

Outreach Project update

Our Scottish Outreach Worker Patricia recently spoke to us about her work. It's not just finding secure accommodation; their journeys are long and varied and need adaptable support to best suit their needs and reach the best possible outcomes.



ScotsCare used to only work with verified rough sleepers but has adapted to work with Scottish clients with housing issues as well. Issues clients face include safety whilst sleeping, a reluctance to address physical and mental health issues, isolation, budgeting, accessing benefits and increased risk of exposure to violence and exploitation. Patricia assists with tenancies, making grant or homelessness applications, attending appointments when needed, referrals to drug and alcohol services, referrals to a specialist counselling service and other general support.

Each clients' journey is different. One client, who had a long history of drug abuse and as a result poor mental and physical health, was supported into secure accommodation and to engage with drug rehabilitation services. Though her client has had many ups and downs, she has remained drug free for three years now, which is an amazing outcome, and something that Patricia attributes, in part, to continued and reliable support.

Patricia notes that a positive engagement from clients, no matter the size, is a success. She points out that not every client will be ready for change, but that ScotsCare will support and be there for them, nevertheless.

Looking ahead, Patricia feels that homelessness is slowly increasing, with unrealistic rents, short contracts often leading to evictions, and the wider cost of living crisis putting too much pressure on people.

A new Chairman appointed

ScotsCare is delighted to announce the appointment of **Kevin Lynch** (pictured) as our new Chairman. Kevin has served on the Board of Trustees in varying roles over the last six years. Kevin says, **"I am looking forward to working with my fellow trustees and ScotsCare staff during my time as Chair, and would like to express my appreciation to our outgoing Chair James Chestnut for all he has done to help ScotsCare over the last 12 years."**

ScotsCare would like to take this opportunity to thank the **outgoing Chair James Chestnut** for his work. James commented: **"Over my six years as Chairman I was pleased to be part of the transformation of ScotsCare in its mission to serve vulnerable Scots. Some of the highlights were new services such as children's psychotherapy, additional sheltered housing, an updated constitution, digital modernisation and the merger with Borderline. Thank you to my fellow Trustees, our staff, volunteers and donors."**



Fundraising update

The last quarter of 2023 saw us reach a total in excess of £40k, which was raised from events such as the Royal Parks Half Marathon, CEO Sleepout, and from the Saltire Donor Club. Thank you as ever to all of those who have donated, as it helps us to reach more Scots in need.

Following the success of our fundraisers at the **Royal Parks Half Marathon** and the **CEO Sleepout** in the autumn, we are pleased to say we will be participating in both events again this year and would like to hear from you if you would like to take part. Please contact our **Fundraising Officer** at fundraising@scotscare.com if so, or if you have another idea for a fundraising challenge.

