2013 at Holmston House. This event was well attended and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our guest speakers Kenny Leinster – *Head of Community Care and Housing* and Les Anderson – *Chairperson of South Ayrshire Seniors Forum*.

Alex Anderson Chairperson said “The meeting provided valuable information from our Annual Report and guest speakers”.

This was the first time we have held our AGM during the day and this format will be repeated for future meetings.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Ayr Housing Aid Centre Advice Service was audited on 21st & 22nd January 2014. The audit confirmed the Centre meets all the requirements of the Scottish National Standard for Information and Advice Providers at type III (advocacy) across all 16 housing topics applied for. The report commented;-

“The agency was found to be exemplary in its practice with a very high level of expertise evidenced and demonstratable quality of advice.”

The Management Committee would like to thank all Management and Staff for their continuous effort in providing an extremely high level of service to the residents of South Ayrshire.

OTHER NEWS

The Staff at the Centre would like to congratulate Karen Taylor, Administration Officer on the safe arrival of her second child: Daughter Zarah Grace Miller born Sunday 16th February 2014, weighing 8lb 1oz.



SERVICE NEWS

Education & Engagement Department 2013 -14

- Drop in at UWS & Ayr College
- HEY Programme S4 pupils South Ayrshire
- HEY Programme P7 pupils South Ayrshire
- Building Positive Futures Programme P5-
- Young Carers Programme South Ayrshire

Since September 2013, **HEY – Housing Education 4 Youths** Programme has delivered sessions to over 1000 4th Year pupils & over 700 Primary 7 pupils. We delivered to over 100 5th Year pupils as part of a pilot programme within Marr College which provides more in-depth sessions. We have also been part of an Early Intervention Programme working with Forehill and Grammar Primaries **Building Positive Futures** – which has recently been used by HMI Inspectors as an example of Good Practice of Interagency working between schools and the local community as part of the Kyle Leaning Partnership.

**Please contact Sarah Bone,
Senior Education & Engagement
Officer for any further
information on this publication.**



Find us on
Facebook