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- Press Release -

Kemmyrk, the Manx homelessness charity, is to have the official opening of its new premises at 9 Myrtle Street on 26 January.

The Lord Bishop has kindly agreed to open the new facilities and the event provides an opportunity for Kemmyrk to publicise the projects it runs to support the homeless and at the same time thank volunteers and fund raisers for their support.

Those attending will be able to tour the building and discuss the work of Kemmyrk with staff, volunteers and clients.

The Housing Support Co-ordinator provides support and advice for anyone who finds themselves homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Qualified mediation is offered to landlords and tenants with the aim of resolving disputes at an early stage.

The Nightstop programme is also based at Myrtle Street providing short term, emergency accommodation to 16-25 year olds who find themselves homeless. Mediation is also available to families in an attempt to resolve issues and enable the young person to return home if appropriate. Multi-agency support can also be called upon to assist in resolving the range of issues that can lead to a young person becoming homeless. Help is given to ensure that young people have a secure, suitable place to live.

Drop in sessions are offered to assist in the development of those life skills e.g. budgeting and basic household maintenance, necessary to provide the basis for a sustainable, secure tenancy in the public and private market.

Advisors from various departments e.g. careers and debt advisory, will be attending on a rota basis to offer advice. A health visitor and dentist also offer drop in services on a weekly basis.

Kemmyrk is proud of the range of projects it is now able to offer in collaboration with other government departments and agencies. It is able to offer a personalised support package to anyone who finds themselves homeless while, at the same time, striving to reduce levels of homelessness on the Isle of Man.

Anyone who is homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or who just wishes to discuss their future options can drop in to 9 Myrtle Street any weekday between 9 and 12am or in the afternoons by appointment (telephone 675503).

Director of Social Services, Andrew Swithinbank, who chairs the multi-agency steering group on homelessness, said "We have come a long way in how together we are tackling homelessness and supporting those at risk of becoming homeless on the Island. This opening of Kemmyrk centre marks another milestone and illustrates how working collaboratively across government, voluntary and faith organisations can deliver new forms of help which we could not achieve alone."