

[PRESS RELEASE]

For immediate release 7th December 2020



CONTACT Kelsey Kane CEO

COMPANY SeAscape Ltd

PHONE 01292 285424

EMAIL enquiries@seascapeayr.co.uk

WEB <http://www.seascapeayr.org.uk/>



SeAscape Secures Funding from The Scottish Government to Provide Homelessness Prevention Support in Ayrshire!

Since 2018-19 SeAscape have run weekly winter outreach surgeries in Ayr, Maybole, Girvan and Troon. They operate on a drop-in basis for anyone experiencing severe poverty, homelessness or those who may be at risk of homelessness. Some examples of support provided to people accessing the service ranges from provision of food, warm clothing, access to fuel to heat their homes etc. to assistance with benefit claims, support to access housing options and support to access longer term specialist support.

In recent months SeAscape have seen an increase in the need for tenancy sustainment support and access to specialist support services in order to prevent homelessness and repeat homelessness for individuals across all tenures including Social and Private Rented Sector and Owner Occupier.

Due to the additional impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the fact that those living in more rural areas at times already found it more difficult to access the support they need, SeAscape are set to increase the areas in which they hold weekly outreach surgeries. Firstly, to reduce the distance people are required to travel to access services and secondly as data is already showing that people who have not required to access support services for some time (or ever before in some instances) are needing to now.

The support staff at the outreach surgeries provide immediate emotional and practical support for those presenting. In some instances, all issues can be dealt with there and then and in others signposting to specialist support services is required, to provide assistance effectively the support staff build relationships with other services and engage with wider community groups.

Thanks to additional funding secured from The Scottish Government this year Rural Outreach Surgeries will be held across South and East Ayrshire, initially remote support is available to anyone living across either of the local authority areas and this can be accessed by freephone on **0808 196 33 85**, a full list of areas, venues, days and times will be made available at www.seascapeayr.co.uk as soon as all details are confirmed.

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart said:

“Preventing homelessness is about so much more than finding somewhere to live and SeAscape’s rural outreach surgeries play an important role in that prevention.

“We must all consider people’s circumstances in the widest sense, including their wellbeing, health and social care, employment and welfare needs. And we must have local approaches to suit local circumstances.

“We have seen what is possible when we respond collectively and urgently with an inclusive and human rights based approach to tackling homelessness. Our aim now is to draw on what we have learned, retain our collective strength and secure our goal of eradicating rough sleeping and ending homelessness in Scotland.”

Kelsey Kane, CEO of SeAscape said:

“The additional funding secured will allow us to increase the number of outreach surgeries and the geographical area covered, it is hoped that by improving accessibility and raising awareness of services in rural areas that we can reach more people before crisis point and prevent more people from becoming homeless.”

Councillor Philip Saxton, South Ayrshire Council's Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Wellbeing said:

“This really is good news, particularly as the COVID-19 pandemic means more people than ever need access to the support SeAscape offer.

“The additional funding will enable SeAscape to increase their provision across South Ayrshire, which will make a real difference to those who need it most in our communities.”

Lisa Punton, East Ayrshire Councils Housing Services Manager said:

“We are delighted at this opportunity to continue to work alongside our partners to truly transform the lives of those living and working in our rural communities.

Homelessness prevention is fundamental to the sustainment of our vibrant rural communities and central to addressing it, is a connected system of supports aligned to a well-balanced housing market which meets the changing needs of every household.

The surgeries build on the incredible resilience those living in our communities have demonstrated throughout the pandemic and further support our workforce to improve health and wellbeing, tackle social isolation and loneliness and poverty in all of its forms and further strengthens East Ayrshire Council’s Kind, Caring and Connected approach to working with our communities.”

SeAscape’s Mission: *is to assist people of all ages to overcome the barriers to homelessness by providing the level, quality and choice of support services which result in better, more stable lives, as well as social and economic inclusion*