

Allies

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We are a group who work with homeless and at risk people. They may live in Hostels, temporary accommodation and the recently housed who still need assistance. They may also have drug and alcohol and mental health problems or ex offenders. We have been in operation since 1994 moving to the old Y.M.C.A building in Kilmarnock in 1996.

We operate a drop-in centre from Monday to Friday and serve one hot, two course meals on a Wednesday night at five o'clock. (Recently we have to suspend our Monday night session due to lack of funding.) We provide a healthy breakfast Monday to Friday of cereals, toast and fruit. The group of clients we work with are a hard to reach group and all of them have come from very troubled backgrounds. We have an on site support worker partially funded by 2 trust funds. Her role is to give support to members to find information for them, accompany them to agencies. We are heavily involved in improving or developing the literacy and numeracy of our members with funding from the Learning Partnership We believe our purpose is to enable our members to have more control and direction in their lives. We believe we have developed into the design of our services a social or practical mechanism to engage with our members in order to establish trust and a working relationship which will spread out to encompass the many overlapping issues they have to tackle.

We have listed some of the areas we work with, but you will note that many of the services we provide overlap the headings.

Literacy/numeracy

- **Advice on essential skills**
- **Understanding the environment and their built environment**
- **Understanding and filling out forms**
- **One to one sessions for literacy and numeracy**
- **Developing participants ability to plan and arrange their own courses and events**
- **Have a personal learning and social skills plan**
- **Record all events, trips and experiences**
- **Develop computer literacy**
- **Where possible, develop core skills to improve employability**
- **Clients are encouraged to record their experiences**
- **Learning Bytes**

Support work

- **Developing confidence and interpersonal skills**
- **Assist members to deal with finances**
- **Dealing with money and debts**
- **Advice on attendance at housing Office**
- **Assist with accessing other services**
- **We provide daily and weekly newspapers**
- **We provide stationery and stamps for letter writing/job hunting**
- **Assistance in accessing education, training and employment**
- **Improve social skills**
- **Setting up home**
- **Access to GPs**

Health

- **Have healthcare professionals visit on a regular basis**
- **Set up appointments with other healthcare professionals**
- **Organise stop smoking events**
- **Cookery Sessions**
- **First Aid**
- **Sexual Health**
- **Podiatry sessions**
- **Treatment/ advice by health professionals of persons who will not visit clinics**

Drugs and alcohol

- **Addictions Team visits**
- **Turnaround visit**
- **Referrals to drug support agencies**

Other inputs and referrals

- **Rape Crisis**
- **Child sexual abuse**

Staff /volunteer training has been continuous. Within the last 12 months this has included:

- **Assist – Suicide prevention**
- **Richter training**
- **Person centred training**
- **Domestic violence**
- **Strada –drug and alcohol**
- **Homelessness 1 and advanced training**
- **Benefits**
- **Health promotion**