

The Cyrenians
tackling homelessness

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The Cyrenians, Head Office, 62 Summer Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1SD

George Walker
Please note that adverse weather may lead to the event being postponed.

FRED give with confidence



Upcoming Events

The Cyrenians
tackling homelessness

SLEEPOUT 2010



FRIDAY 22ND JANUARY 2010
ABERDEEN EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE CENTRE
7PM - 7AM

Aberdeen Cyrenians Ltd is a local registered charity working on tackling homelessness in Aberdeen city and shire. Charity No: SC014849

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The Cyrenian

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Upcoming Events

CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEAVES THE CYRENIANS

Paul Hannan, who has been Chief Executive of the Cyrenians since 1990, is leaving to take up a new post of Homelessness Manager with Aberdeen City Council.

Paul said, "It has been a very difficult decision to make to leave the Cyrenians after all this time but in this new role I hope to be able to secure much more change for homeless people in the city. I believe that the creation of this post demonstrates the Council's commitment to further improve services for homeless people in the city."

Paul has been responsible for the development of the Cyrenians over the last 19 years creating a range of new services and responses for local homeless people. (continued p3)



THE CYRENIANS GEAR UP FOR CHRISTMAS

As December approaches, the Cyrenians have started gearing up for Christmas. Head Office has launched the annual appeals, such as the Christmas card appeal where they ask members of the public to send us a festive card and a donation; the Shoebox appeal where we ask people to send an unwrapped shoebox gift to a homeless person, and after last years fantastic success the alternative gift cards. (For more details on these appeals please visit www.aberdeen-cyrenians.org)

Also individual projects are getting ready for Christmas, Christmas time within Margaret House heralds the arrival of a range of emotions for everyone, feelings of sadness, joy and relief. Everyone within the project carries their own emotions throughout this period. The weeks leading up to Christmas see the project transform into a festive feast of decoration. Staff and clients are actively involved in decorating the project. Craft nights are organised where materials are provided for the clients to make their own personal decorations and cards to send to someone close to them. (Continued p2)

Aberdeen Cyrenians
A Scottish Charity - SC014849

Website
www.aberdeen-cyrenians.org

62 Summer Street
Aberdeen AB10 1SD
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CASE STUDY—HAMISH HIS SUCCESS IS OUR CONTINUED SUCCESS



Hamish is young man in his mid-twenties and had been of no fixed abode for seven months after losing his tenancy due to anti-social behaviour. He went to the Aberdeen City Council (ACC) Homeless Section and was found to be 'intentionally homeless'. A referral had been made through the Social Work Department to The Cyrenians Margaret House project.

Hamish had issues of alcohol and illegal drugs since around the age of 13 and there had been Social Work involvement with his family since he had been a young child. He left secondary school with no formal qualifications and his attendance had been poor. Hamish continued to stay at home until the death of his mother approximately two and a half years ago. At this point his alcohol intake increased and his father left the home. There has been no contact with his father since. Hamish is in close contact with his younger sister and is now building a better relationship with his older brother.

On referral Hamish said that he would like support and assistance to get settled and address his substance misuse issues. Hamish has suffered from depression and had been prescribed anti-depressants in the past. He has also struggled to maintain being alcohol free and had had some relapses.

Since moving into Margaret House, Hamish has completed housing application forms and attended all housing appointments: his aim being to secure a long term tenancy. With regard to his substance misuse, Hamish continues to attend appointments with medical professionals and takes his daily medication as prescribed. He also seeks support from staff and outside agencies when he has periods of being anxious. In relation to housing: Hamish is currently on the ACC Housing waiting list, although no offers have yet been made. He has requested that he be referred for support from the relevant services on receipt of a tenancy, in order to maintain it.

Since staying in Margaret House, Hamish has taken an active role in weekly House Meetings and also made suggestions for outings that are planned as diversionary activities from substance misuse. The security and stability offered by the project has also allowed him to consolidate and maintain his financial and daily living skills. As an example of his improved general outlook, Hamish played a leading role in the last round of staff recruitment – being involved in the interview and selection processes.

Hamish is now looking to the future with optimism.

CYRENIANS GEAR UP FOR CHRISTMAS (contd)

While at Wernham house the residents get involved in arts and craft workshops where they get involved in making their own Christmas cards and decorations. On Christmas day all the residents sit down to the full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings before receiving a Christmas Gift.

In the run up to Christmas Clifton Road becomes a festive haven, with the clients and staff both joining in to transform the project.

On Christmas Day and over the entire festive period Street Alternatives will continue to open doors to the city's rough sleepers, with the volunteers helping to provide Christmas meals and gifts to those who most have forgotten at this time of year.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEAVES THE CYRENIANS

Achievements include establishing a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme, the Rough Sleepers Initiative project at Craig House, establishing the care leavers project at Clifton Road, setting up the Leaving Home & Housing Education Programme for schools, establishing the residential care service at Fonthill Road, securing funding for the Cygnet employability project, setting up the housing support services at the Community Resettlement, Support & Advice Service (CRSAS) and at Cyrenians Supported Accommodation Service (CSAS), leading on the development of the multi-agency Integrated Drug Service - Community Rehabilitation (IDS-CR) and establishing our social enterprise, Iceberg Print. Paul said, "It is disappointing to be leaving at a time when in the last year or so a number of these services have had to close due to cuts in funding."



The organisation developed in size and in professional standards throughout his period of leadership. It was described as "one of Scotland's major homeless charities" and received a High Commendation in Scottish Enterprise's - Dynamic Place Awards 2002 (People, Training and Development category) for the support and assistance given to homeless people to improve their chances of getting into the labour market through providing training and education for a highly disadvantaged group. Paul Hannan was awarded an MBE in the 2004 New Years Honours list for his services to homeless people.

During his time with the Cyrenians his experience was also utilised as Chairperson of Langstane Housing Association, as Vice-Chairperson of the Scottish Council for Single Homeless, as a member of the JADAT, as Chairperson of Aberdeen City Drug, Alcohol and HIV Forum and on the Committee of Management of Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations. He assisted the organisation to influence strategy/public policy within local and national government. Paul said, "Although the organisation has experienced major change in the last 18 months, I am confident that the Cyrenians will be around for as long as homeless people in this area need basic support services. The Cyrenians have staff, volunteers and managers with a huge amount of experience who will ensure that the needs of homeless people continue to be met."

The Cyrenians would like to thank Enviroco Ltd, who very kindly provided Margaret House with a free waste upload. This gesture was greatly appreciated as it would have taken several journeys in our minibus to move the same quantity.

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Enviroco Limited was formed in 1998, and ASCO Environmental Services in 2000 as part of an ASCO Group commitment to extend existing service excellence in oilfield logistics into a waste management solution for its customers. In January 2007 the businesses formally merged as Enviroco Limited. Driven by some of the waste management industries highest achievers Enviroco has quickly become market leaders in oilfield waste solutions and a leading force in hazardous waste management solutions across the UK.