



The Salvation Army is first and foremost a church and a charity; operates in over 131 countries and it is also one of the largest providers of homelessness services, with an extensive portfolio across the UK and Republic of Ireland. In Scotland The Salvation Army has over 100 centres and community churches providing a range of specialist support for people who are experiencing homelessness and addiction, struggling families and isolated older people. Homeless service provision includes supported housing (lifehouses) which not only offer a place to stay but wrap around support to help people tackle the multiple and complex reasons that took them to this place in their lives, like mental ill health, fleeing domestic violence, childhood trauma or addiction. It also runs resettlement services and floating support so that people can get help from specialist workers whilst living in their own homes. The Salvation Army is also a provider of Housing First in Glasgow, Dundee, South Lanarkshire and Inverness. The scheme helps people to find a permanent home and provides the intensive support people need to break the cycle of rough sleeping and homelessness.

In 2013 The Salvation Army set up its Scotland Drug and Alcohol Strategy to tackle the health and social effects on families and on society. Through this The Salvation Army has placed specialist drug and alcohol workers at many of its community churches and hubs around Scotland, as well as working with the University of Stirling on establishing a centre for addiction services and research.

The Salvation Army has over 150 years' practice in working with people experiencing homelessness and we know that we need to have interventions that put people first, create choice and opportunity, offer services that meet people's needs and promote their well-being and ultimately improve people's overall life experience. Our delivery model is rooted in the harm reduction approach, based on trauma informed practice, strength based and person-centred approaches.

The Salvation Army is synonymous with compassion, connection and community and we believe relationships are key to overall well-being and happiness in life. We all have emotional needs and want to belong. We believe that each person should be encouraged to discuss hobbies, interests, how they enjoy life and try new experiences if they are not sure what they like or enjoy, find out about themselves and have fun along the way. Friendships are more likely to naturally develop through meeting people with shared interests. Community is not just about having a home in an area it's about being able to contribute, being part of something, having a sense of purpose and a feeling of self-worth. We need to ensure that solutions are not focussed simply on increasing opportunities for people to meet or speak, but on helping build, maintain and re-establish meaningful relationships. Also, consideration needs to be given to experiences of adversity and trauma in childhood and throughout life and how this impacts on relationship and trust building.

“Working together in partnership with a shared vision and commitment we aim to create the best possible opportunities for people; a culture of compassion and connection and a place where everyone has the “right” home for them. It is essential that we keep the person at the heart of any approach, and we strive to look for the right intervention, at the right time delivered in the right way.”