



Ayr Housing Aid Centre (later becoming SCIO) was established in 1986 following a Shelter homeless conference. The project is governed by the Board consisting of dedicated, committed people passionate about helping those in housing need. They provide direction, expertise and oversee the Centre's work.

As Trustees step down we recruit new Trustees with a commitment our aims and objectives of providing quality advice and engagement services to those in Housing need while alleviating poverty. Our commitment includes positively campaigning for changes and new legislative measures to improve the lives of those we assist. There is no greater housing need than having no home!

AHAC was originally staffed by a group of unpaid volunteers and was grant funded by the Regional & Local Authorities and Shelter. AHAC is currently contracted by South Ayrshire Council to provide Homeless Prevention Advice and Engagement services. We also provide Prison Housing Advice Service in South and East Ayrshire areas. As a charity we require to generate income to support our work and we do this by fundraising and providing training to external organisations on housing related issue, treating everyone we help with dignity, respect, compassion and kindness.

A major part of the Centre's work is to provide free, accredited, advice, advocacy and representation to people who are homeless or who are threatened with homelessness. Our Care Inspectorate regulated Tenure Sustainment service was graded as "excellent sector leading" standard at our last inspection. We also lobby Local and Governments on homeless, housing and poverty related matters and work closely with other Agencies to encourage positive policy change.

We provide innovative, preventative, proactive, participatory and inclusive services which directly link to the overall ethos of the Centre to provide high quality services within South Ayrshire. Each of our services contribute to the Centre meeting its aims/objectives to prevent/reduce homelessness and alleviate poverty while meeting our contractual obligations and the needs of our service users and communities.

Services:-

Information, Advice and Advocacy and Homeless Prevention Services

including Advice, Advocacy, Tenure Sustainment, Prison Advice in HMP Kilmarnock, Barlinnie and Greenock (Housing Education for Youths in Secondary Schools – paused)

VASA Mental Health Casework Service

I'M IN! Tribunal Representation Project in conjunction with SeAscape

AHAC will help anyone within South Ayrshire who is in housing need through accredited advice and support whether they are homeless, threatened with homelessness, living in poor housing conditions or any other housing related matter.

The Centre deals with many types of housing problems, including:-

- Homelessness
- Tenancy Issues
- House Conditions
- Private Rented Sector
- Owner Occupiers
- Deposit Disputes
- Fuel Rights/Poverty
- Housing Benefit/Universal Credit
- Illegal Eviction
- Mobile Homes

AHAC seeks additional funding to ensure we have enough staff to provide sufficient services to meet the changing needs of our community. Additional Services are funded by external bodies and focus on delaying and where possible preventing homelessness which in turn positively impacts the Council in their statutory homeless duties by reducing the number of families having to access temporary accommodation and reducing mental health anxiety.

If you require further information on the Centre please visit our Website at:

www.ayrhousingaidcentre.com