

## GISDA

### *Contact*

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GISDA (Arfon Young Single Homeless Group), whose main office is in the Caernarfon area, is a project which provides accommodation for young homeless people between the ages of 16 and 25 in Gwynedd. It helps them to develop skills and to live independently. It was set up in 1985 by a group of volunteers concerned about the number of homeless people in the area.

- A staff of 38 trained men and women are employed by the organisation.
- The organisation is managed by a Board of Trustees made up of local volunteers.

Accommodation is provided in hostels and flats managed on behalf of Local Housing Associations and in Local Authority accommodation which GISDA leases on behalf of the young person/single parent. GISDA intends to offer an innovative training scheme to help its service users develop the basic skills needed to live independently. The proposed scheme has been accredited by the Open College Network.

GISDA'S input to sustainable development is measured in terms of human resource, and the charity aims to improve the quality of life of the client group. It also raises awareness of the extent of the problems facing young homeless people in Gwynedd.

GISDA is also becoming aware of the need to consider the environmental aspects of its work, and has been recycling office paper for a number of years. It hopes to develop this side of its activities.

*Tips for others:* To include local people in the development of any new plans

*Status of organisation:* Registered charity

*Area:* Gwynedd