

women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland

ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



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Freephone from all landlines and mobiles. Translation service available.

Open to *all women and men* affected by domestic & sexual violence

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Annual report 2012-2013

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland 2013



Our Vision

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland's vision for the 21st century is the elimination of domestic violence.

Our Mission

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs which perpetuate domestic violence. We seek through our work to promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

Our Goal

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland strives to welcome and support all women, children and young people, including those with disabilities and those without, women from minority communities, different cultures, ethnicities, languages and sexual orientations and from a wide age range.



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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

2012- 2013 has been an exciting and progressive year, which has been characterised by the initiation and roll out of new developments as well as the on-going provision and strengthening of core work. We were proud and delighted to launch our visionary strategy for children and young people, ***Our Place – Safe Space***. This strategy evidences our on-going commitment to meeting the needs of children and young people affected by domestic violence and provides clear guidance and focus, helping us to ensure that Women's Aid is a safe space for all children and young people affected by domestic violence.

The strategy was launched on 16 May 2012, at Stormont Buildings by Minister for Health, Edwin Poots, MLA and Minister for Education, John O'Dowd, MLA. The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, Patricia Lewsley-Mooney, also welcomed the strategy. Following on from the success of the launch, we look forward to implementing the strategy, in partnership with our member groups and all relevant agencies over the next five years.

To accompany the strategy we have developed a comprehensive performance measurement framework to measure outcomes for children and young people. This is the first year of

its implementation in Women's Aid across Northern Ireland and already the outcomes measured clearly demonstrate the extent and impact of this invaluable work. Evidence gathered using this framework shows that between 2012 and 2013, 546 children and young people were accommodated in refuges, 4469 were indirectly supported through Floating Support and 1517 one to one support sessions were held with children and young people in refuge. Additionally, 168 teachers were trained to deliver the *Helping Hands* programme to children in primary schools to increase their understanding of safety and support.

The 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline continues to grow and develop, and this year represents the eighth year of funding support, with a change from a Service Level Agreement to a grant agreement, jointly funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Unit, DHSS & PS and the Community Safety Unit, Department of Justice. This year saw yet another increase in numbers of victims coming forward and seeking support in relation to abuse experienced.

During this year 47,597 calls were managed. This represents an increase of 3,648 (8.3%) calls managed since the previous year when

43,949 calls were managed. Sexual violence continues to be a recurring theme in calls received and the Helpline team have had extensive training through the year in this area, to ensure the provision of best practice and most positive response when dealing with victims of sexual violence. The continued success of the Helpline in meeting the needs of victims of domestic and sexual violence would not be possible without the on-going commitment and dedication of all staff and volunteers who work tirelessly 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to sustain the service.

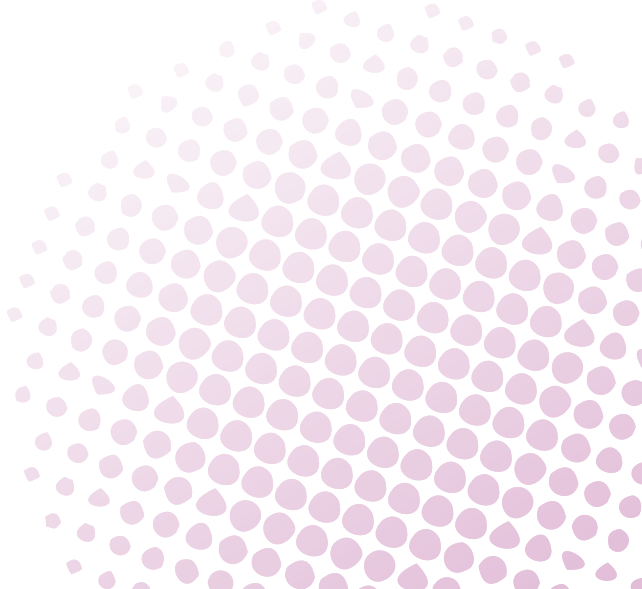
Externally the environment continues to change and we look forward to harnessing the opportunities such change will bring. In particular, we welcome Government plans to produce a combined strategy for domestic and sexual violence and are fully committed to supporting this process and playing a key role in its implementation as the lead agency in addressing domestic and sexual violence. As always, we recognise that domestic, sexual and gender-based violence and abuse are complex problems which require effective and timely interventions by a range of agencies. We remain totally committed to working collaboratively with relevant agencies to develop improved and coordinated responses and services for those affected. We look forward to strengthening and building upon such partnership work in the forthcoming year.

There are many success stories throughout the year to be celebrated and shared, and we are delighted to present this annual report, which goes some way to evidencing the valuable and crucial work of Women's Aid Federation NI and our member groups across Northern Ireland. Such success would not be possible without the vision, skills, energy and commitment from management, staff and volunteers. Thanks must be extended to the Federation Management Board for their strategic leadership and support and also to Annie Campbell, Director of Women's Aid Federation NI for her vision and leadership throughout the year.

The success of the past year would not be possible without the on-going commitment, skill and energy from Federation staff who continue to maintain high levels of professionalism and best practice in development and delivery of services and projects. A sincere note of thanks and credit is therefore extended to all members of the team.

Christine Whiteman
Chair

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland





DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Throughout 2012-2013, Women's Aid across Northern Ireland, as the lead agency in addressing domestic violence, continued to provide vital support to women, children and young people. All services, including refuge and Floating Support, continue to be developed and delivered based upon a foundation of professionalism, expertise and core values such as empathy, understanding and non-discrimination.

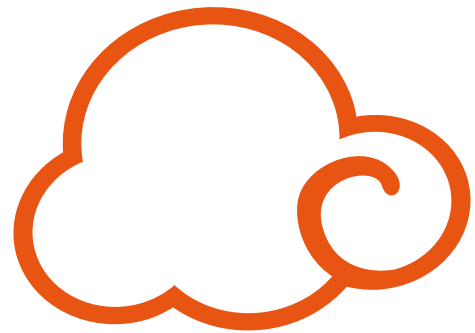
Support was provided to all victims of domestic violence, women and men, through the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline. We were very proud this year when, in December 2012, our Helpline received the Helpline Partnership Quality Standard. The 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline is the first Helpline in Northern Ireland to achieve this quality standard.

Change continues to be evident in the external environment, at government level and in the increasingly diverse and complex needs of victims and survivors of domestic violence. As an organisation, we remain committed to keeping abreast of and responding to change, ensuring that domestic violence remains high on the public agenda and that, as an organisation, our services are responsive and tailored to needs. It has been a busy year for policy and lobbying as

we continue to respond to government policy and lobby a range of stakeholders, including MLAs and politicians, to ensure they are fully informed of the extent and impact of domestic violence in Northern Ireland. In February of this year we took our lobbying message to the steps of Stormont and danced alongside many of our MLAs as part of the One Billion Rising campaign, which was part of a global action to End Violence Against Women.

Effective collective planning is crucial to steer the organisation through changing times. To ensure a clear strategic focus, a two day planning session was held with Federation staff, Senior Managers from local Women's Aid groups and representation from Management Boards of Federation and local Women's Aid groups. This session enabled all present not only to plan for the future, but also to celebrate the wealth of progress achieved through working collectively over the last planning period. We look forward to using the valuable feedback and ideas from the session to produce and launch our new 5 year strategic plan in the forthcoming year. This strategic plan will help us move closer to realising our vision for the 21st century of eliminating domestic violence.

One of the key strengths of Women's Aid in Northern Ireland is the on-going



commitment to working collectively to create positive change. As Director of Women's Aid Federation NI, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Senior Managers, staff and volunteers of Women's Aid groups across Northern Ireland. Their hard work, determination and commitment to meeting the needs of women, children and young people never fails to inspire and impress. While statistics never fully capture the true impact of the work delivered, those presented in this annual report go some way to evidencing the extent of services provided. In 2012 – 2013 Women's Aid local groups provided refuge throughout the year to 880 women and 546 children whose home was no longer a safe place for them. Our Floating Support service gave community support to 3659 women and 4469 children. These numbers are increasing each year as our message of support reaches out further.

I would like to give warm thanks to the Federation Senior Management Team, Sarah Mason and Deirdre Teague, Sonya McMullan who was Acting Helpline Manager for part of this year, and to all the talented and highly-skilled team of Federation staff and volunteers. The wealth of professional and quality work that is produced on an annual basis by a relatively small team of staff and volunteers is always outstanding and impressive. Thanks is also extended to the dedicated volunteers who make up our Management Board, led by our invaluable Chair, Christine Whiteman.

I am delighted to present this annual report as a means of capturing and sharing some of the key successes from what has been a busy, productive and highly successful year.

Annie Campbell

Director

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

PSNI statistics 2012 – 2013

Domestic Abuse Incidents

- 27,190 incidents with a domestic motivation were reported to the PSNI in 2012/13.
- The PSNI responded to a domestic incident every 19 minutes of every day of the year in Northern Ireland.
- The total number of all recorded offences of murder in 2012/13 was 17. Those classified as having a domestic motivation totalled 5. Therefore, 29% of all murders in Northern Ireland in 2012/13 had a domestic abuse motivation.
- Domestic abuse crimes (11,160) represent approximately 11% of the overall crime in Northern Ireland (100,389).
- There were two and a half times as many domestic abuse crimes as drug offences.
- There were more domestic abuse crimes than burglary offences.
- There were five times more domestic abuse crimes than thefts of motor vehicles.
- The level of 11,160 domestic abuse crimes recorded in 2012/13 is the highest level recorded since these PSNI statistics started being collected in 2004/05.

All data is taken from the following PSNI reports

1. *Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland: Monthly Update to 31 March 2013.* Published, 9 May 2013. PSNI Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
(Providing final figures for 1st April 2012 – 31 March 2013)
2. *Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2012/13.* Published 5th July 2013. PSNI Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.
3. *Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland: Quarterly Update to 31 March 2013.* Published, 9 May 2013. PSNI Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
(Providing final figures for 1st April 2012 – 31 March 2013)
4. *Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2012/13.* Published 5th July 2013. PSNI Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.



SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Launch of Our Place – Safe Space

Women's Aid Federation NI was delighted to launch a five year strategy for children and young people who experience domestic violence, '**Our Place – Safe Space**'. The strategy demonstrates Women's Aid's continued commitment to meeting the needs of children and young people who experience (or may be at risk of experiencing) domestic violence. The strategy was officially launched on 16 May 2012 at Stormont Buildings by Minister for Health, Edwin Poots, MLA and Minister for Education, John O'Dowd, MLA. The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, Patricia Lewsley-Mooney, also welcomed the strategy and spoke at the launch, as did Paddy Sloan from Children in Need. The event, which was a great success, was attended by MLAs and a range of key statutory and voluntary organisations as well as children and young people themselves. A highlight of the event was when representatives from the "Young Voices" group attached to Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Newtownabbey delivered a powerful performance of an extract from their play *Family Portrait – Voice of a Victim*.



Strategic planning

A two day strategic review and planning session was held in Belfast on 22 and 23 February 2013 and was attended by Senior Managers from all Women's Aid groups, Management Board of Women's Aid Federation NI and representation from Management Boards from all Women's Aid groups. The event involved a review of progress and key achievements in relation to the previous strategic plan (2007-2012) as well as the identification of key strategic priorities for the next five year period (2013-2018). The event highlighted the wealth of proactive work that had been undertaken during this five year period and was a true demonstration of

the many successes and milestones that had been reached. Thanks is extended to all who participated in this strategic planning event – the discussions and feedback from the day will provide the foundation for the new strategic plan.

One Billion Rising

On 14 February 2013, we were delighted to work in partnership with NIPSA, the End Violence Against Women (NI) Working Group, International Women’s Day Belfast and the Belfast Feminist Network to coordinate and participate in the One Billion Rising day of action on violence against women. One Billion Rising, an annual day of global activism, saw one billion women and those who love them dance, rise up and demand an end to violence against women and girls across the world. In Northern Ireland, we marked the day with a ‘flash mob’ dance event at Stormont, which was well attended by representatives from across the Women’s Sector, Children & Young People’s Sector and Women’s Centres across Northern Ireland, as well as women, men and children of all ages. Co-hosting the event were Junior Ministers, Jennifer McCann, MLA, Sinn Fein and Jonathan Bell, MLA, DUP. Representatives of all major parties also took part. The Stormont event was followed by a public ‘flash mob’ outside Belfast City Hall,

where activists and supporters gathered to dance and provide information to the public about violence against women, and further pop-up events in Belfast city centre took place throughout the week. In Derry/Londonderry, One Billion Rising was marked with a balloon launch, organised by local activists and political representatives.

Increasing our online presence

We were delighted to launch our new website in October 2012. The website is a portal for information on domestic violence and has proved to be a fantastic resource for a wide range of stakeholders. The website profiles key issues and promotes Women’s Aid services available regionally including news and events, as well as opening up new channels of communication such as Facebook and Twitter. The website will be maintained and updated on a regular basis.



REGIONAL POLICY & LOBBYING

Policy and lobbying work forms an essential part of Women's Aid Federation NI's work to challenge the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic and sexual violence by lobbying, campaigning and influencing the policy agenda.



Women's Aid welcomes the move to a combined domestic & sexual violence strategy recognising that sexual violence has often been an invisible part of the horror of domestic violence.

In June of this year, Louise Kennedy joined Women's Aid Federation NI as Regional Policy & Information Co-ordinator, working in consultation with local Women's Aid groups across Northern Ireland to develop policy positions. The overall policy and lobbying work is led by Annie Campbell, Director, with lead roles on different issues assigned to Sarah Mason, Finance & Training Manager, Deirdre Teague, Helpline Manager and Louise Kennedy, Regional Policy & Information Co-ordinator.

Tackling Violence At Home

Women's Aid strongly believes it is only through effective partnership work that we

can achieve our vision of the elimination of domestic violence. During this period we continued as active participants in the inter-agency Tackling Violence at Home, Regional Strategic Partnership, chaired by DHSS&PS and Department of Justice and answerable to the Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence at Stormont.

During this year work to combine the sexual violence and domestic violence strategies began and the first stakeholder consultation on the joint strategy took place.

A combined domestic and sexual violence action plan was drafted and came into effect in April 2012, under which agencies worked throughout the year.

Women's Aid Federation NI has continued to meet our obligations under the action plan throughout the year under all five strands of the plan. Under the Leadership strand, we continued to refine our statistics collection procedures to gather relevant and robust data on domestic violence. We delivered training on domestic violence to external agencies, and continued in our efforts to raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence among government agencies, third sector organisations and the general public. Under strands two and five, Women's Aid Federation NI has continued to build

At the heart of all our partnership work is our determination to increase protection and provide support to victims of domestic and sexual violence.

capacity of teachers to act as Social Guardians through our *Helping Hands* programme. Under the Protection & Justice strand, we continued to support the roll out of MARACs and work with a full range of criminal justice agencies to improve support for victims.

We also continued to provide support to victims of domestic violence whose partners are participating in an Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP), and monitored the effectiveness of the IDAP programme through the RSG. As part of strand four which covers support, Women's Aid Federation NI further developed the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline, promoting additional channels of communication with our text and email services. Following the launch of the secure and confidential email service in March 2012, we continued to roll out and promote the email service throughout this period.

Women's Aid maintained places on the Regional Strategic Group (RSG), the Protection & Justice sub-group (Annie Campbell, Director chaired this sub-group during this period), the Prevention & Support sub-group, and the Children & Young People's sub-group. We also play an active role in a range of working groups linked to the RSG.

In addition, all Women's Aid local groups

are active in their local Domestic Violence Partnerships, which link into the work of the RSG of Tackling Violence at Home.

We remain committed to contributing positively to strategic partnership work to increase protection and provide support for all victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Partnership in action:

MARAC

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) have now been established and are operating across Northern Ireland. Women's Aid plays a full part in them, as we regard MARACs as essential for the protection of high risk victims of domestic violence. We fully support the MARAC Regional Operational Group, which we had pressed for, to ensure that a high standard of practice and a consistent approach is adopted and delivered in MARACs across Northern Ireland. Women's Aid Federation NI has taken an active role in the MARAC Regional Operational Group to ensure that MARAC is fully implemented.

Since 2010, Women's Aid has made 782 referrals to MARACs. After the PSNI, Women's Aid is the biggest referrer of high risk victims to MARACs across Northern Ireland. Referrals from Women's Aid account for 98.9% of all referrals from the voluntary sector.

During this period, intensive work was undertaken to produce an Information Sharing Agreement and an Operational Protocol for MARAC. Women's Aid Federation NI has continued to work to ensure we remain an integral part of the core MARAC groups, in the interest of the high risk victims in Northern Ireland.

IDAP

We continued to work in partnership with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) on the court mandated Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP), for perpetrators of domestic violence, throughout this period. This involves Women's Aid providing Women's Safety Workers to the four PBNI areas in Northern Ireland that run the programme. The aim of Women's Aid involvement is to increase the protection and safety of women, partners and ex-partners, and children of perpetrators on the IDAP programme. This partnership has continued to be very successful.

During this period, we also continued to work on the development of a non-court mandated IDAP programme. We supported and were involved in the development of the non-court mandated programme, which has been signed off by the RSG.

PCSPs

Policing & Community Safety Partnerships were established on 1st April 2012, replacing Policing Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships. Women's Aid Federation NI recognises the significant change to this framework, however we have some concerns that a key focus on domestic violence has not been sufficiently integrated into the PCSPs. During this period, Women's Aid engaged with PCSPs across all policing districts, and continued to monitor their impact and effectiveness.

Human Trafficking

Women's Aid continues to provide support for women victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, working in partnership with Migrant Help who support male victims.

Women's Aid Federation NI works with two of our local Women's Aid groups to provide this support. Throughout this year we contributed to seminars and awareness raising sessions on human trafficking and remain committed to ensuring the vital support needs of women who are victims of this modern day slavery are met.

We also responded to consultations on working arrangements for the welfare and protection of adult victims of human trafficking (DOJ) and the Public Prosecution Service's policy on prosecuting cases of human trafficking. Our years of experience supporting victims of gender-based violence, including supporting victims of human trafficking, has best placed Women's Aid to advise on the way forward to improving Northern Ireland's response to human trafficking, based on best practice and using a victim-centred approach.

Welfare Reform

We remain concerned that women who have experienced domestic violence are reporting significant difficulties in accessing benefits/entitlements in Northern Ireland. Women accessing Women's Aid services often have no money or income, indeed they are often denied access to their own money by violent partners. Without financial and practical help to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children they are left destitute at a very vulnerable time.

Women's Aid remains deeply concerned that changes to the welfare system will operate to make it even more difficult for women to free themselves and their children from abusive relationships. We have grave concerns, particularly in relation to proposed changes to the rules around Housing Benefit and the introduction of Universal Credit.

We have been actively involved in lobbying to minimize the worst potential effects of proposed welfare reforms since austerity measures were announced. On 28th June 2012, Women's Aid joined other women's sector organisations to submit written evidence to the DSD Committee on the impact of proposed welfare reforms on women. This was followed by the presentation of oral evidence to the Committee on 23rd October 2012, when Sharon Burnett of Causeway Women's Aid represented Women's Aid and gave evidence on welfare reform and its effect on women and victims of domestic violence as part of the Women's Ad Hoc Policy Group.

Women's Aid has since responded to the public consultation on welfare reform, and submitted our views on equality requirements relating to the Bill to the Ad Hoc Committee on Conformity with Equality and Human Rights Requirements relating to the Welfare Reform Bill in December 2012.

Throughout the year, we continued to engage on welfare reform through the Women's Ad Hoc Policy Group, the third sector Welfare Reform Group and the women's sector activist group Reclaim the Agenda, which organises the Empty Purse Protest and is also linked with the Trade Unions' welfare reform group.

Health Committee

Women's Aid local group Senior Managers (Patricia Lyness, from Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid and Mary McCann from Fermanagh Women's Aid) along with Louise Kennedy, Regional Policy & Information Coordinator, Women's Aid Federation NI, met with the Committee for Health, Social Services & Public Safety on 5th December 2012 to discuss issues relating to domestic violence and health and wellbeing of women and

children. Topics discussed included the effect of domestic violence on children and young people, the implementation of *Our Place – Safe Space*, the effect of domestic violence on the mental and physical health of women who experience it and gaps in domestic and sexual violence support services. We also discussed welfare reform and the impact of having no recourse to public funds from a health perspective.

Party Conferences

This year we took our stall and message out to local politicians and attended all the main party political conferences. This proved to be an excellent opportunity to inform political party members about the work of the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline, open to all women and men affected by domestic violence and the services our local Women's Aid groups offer.

Engagement with Trade Unions

Trade Unions in Northern Ireland remain key supporters of the work of Women's Aid. This year Women's Aid Federation NI successfully promoted preventative education and Women's Aid services at ICTU's Training Programme launch in September 2012 and at ICTU's conference on Hate Crime in November 2012.



On an on-going basis, we continue to provide information to politicians/ councillors and key policy makers on the effects of domestic violence and the work of Women's Aid across Northern Ireland.

Women's Aid remains deeply concerned that the changes to the welfare system will operate to make it even more difficult for women to free themselves and their children from abusive relationships.

We also stood with Trade Unions at Stormont to protest against the Welfare Reform Bill, and also at Royston House to protest against reforms that affect people with disabilities. In February 2013, we were again joined at Stormont by Trade Union representatives for One Billion Rising, a global day to raise awareness about violence against women and girls and call for its eradication.

One Billion Rising

On 14 February 2013, we were delighted to work in partnership with NIPSA, the End Violence Against Women (NI) Working Group, International Women's Day Belfast and the Belfast Feminist Network to coordinate and participate in the One Billion Rising day of action on violence against women. One Billion Rising, an annual day of global activism, saw one billion women and those who love them dance, rise up and demand an end to violence against women and girls across the world. In Northern Ireland, we marked the day with a 'flash mob' dance event at Stormont, which was well attended by representatives from across the Women's Sector, Children & Young People's Sector and Women's Centres across Northern Ireland, as well as women, men and children of all ages. Co-hosting the event were Junior Ministers, Jennifer McCann, MLA, Sinn Fein and Jonathan Bell, MLA, DUP. Representatives of all major parties took part. The Stormont event was followed by a public 'flash mob' outside Belfast City Hall, where activists and supporters gathered to dance and provide information to the public about violence against women, and further pop-up events in Belfast city centre throughout the week. In Derry/Londonderry, One Billion Rising was marked with a balloon launch, organised by local activists and political representatives.



Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The 57th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York between 4th and 15th March 2013. The annual meeting saw representatives of Member States and civil society experts gather to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide. This year's priority theme was 'the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls', and the focus was on prevention of violence and the provision of support services/responses to survivors of violence.

Louise Kennedy from Women's Aid Federation NI was one of two NGO delegates from Northern Ireland, attending as a representative of the Northern Ireland Women's European Platform (NIWEP). The trip was funded by the Department of Justice, and following the publication of the Agreed Conclusions from the session the NIWEP representatives produced a full report for DOJ on implementing the Agreed Conclusions and learning from best practice shared at the session.

Public Affairs Strategy

Women's Aid Federation NI, in consultation with our local Women's Aid groups, continues to implement a regional public affairs strategy which identifies key public policy issues facing our organisation and directly impacting the women and children who use our services across Northern Ireland.

Access to Justice

We continued to engage with Criminal Justice Inspection NI on issues relating to our work supporting women experiencing domestic violence during this period. We contributed to several stakeholder consultation meetings, including a review of the Voluntary Sector's involvement in the Northern Irish Criminal Justice System, and a follow-up review of the inspection of domestic violence and abuse.

During 2012-13, Women's Aid also engaged with DOJ on a wide range of criminal justice issues that directly affect women we support. This included stakeholder meetings on reform to the family justice system run by DHSSPS and DOJ in conjunction with CiNI, and feeding into a number of consultations to ensure the treatment of victims and witnesses of domestic and sexual violence and abuse in the criminal justice process is improved. We continued to advocate for more effective use of special measures in a court setting, as well as supporting additional measures such as wider use of live links to give evidence and improving the Victim Impact Assessment system. We also contributed our views on the draft 5 year victims & witnesses strategy, which we regard as a crucial move towards improved treatment of victims of domestic and sexual violence throughout the criminal justice process.



Women's Aid strongly supports the introduction of Domestic Violence Specialist courts into Northern Ireland to enable the development of best practice in multiagency, integrated ways of working that place the victim at the heart of the process.

Domestic Violence Listings Court in Derry / Londonderry

Women's Aid Federation NI welcomes the domestic violence listings court in Derry and see it as a vital step towards improving access to justice for all victims of domestic violence. This listing has been very successful since it was first launched as a pilot scheme in November 2011 and we look forward to seeing it rolled out across Northern Ireland in the near future.

Women with No Recourse to Public Funds

Women with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) are being denied access to safe refuge accommodation because refuges are dependent on government funding. These women are not eligible for benefits, such as housing benefit whilst in refuge, and prohibited from employment. As such, these victims of domestic and sexual violence are essentially trapped, faced with an impossible and inhumane choice between destitution and a life of violence and abuse.

Women's Aid is willing and committed to providing support, emergency accommodation

Connecting

We continue to develop and sustain our relationships with key partners across all sectors and participate actively on a number of policy fora. These include:

Tackling Violence at Home Strategy (TV@H) - DHSS&PS and DOJ

TV@H Regional Strategic Group
TV@H Protection & Justice sub-group
TV@H Prevention and Support sub-group
TV@H Children & Young People's sub-group
TV@H MARAC Operational Group

Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy - DHSS&PS

- Stakeholder Engagement Groups

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board

- Early Intervention sub-group

Other

- Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI) Policy Forum
- Child Maintenance & Enforcement Division Stakeholder Forum (CMED)
- Disability Action (Research)
- End Violence Against Women (NI) Working Group
- End Violence Against Women UK Expert Advisory group
- Human Trafficking Social Care Group, Department of Justice (with Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid & Foyle Women's Aid)
- NICVA Women's Policy Forum
- NI Human Rights Consortium
- NI Women's European Platform (NIWEP)
- CSW Alliance
- OFMDFM Gender Advisory Panel
- PBNI - Un-adjudicated Domestic Abuse Programmes Regional Steering Group
- Queens University DV Research Special Interest Group
- Rural Women's Policy Forum
- Skills For Justice Steering Group
- Stranmillis College Safeguarding Forum
- UK/ROL (Refuge Online) London
- Women's Ad Hoc Policy Group
- Women's Aid Federations across the UK and the Republic of Ireland
- Reclaim the Agenda
- International Women's Day Committee
- Welfare Reform Group
- PSI Homeless Partnerships Sub Group 4 on Service Improvement
- PPANI Victims Advisory Group
- Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP)
- Women's Reference Group of the Policing Board NI
- Human Trafficking NGO Engagement Group
- CRISPP

and assistance for all women and children who are victims of domestic violence however we are severely limited in our capacity to do so due to a lack of funding and resources.

Emergency Fund

This fund is provided by OFMDFM and managed by Community Foundation NI and Red Cross. The initial fund was time limited but through extensive lobbying it was extended this year from September - November 2012. Women's Aid Federation NI managed the fund through 4 local groups - Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid, Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh Women's Aid, Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid and Omagh Women's Aid. During this period payments were made to 20 women and 30 children across our four local groups.

These funds were used to pay for food, fuel, toiletries, clothing and baby needs. The case studies from Women's Aid highlighted not only the vulnerability these families were facing due to financial destitution but the added risk factors and stress caused by domestic violence.

These small amounts of money made such a difference to such serious situations, and its cessation is a huge blow for some of the most vulnerable people in our society.


Children and Young People

In May 2012, Women's Aid Federation NI launched *Our Place – Safe Space*, a five year strategy for children and young people who experience domestic violence, along with an accompanying directory of services for children and young people. The strategy demonstrates Women's Aid's continued commitment to meeting the needs of children and young people who experience (or may be at risk of

experiencing) domestic violence. The strategy was officially launched on 16 May 2012 at Stormont Buildings by Minister for Health, Edwin Poots, MLA and Minister for Education, John O'Dowd, MLA. The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, Patricia Lewsley-Mooney, also welcomed the strategy and spoke at the launch, as did Paddy Sloan from Children in Need.

Women's Aid believes that every child living in a household where domestic violence is happening is a victim of abuse and is in need of protection and support services. At present there continues to be a patchwork quilt of funding available to Women's Aid and other organisations across Northern Ireland for essential support work with children and young people who have experienced domestic violence, with key areas of work under threat of closure due to lack of funding.

We continued to engage throughout the year on issues relating to children and young people through our strategic engagement with other groups such as Children in Northern Ireland and NSPCC. We also contributed to consultations concerning children and young people. Additionally, Director of Women's Aid Federation NI, Annie Campbell currently sits on the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). This key partnership brings together a range of agencies, including voluntary and community sector organisations, that aim to improve the lives of children and



Women's Aid believes that every child living in a household where domestic violence is happening is a victim of abuse and is in need of protection and support services.

young people in Northern Ireland. We will work within the CYPSP to ensure that domestic violence is recognised as a critical issue blighting the lives of many children and young people.

Preventative Education

Women's Aid believes that preventative education work with all children and young people, in schools and community settings, is essential to ensure that attitudes within society are changed to the point where domestic violence is unacceptable and no child or young person is left without information or support. This is year three of a project funded by the Department of Education to deliver the *Helping Hands* Preventative Education programme to teachers across all five Education and Library Boards. We were also very pleased to receive

strong backing from the Regional Strategic Group of Tackling Violence at Home for the continued roll out of *Helping Hands* to primary schools.

Housing Issues

Women's Aid continued to engage on matters relating to housing in 2012-13, as it remains a key issue for women fleeing domestic violence situations. In December 2012, we responded to DSD's consultation on their housing strategy, and in January 2013 we commented on proposed changes to the Housing Selection Scheme in light of welfare reform changes.

We will continue to work with DSD, NIHE and Housing Associations to ensure that all Women's Aid refuges are fit for purpose for the 21st century.

POLICY RESPONSES

During the period 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013, we responded to 30 policy consultations drawing on the expertise of Women's Aid across Northern Ireland:

- Health and Social Care Board - Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Outcomes
- Green Party - Private Member's Bill consultation on A Statutory Duty to co-operate on Children's Services
- Committee for Social Development – Written Submission of Evidence on the Welfare Reform Bill and Women (Women's Ad Hoc Policy Group)
- Department of Justice - Provision of Victim Impact Statements and Victim Impact Reports
- Department of Justice and NI Policing Board - Policing & Community Safety Partnerships: draft code of practice
- OFMDFM - Consultation on a draft disability strategy
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety - Consultation on Departmental Guidance to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI)
- Department of Justice - Working Arrangements for the Welfare and Protection of Adult Victims of Human Trafficking
- Department of Social Development - Discretionary Support Policy consultation
- Department of Justice - Consultation on the Provision of Community Impact Assessments
- Department of Justice - Consultation on proposals to vary the firearms licensing fees and other miscellaneous amendments
- Department of Justice - Consultation on proposals to extend the use of live links in court
- Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership - Action Plans - consultation on Children & Young People with Disabilities
- Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership - Action Plans - consultation on Transition to Adulthood for Young People with Disabilities
- Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership - Action Plans - consultation on Children & Young People with Emotional and Behavioral Difficulties
- Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership - Action Plans - consultation on Young Carers
- Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership – Action Plans - consultation on Young People and Offending
- DHSSPS – Contribution to CYPSP response to Fit and Well: Changing Lives- 2012-2022: A 10 Year Public Health Strategic Framework
- Department of Justice - Sharing Information about Family Proceedings concerning Children
- DSD Committee – Consultation on the Welfare Reform Bill

- UN Women - Written Statements for the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Department for Social Development - Facing the Future: a Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland consultation
- Public Prosecution Service - Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Human Trafficking
- Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Briefing Paper
- Ad Hoc Committee on Conformity with Equality and Human Rights Requirements relating to the Welfare Reform Bill – Submission on Welfare Reform Bill
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety - Transforming Your Care consultation
- Department of Justice - Making a Difference - Consultation on New Five Year Victim and Witness Strategy
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive - Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Housing Selection Scheme
- Department of Justice – Managing Criminal Cases
- Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Consultation on the Future of Adult Care and Support

**Women's Aid Federation
NI responded to 30 policy
consultations in 2012/2013**



REGIONAL TRAINING

Training is a vital part of the work of Women’s Aid Federation NI. It aims to develop highly skilled and qualified staff across Northern Ireland and to educate, inform and challenge the public, media and other agencies on the impact and effects of domestic violence.



Accredited training



Women’s Aid Federation NI is an accredited centre with Open College Network (OCN) and continues to effectively deliver accredited courses at Level 3.



Women’s Aid Federation NI is also an Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) Recognised Provider. ILM Development Awards are awarded on successful completion of the following:

- Train the Trainers to Develop Social Guardians Facilitators to Deliver Helping Hands.
- Effective Communication Skills for Social Guardians delivering Helping Hands.



“Interesting learning the role of the Child Protection Officer within the process of Child Protection issues”.

Training Team

- Sarah Mason - Finance & Training Manager
- Debbie Mehaffy - Regional Trainer (Job Share)
- Joanne Kelly - Regional Trainer (Job Share) (6 months)



Accredited Training Provided

- OCN Level 3 Understanding Domestic Violence
- OCN Level 3 Court Support Training
- OCN Level 3 Training Skills for Trainers
- Protective Behaviours – accredited by PBUK
- Keeping Safe Child Protection - endorsed by Volunteer Now

Quotes from staff who took part

“Very worthwhile course, really enjoyed it”

Internal Training Delivered

April 2012 – March 2013

Training	Accreditation	Duration	Content	Numbers Attended
Understanding Domestic Violence	OCN Level 3	6 Days	Core training for all staff, including impact of domestic violence on children and young people.	19
Training Skills for Trainers	OCN Level 3	3 Days	Aims to further develop skills in the design, delivery and evaluation of training programmes.	10
Train the Trainers to Develop Social Guardians Facilitators to Deliver Helping Hands	ILM	2 Days	A two day train the trainers programme for Women's Aid staff to deliver <i>Developing Social Guardians to deliver Helping Hands</i> to teachers.	13
Effective Communication Skills for Social Guardians Delivering Helping Hands	ILM	2 Days	A two day training programme to enable participants to deliver <i>Helping Hands</i> .	13
Developing Social Guardians in Understanding Domestic Violence	TBC	1 Day	A one day training event to assist participants to understand the context of domestic violence and its impact upon individuals.	6
Train Facilitators – Journey To Freedom	TBC	2 Days	Supporting Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid with staff training:- A two day training programme to enable participants to deliver 'Journey to Freedom'.	12
Train Facilitators - You and Me, Mum	TBC	2 Days	A two day training programme to enable participants to deliver 'You & Me, Mum'.	13
Keeping Children Safe – Child Protection Module 1 : An Introduction	Youthnet	3 hours	This programme reflects Women's Aid Child Protection policy and procedures.	17
Keeping Children Safe – Child Protection Module 2 : training for staff & volunteers (Includes module 1)	Youthnet	1 day	This programme reflects Women's Aid Child Protection policy and procedures.	127
Keeping Children Safe - Child Protection Module 3 : training for managers, supervisors and management committee members (Includes module 1)	Youthnet	1 day	This programme reflects Women's Aid Child Protection policy and procedures.	17
TOTAL				247

External Training Delivered April 2012 – March 2013

Training Provided	Agency	Duration	Numbers Attended
Domestic Violence Can Seriously Damage Your Health.	Royal College of Nursing RCN, Belfast	30/05/2012	18
You and Me, Mum Train the Trainers.	Welsh Women's Aid, Cardiff	28/5/2012 29/5/2012	4
Developing Social Guardians in Understanding the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children & Young People.	Regional Training Unit, Stranmillis College	22/8/12	25
Violence within Relationships (Workshop delivered twice at conference).	18th Annual Regional Sexual Health Conference, Mossley Mill	14/11/13	2 x 25 = 50
Developing Social Guardians in Understanding the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children & Young People.	Children in Northern Ireland	29/1/13	16
Developing Social Guardians in Understanding the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children & Young People.	ECCP, Children in Northern Ireland	20/3/13	8
Effective Communication Skills for Social Guardians Delivering Helping Hands.	Teacher Training within ND&AWA	13/3/13 14/3/13	15
Domestic Violence Can Seriously Damage your Health.	Northern Ireland Medical & Dentists Training Association (NIMDTA)	20/3/13 25/3/13	2x 50= 100
TOTAL			236

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Comments from participants include:

“Very interesting, eye-opening course. Extremely worthwhile and hopefully I will be better equipped to deal with issues around domestic abuse in my school”

“Good for consolidation of knowledge and reflective practice. Very useful – cycle of violence- Theory behind knowledge base”

“Fabulous presenters, articulate and engaging super course”

236
representatives from external agencies attended Women's Aid training



RCN Accredited Training

Together with Women's Aid Federations in England, Wales and Scotland, we have jointly developed a one day training course, *Domestic Violence Can Seriously Damage Your Health*. This course is accredited through the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) and counts as 6 CPD study hours for health care professionals.

- Women's Aid Federation NI delivered this course in RCN Headquarters, Windsor Avenue Belfast on 30 May 2012.
- The course reviewed ways to recognise and effectively respond to a patient's experience of domestic abuse.
- Thanks to RCN who promoted this event with their membership and advertised it on the RCN website.



Successful outcomes from RCN Training:

The day was a great success and comments from participants included:

“Appropriate and sensitive information given in a way that will help us work with women and children within our care”

“Very interesting and informative and useful day, increased my awareness of the serious impact of DV as a public health issue”.

As a direct result of this training event, Women's Aid Federation NI was asked to speak at several health-related conferences, including the 18th Annual Regional Sexual Health Conference, November 2012 at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey. The theme for the conference was sexual health and vulnerability. Regional job-share trainers from Women's Aid Federation NI facilitated a workshop on 'Violence in Relationships' during two sessions at the conference.

Conferences

Women's Aid Federation NI successfully promoted preventative education and Women's Aid services at each of the following conferences:

17th April 2012 – The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE), Cookstown.

19th April 2012 – CPSSS Development Day (Five Education & Library Boards Child Protection Teams) presentation on Developing Social Guardians to Deliver Helping Hands.

14th November 2012 – 18th Annual Regional Sexual Health Conference 2012 - Mossley Mill, New Mossley, Newtownabbey. The theme for the conference was sexual health and vulnerability.

26th October 2012 – Women's Aid Federation NI Annual General Meeting. The theme for the conference was 'Journey to Freedom' – Highlighting Women's Aid Support Services.

19th February 2013 – Providing an information stand at RCN Sexual Health Conference – 'What's it got to do with me?'

14th & 15th March 2013 – Ulster Teachers Union Annual Conference – Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle.

UK-wide initiatives

Comic Relief continued funding until June 2012. This project provided an excellent opportunity for networking with other UK Women's Aid Federations in Scotland, England and Wales. One of the main aims of this project was to develop a common core curriculum of domestic violence training.

Successful outcomes from this project included the development of a new domestic violence training qualification for the QCF (Qualifications & Credit Framework) which offers three levels of accreditation:

- 1. **Award** in Tackling and Preventing Domestic and Sexual Violence / Abuse
- 2. **Certificate** in Tackling and Preventing Domestic and Sexual Violence / Abuse
- 3. **Diploma** in Tackling and Preventing Domestic and Sexual Violence / Abuse

These qualifications are now ready for implementation across Northern Ireland.

Another joint outcome was gaining CPD accreditation for a course *Domestic Violence Can Seriously Damage Your Health* through Royal College Nursing UK wide (CPD – 6 hours).

Successful partnership work with Skills for Justice in conjunction with Women’s Aid in England, Scotland and Wales took place to map training and job descriptions to National Occupational Standards for Domestic and Sexual Abuse.

Job descriptions for core posts within Women’s Aid across Northern Ireland and the UK have been streamlined. These core job descriptions have now been mapped to the NOS (National Occupational Standards) and we will be looking at the most effective ways to implement them.

1. Support Worker – Refuge
2. Support Worker – Outreach
3. Support Worker – Children & Young People
4. Support Worker – Helpline
5. Support Worker – Independent Domestic Violence Advocate



Keeping Children Safe - Child Protection

Women’s Aid Federation NI delivers training on all areas of safeguarding in relation to children and young people experiencing domestic violence. In particular, we deliver *Keeping Children Safe - Child Protection* training. This is a recognised and endorsed training programme developed by Volunteer Now, which is supported by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and certificated through Youthnet. This programme is delivered by skilled accredited Keeping Safe

trainers within Women’s Aid Federation NI. All staff and volunteers regionally within Women’s Aid are trained in child protection as part of their core training. **Keeping Children Safe training** is a unique suite of modules which gives participants the opportunity to explore the current, relevant issues in safeguarding children including legislation, statistics and good practice. Participants learn through a variety of methods including presentation, group work, scenarios and case studies.

Module	Title	Suitable for:
Module 1 (3Hours)	Keeping Children Safe: An Introduction	Staff/volunteers with no direct contact with children/young people
Module 2 (6Hours)	Keeping Children Safe: training for staff & volunteers (Includes module 1)	All staff/volunteers with direct contact with children/young people
Module 3 (6Hours)	Keeping Children Safe: training for managers, supervisors and management committee members (Includes module 1)	Managers, supervisors and management committee members



In the last year **161** staff & volunteers
within Women's Aid received Keeping
Children Safe Child Protection Certificates.

A quote from a participant when asked, what was the most useful aspect:

**“Referring scenarios to Child
Protection Policy & Procedures.”**

**“Women's Aid scenarios are very
good for stimulating discussion.”**

Women's Aid Federation NI has also been supporting Volunteer Now as part of a working group looking at the review of the document 'Our Duty to Care'.



Journey to Freedom



Journey to Freedom is a personal development group process, for women who have experienced (or who continue to experience) domestic violence.

This is the first year of using the newly updated pack. The new pack, whilst retaining the main structure, key activities and materials from the original process, has been updated and further developed. The pack has now been distributed to all local Women's Aid groups and feedback to date has been very positive.

Anticipated outcomes for women

- Increased confidence/self-esteem.
- Establishment of peer support.
- Clear understanding of domestic violence.
- Improved awareness of healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships.
- Reduction in feelings of isolation, guilt and shame.
- Increased ability to process thoughts and understand experiences.
- Improved access to information, advice and support.
- Provision of opportunities to access other services within Women's Aid and with other agencies.
- Increased skills and abilities.
- Development of a more positive outlook

for themselves and their children.

- Improved relationships and attachments with children.
- Increased confidence in parenting role and abilities.

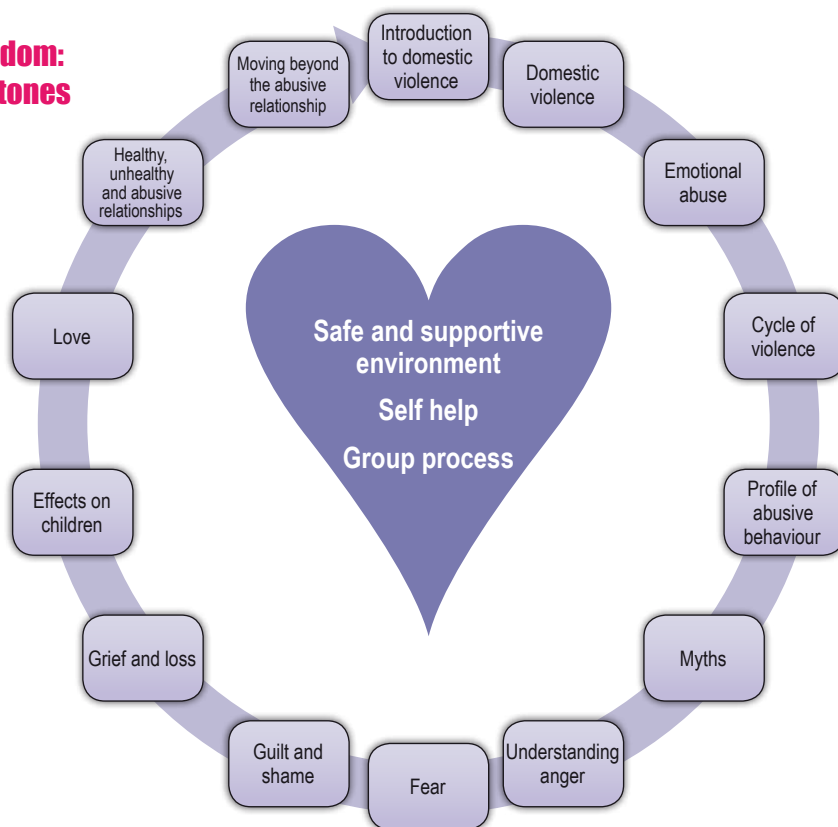
Anticipated outcomes for children

Children are safer and supported as a direct result of the above outcomes for mothers. As mothers become more aware of the impact domestic violence has had upon the whole family, they can begin to put in place safety and support strategies to enhance the safety and wellbeing of their children. Women who have participated in the *Journey to Freedom* process report increased confidence in their parenting and a range of benefits for the whole family such as:

- A safer environment.
- The existence of a support framework for the whole family.
- A clearer understanding of the impact of domestic violence on children and how they can be supported.

In the last year 621 women across Northern Ireland attended Journey to Freedom.

Journey to Freedom: The Stepping Stones



Facilitator training

At the beginning of the year Debbie Mehaffy, Regional Trainer, Women's Aid Federation NI supported Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid with a 4 day pilot *Journey to Freedom* facilitator training programme. A total of 13 facilitators attended the training.

Comments from Participants include:

“The facilitator's notes made all the difference - like the layout and it's very user friendly. Really enjoyed the training.”

“Found the training extremely useful both from increase in knowledge and sharing of experiences, and from learning new facilitation skills.”

“The new pack is very facilitator friendly and will help keep Journey to Freedom facilitators on track more. Having good facilitators helped me too.”



Preventative Education Project

Women’s Aid Federation NI believes that preventative education work with all children and young people in schools and community settings is essential, to ensure that attitudes within society are changed to the point where domestic violence is unacceptable and no child or young person is left without information or support.

This is year three of a project funded by the Department of Education.

Women’s Aid Federation NI developed an innovative programme to build capacity for primary school teachers to deliver *Helping Hands*. The capacity building programme, *Developing Social Guardians to Deliver Helping Hands* has been delivered to primary school teachers across the five Education and Library Board Areas since 2010, and this year was the third successful roll-out of this training.



The programme has the following Social Guardian outcomes:

- Assist teachers to understand the context and impact of domestic violence in the lives of children and their families.
- Assist teachers to develop preventative and early intervention strategies in relation to children who do not feel safe, specifically children affected by domestic violence.
- Enable teachers to deliver the *Helping Hands* programme linked to the curriculum.

Teachers who successfully complete the two day programme are eligible for an ILM Development Award entitled *Effective Communication skills for Social Guardians delivering Helping Hands*.

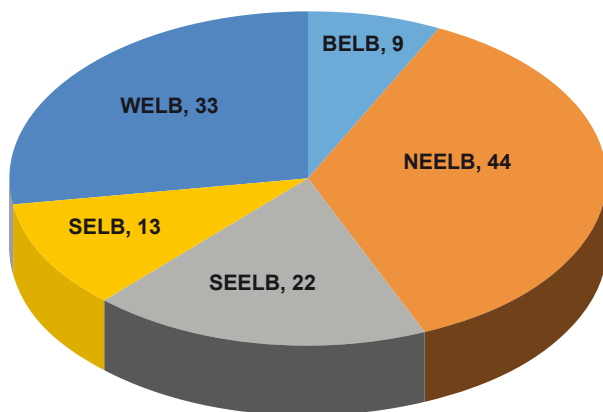
Helping Hands outcomes for Children

- Develop children’s level of self-esteem and confidence.
- Enable children to explore and express feelings.
- Inform children of their right to feel safe at all times.
- Increase children’s abilities in safety planning.
- Encourage children to seek support when needed.
- Empower children to identify their own personal support network.
- Explore how choice of behaviour can affect the feelings of others.
- Identifies ways to manage conflict.

Totals for 2012 - 2013

Number of Women's Aid Staff who accessed Train the Trainers on Developing Social Guardians	Number of Local Women's Aid groups involved	Number of Primary Schools involved	Number of teachers who accessed the two day training programme
12	9	120	168

Primary Schools by Board Area (2012-2013)



■ BELB
 ■ NEELB
 ■ SEELB
 ■ SELB
 ■ WELB

The way ahead

The Department of Education has confirmed funding in respect of 2013-2014. This will enable further roll out of training to an additional 160 primary school teachers across the five Education & Library Board Areas.

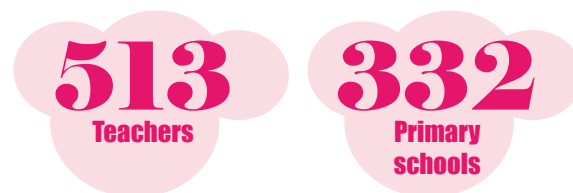
They have confirmed the following:-

- They will fund the cost of substitute teachers to enable all 160 teachers to attend the 2-day training programme.
- The training will be carried out in clusters of 16 teachers across the nine local Women's Aid group areas.

Feedback from a teacher who took part:

“The difference between school and life.... In school, you're taught a lesson & then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches a lesson. Thank you for merging both for me. I have learned so much”

Trained to date 2010 - 2013:



- Ten 2-day training programmes will take place and will be delivered by staff from local Women's Aid groups.
- Each Women's Aid local group will be offered one 2-day training programme for 16 teachers in their local schools.

Confirmation and continued commitment of this funding from the Department of Education is a direct result of the quality training and positive feedback we have been receiving from all five Education and Library Board Areas.



You and Me, Mum

The aim of this 10 week programme is to empower and support mothers to develop further understanding of their role in addressing the needs of their children and young people who have lived with domestic violence. Women's Aid Federation NI believes that building the resilience of children and young people is essential.

Training the trainer

In 2012-2013 Debbie Mehaffy successfully delivered the *You and Me, Mum - Train the Trainer* programme to training staff within Welsh Women's Aid. Co-ordinators of this programme are now in a position to train and roll out the programme throughout their membership organisations in Wales from June 2012, resulting in the successful establishment of the programme both across Women's Aid Federation England and Welsh Women's Aid.



Some thoughts from Trainers who took part:

“Women need to have knowledge of and understand the impact domestic abuse has on their children. It will help to improve the mother child bond”

Through the delivery of a Train the Trainers programme on *You and Me, Mum* across Women's Aid in Northern Ireland, we have now trained **110 Women's Aid Facilitators throughout Northern Ireland** to deliver the programme to mothers. We continue to monitor and evaluate the programme and offer facilitator training to Women's Aid staff on an ongoing basis.

“A woman who has experienced domestic abuse needs support to recognise that she is a mum too, and needs to understand the impact that domestic abuse has had on her parenting”

Since its commencement in 2008, the *You and Me, Mum* programme has been delivered throughout Women's Aid Groups in Northern Ireland.

This year **120** mothers attended the *You and Me, Mum* programmes throughout local Women's Aid groups, making a total of **516** since it commenced.

219 children and young people were indirectly supported through their mother's attendance at *You and Me, Mum* programmes this year, making **994** since it commenced.

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Thoughts from mothers who have attended the programme

“I did the You and Me, Mum programme to help me develop my confidence in myself and to help me recognise what I had been through and to recognise what my children had been through.”

“I have realised I was doing the best that I could in a very difficult situation. It has helped me to understand how strong I was, even though at the time I felt so weak and hopeless.”

You and Me, Mum - Independent Evaluation

We are currently undertaking an external independent evaluation of this programme. Interviews and questionnaires have been carried out with mothers who have taken part in the programme, facilitators who deliver the material and Senior Managers who are responsible for providing the programme.

Thank you to ALL who have taken time out of your busy schedules to commit to the evaluation process. Feedback to date has been very positive in expressing a way forward for the programme. The completed evaluation report will be available in Autumn 2013.

Some thoughts from mothers who have participated in the evaluation process to date are presented in the table below.

What were things like for you and your children before participating in the programme?	How, if at all, did they change as a result of participating in the programme?
<i>Our house was quite a sad house and we all walked around on eggshells. My kids didn't know how to approach me and I didn't know how to communicate with them.</i>	It all changed. My kids are happier, I am happier, we can talk to each other instead of shouting and there's wider respect in the household.
<i>I never went out of the house.</i>	There is less stress and tension. We are happier and calmer. We are both more aware of our feelings and how to deal with them.
<i>No communication. Son using violence. Kids having a bad relationship with me and each other and taking roles as adults.</i>	More open and honest, better relationship. Kids learned to be kids again, more confidence.
<i>I would have tried to keep everything to myself and didn't give them the opportunity to talk either.</i>	Much more open communication, still not really good but getting there. I have an understanding of their roles during this time.
<i>Me, frozen, holding tight, stuck, guilt ridden, feeling like a failure, caught between the weight of making the right decisions for everyone in the family and worried that my decisions had destroyed everyone.</i>	I discovered that it was not just me living like this...I came to learn more about the roles the children take on. I am now working to support my children away from these roles and working on boundaries. My son at 8 likes that I have people supporting me.
<i>Very low, confused, sad, depressed...it was a long dark tunnel.</i>	Able to smile again, things seem clearer, the light at the end of the tunnel is slowly starting to appear...I feel that life is worth living.
<i>Depressed, very unhappy, emotional, weak, alone, didn't want to talk about what I was going through.</i>	I am much happier as a person. I can talk without breaking down so much. I am stronger; I can honestly say I am not going around with constant stress on my shoulders. It has opened my eyes.



24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline

Helpline team

Helpline Manager: Deirdre Teague
Deputy Helpline Manager: Sonya McMullan
(Due to staff illness Sonya McMullan was Acting Helpline Manager from August 2012 to March 2013)

Helpline Workers:

Elaine Hoey
Gail Currie
Lisa Leslie
Linda Hamilton
Margaret Pierce
Rita Moore
Claire Porter
Madeline Maxwell
Diane McGivern
Tracey McKee

The Helpline also has a pool of Bank Staff who provide cover as and when needed and a committed volunteer team.

The 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline is managed by Women’s Aid Federation NI and is open to all women and men affected by domestic violence. This freephone service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

This is the eighth successful year of funding support, with a change from a Service Level Agreement to a grant arrangement with the Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, DHSS&PS, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Community Safety Unit, Department of Justice.

The Helpline works closely with the PSNI, Social Services, our local Women’s Aid Groups and a wide variety of other statutory and voluntary agencies.

As with previous years, we have experienced an increase in calls to the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline as we work to increase awareness of domestic violence and support available through the Helpline.

Helpline calls: April 2012 - March 2013

47,597
calls managed

44,664
calls answered

Sexual violence training

Sexual violence has always been part of the work of the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline as it is often an aspect of domestic violence. To support staff in responding to the diverse needs of victims of sexual violence, this year the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline invested significant time and resources on training in this complex area. This clear and strategic focus has helped staff to explore the issues and develop the necessary skills and knowledge required to respond effectively to victims of sexual violence.

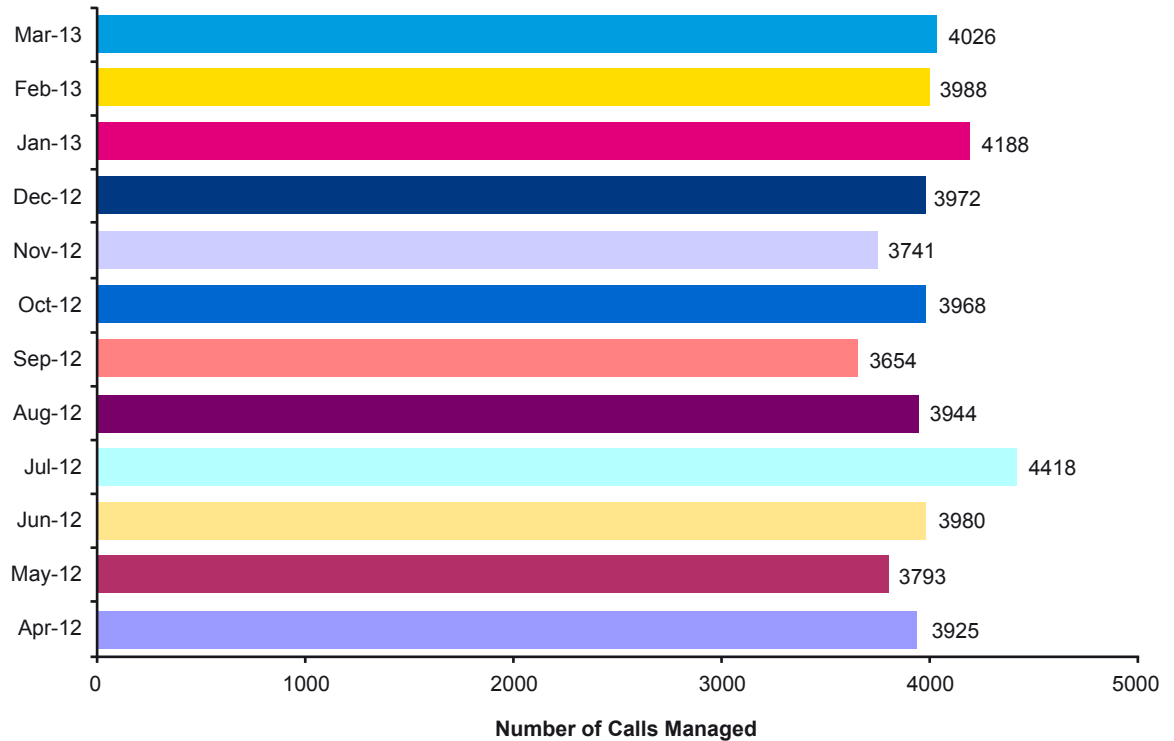
On 21 November 2012, several members of the Helpline Team attended a NOTA Conference on Sexual Abuse – *The Journey of the Survivors*. In December 2012, two members of the Helpline team began a twelve day Post Graduate Certificate Course - *Issues in Sexual Violence* with the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC). The course explored issues arising in working as a counsellor with adolescent and adult clients who have experienced child sexual abuse, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment. During January and February 2013, training took place for all Helpline staff and volunteers on sexual violence. Leonie O'Dowd from DRCC came to Belfast twice to facilitate a four day programme for the staff and volunteers. This has increased understanding among the Helpline team of the impact of rape and how to respond appropriately and effectively to support an individual in its aftermath. The support we have received from DRCC in relation to the work has been a great resource and we hope to build on this further during the next year, with more training for staff and volunteers.

Helpline Quality Standard

The Helpline obtained the Helplines Association (now known as the Helplines Partnership) Quality Standard in December 2012. The standard accredits best practice in Helpline work and recognises its diverse nature. The standard offers assessment for multi-channel support, including through phone, email, SMS, chat forums and other internet media, and emphasises the importance of strategic planning and partnership working which are essential for the sustainability of Helplines.

Women's Aid Federation NI is extremely proud of the excellent work undertaken by the Helpline team to secure this standard and of the fact that the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline is the first Helpline in Northern Ireland to achieve this standard.

Number of calls managed by Helpline: 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013



A total of 47,597 calls were managed during the year.

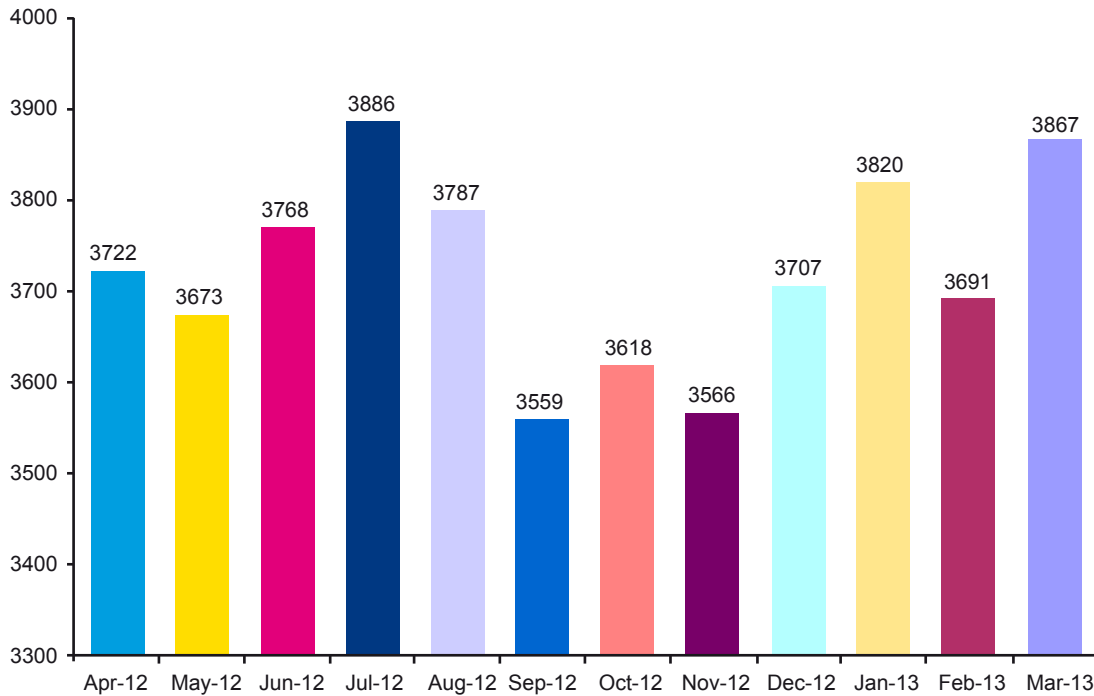
In the previous year, April 2011 - March 2012, the total was 43,949 calls managed.

The total increase was 3,648 calls. This is an increase of 8.3% in calls managed.

(Calls managed include all calls answered and all calls made by Helpline staff to follow up specific support and advice. For example, arranging refuge accommodation for a woman may involve Helpline workers making a number of calls out.)

374,406 Total calls managed from 1995-2013

Number of calls answered by Helpline: 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013

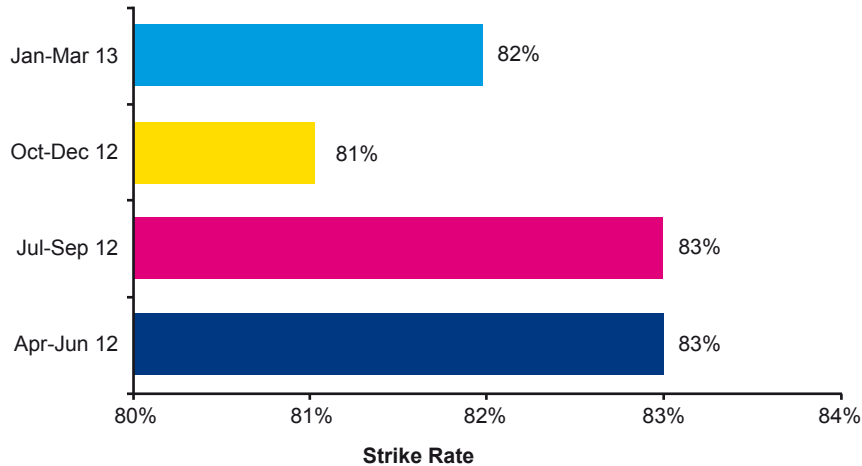


A total of 44,664 calls were answered during the year.

In the previous year, April 2011 - March 2012, the total was 41,633 calls answered.

The total increase was 3,031 calls. This is an increase of 7.3% in calls answered.

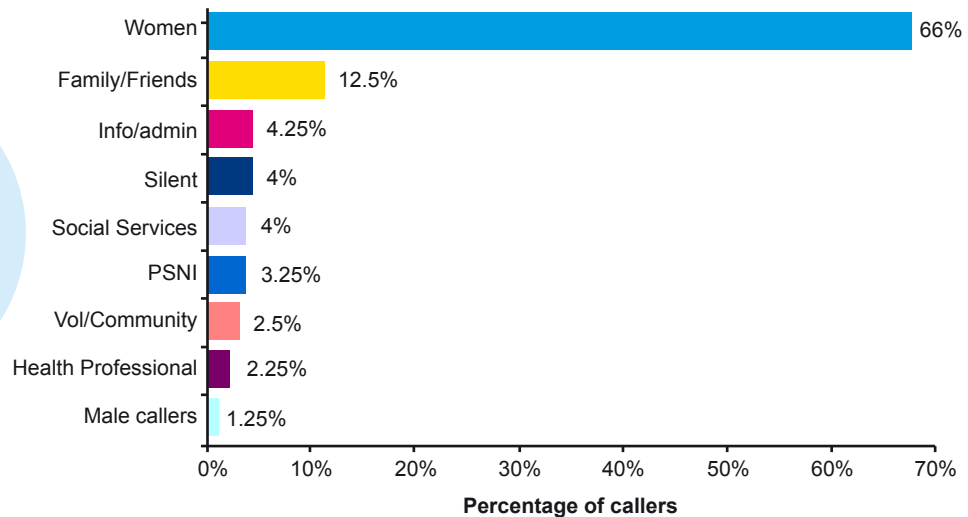
Strike Rate: 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013



The strike rate is the percentage of incoming calls answered compared to the remaining percentage of incoming callers who find the line engaged. The Helpline average strike rate for this period was an impressive 82.25%, which exceeds the Telephone Helplines Association recommended strike rate of 75% by 7.25%.



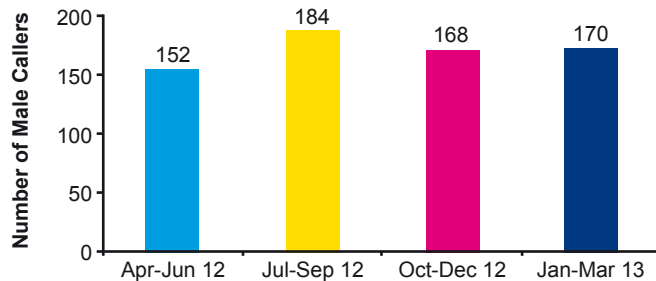
Breakdown of callers: 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013



This table outlines the categories of callers to the Helpline.

The majority of callers to the service are from women, which reflects the levels of domestic violence experienced by women.

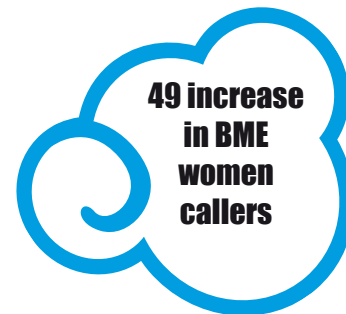
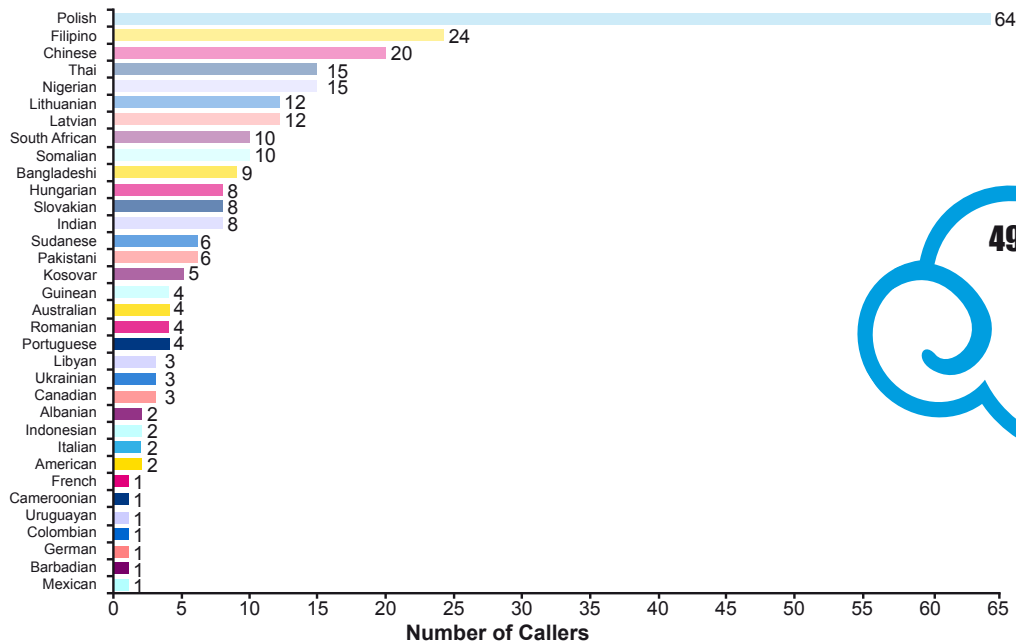
Male callers: 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013



A total of 674 male callers were supported by the Helpline team and provided with emotional support and a listening ear. This equates to 1.25% of calls answered, an increase from 1.0% of calls for previous years. The total number of male callers for the previous year was 476, which is an increase of 198 callers.

Callers who wanted to speak to someone face to face or had other issues they needed support with were signposted to Men's Advisory Project, Victim Support, Men's Health Project, Tara Centre, Aisling Centre and a variety of statutory and support services.

Calls from foreign nationals and black and minority ethnic women: 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013

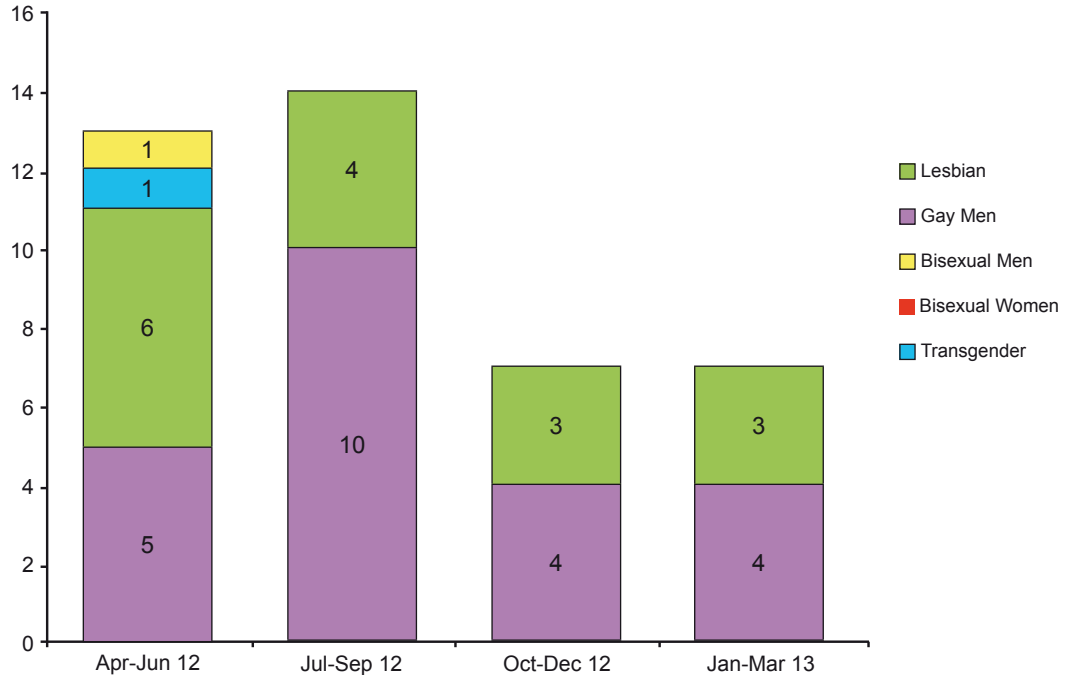


A total of 272 calls to the service were from foreign nationals and black and minority ethnic women; the total for last year was 223. This is an increase of 49 calls. This equates to 0.9% of calls answered.

In addition a total of 45 women from the Travelling community contacted the Helpline during this period.

The Helpline uses the Language Line translation and interpretation service.

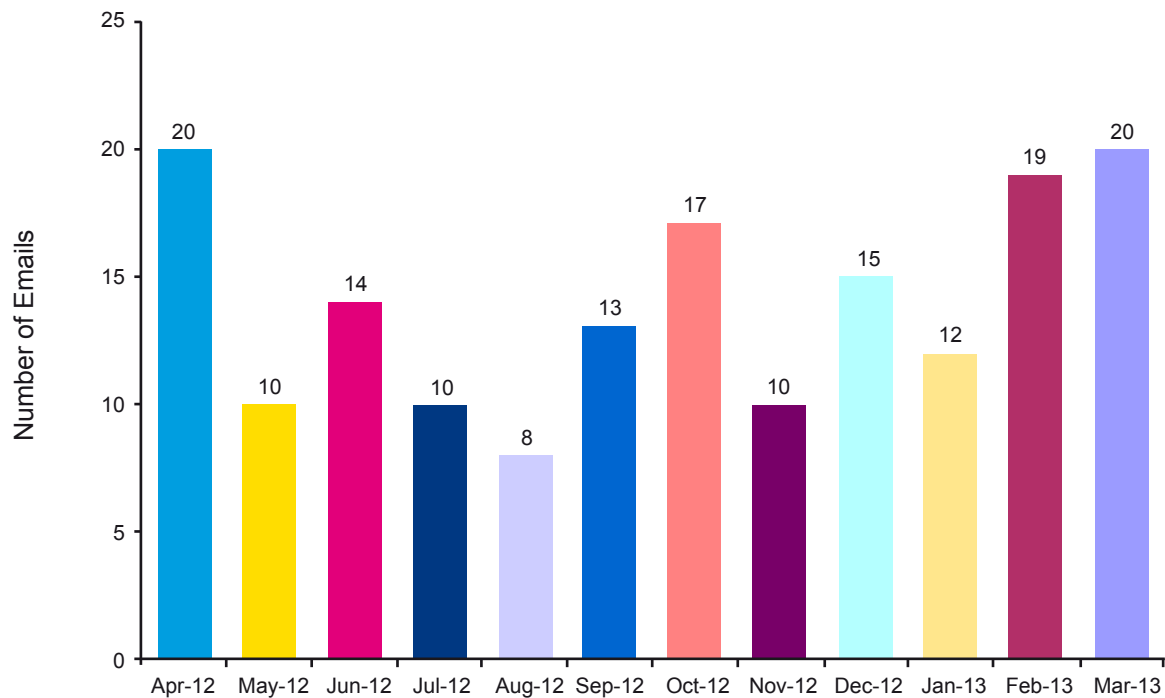
Calls from the LGBT Community: 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013



The total number of calls to the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline from the LGBT community during this period was 41. We consider this to be a low figure and not reflective of the extent of domestic violence in the LGBT community. This year was the beginning of the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline reporting on these figures and it is hoped that the number will increase as awareness is raised. Groups including Rainbow who represent the needs of the LGBT community say that domestic violence is still very much a taboo subject and LGBT people are worried that they will be discriminated against if they ask for help, or believe that the help is just available for heterosexual people.

The Helpline has undertaken awareness raising and outreach to the LGBT community and will continue to develop links with Rainbow, Carafriend, GLYNI, Family Ties, Lesbian Line and Here NI (formerly LASI), to increase the accessibility of the service. The Helpline has also undertaken sexual orientation and awareness training with Rainbow and all new staff will attend this training as part of their induction. During this period Helpline staff and volunteers attended the LGBT Christmas Fair, History Week events and Belfast Gay Pride Day on Saturday 4 August 2012 with our Information Stall as part of our outreach to the LGBT community.

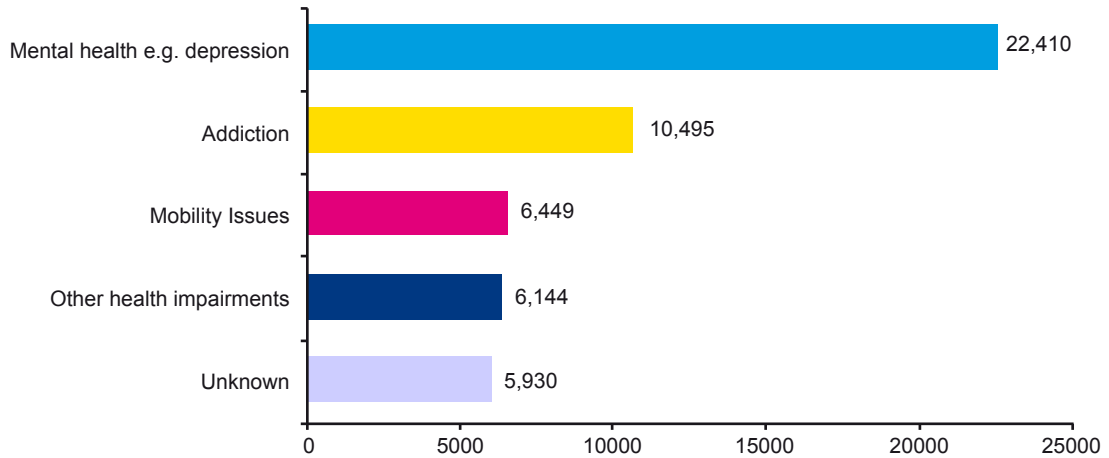
Email Support Service: 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013



The Helpline email service continues to grow slowly and develop as an integral part of the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline service. Through further awareness raising in 2013 the expectation is that the email service numbers will increase.

**The total number
of emails for
support during
this year was
168**

Health and wellbeing issues raised by women callers: 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013



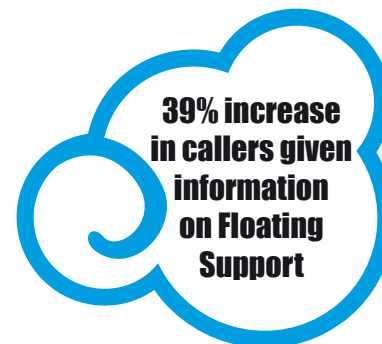
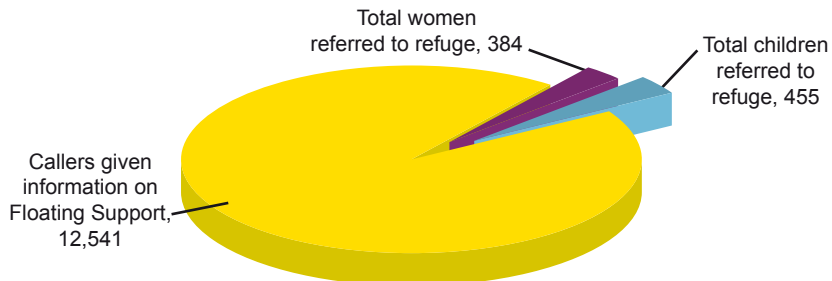
- Mental health: anxiety, suicidal thoughts, panic attacks. A minority of callers have a diagnosed mental illness. (76% of callers)
- Addiction: alcohol, illegal drugs, prescribed medication. (36% of callers)
- Mobility issues: difficulty walking, wheelchair user. (22% of callers)
- Other health impairments: epilepsy, diabetes. (21% of callers)
- Unknown: did not disclose. (20% of callers)

The majority of women callers to the Helpline have experienced a negative impact on their emotional wellbeing as a result of domestic violence.

These categories may overlap e.g. mental health and addiction.



Referrals to other Women's Aid services: 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013



Floating Support is an outreach service providing support to women victims of domestic violence to enable them to remain in their own homes. During this period 12,541 callers were given information on Women's Aid Floating Support services. This is an increase of 3,538 from the total of 9,003 the previous year, which is a rise of 39%.



Volunteer Hours worked on Helpline: 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013

Volunteers are a core part of the Helpline team. Throughout the year they contributed a total of 3,050 hours to the service, an average of 8.4 hours per day, 365 days of the year.

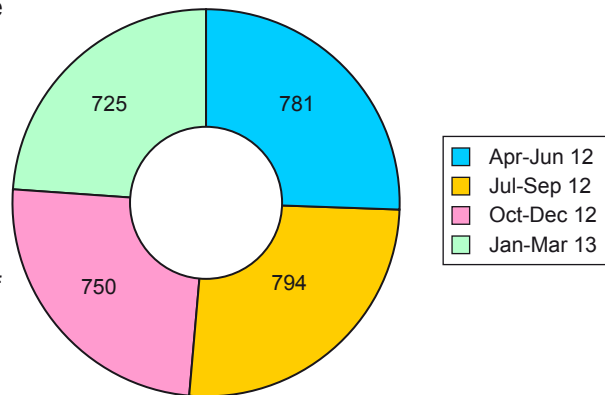
20 new volunteers were trained in this period. Volunteer training covers domestic violence awareness raising, listening skills, child protection, housing issues, legal options, LGBT awareness, trauma and grief, sexual violence and trafficking, men experiencing domestic violence, helpline skills, email and text skills, Women's Aid services, signposting and the impact of domestic violence on children.

There is also comprehensive IT Training in relation to UKROL, In-Form and email and text systems and procedures. Volunteers receive both one to one supervision and group supervision regularly.

The total value of this contribution in kind is £36,753. This represents the mean average hourly bank staff rate of £10.05 per hour multiplied by 3,050 hours, plus associated employers' costs of £6,100. This is a major contribution to the operating costs and reflects 15% of the overall staff costs.



Helpline calls have increased, with three lines open during busy periods, which would not be possible without the valuable contribution made by our volunteers.





We would like to say a big thank you to all volunteers who give their time to the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline.

Their passion and commitment is greatly valued and appreciated.



WOMEN'S AID LOCAL GROUPS

Statistical data can never provide the full picture of the impact on women and children of living with the devastating effects of domestic violence. Statistics do however show the extent of need for support for victims of domestic violence, and offer a brief snapshot of the work carried out by our local Women's Aid groups in Northern Ireland, who are members of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland.

Refuge

A total of 880 women and 546 children stayed in Women's Aid refuges during this year. These figures are comparable to 2011-2012, showing a slight rise of 49 in the number of women accessing refuge, and a slight decrease of 40 in the number of children accessing refuge. In the last year, 424 women were unable to access refuge services because there were no beds available for them. These figures show that refuge services are as vital as ever for women and children who are victims of domestic violence – on average, 4 women and children come to stay in refuge every day because they are not safe in their own homes. During the year 53 women in refuge were supported during their pregnancies.

**424 women
unable to
access
refuge**

Number of Women and Children Staying in Refuge: April 2012 – March 2013

880
women stayed in refuges

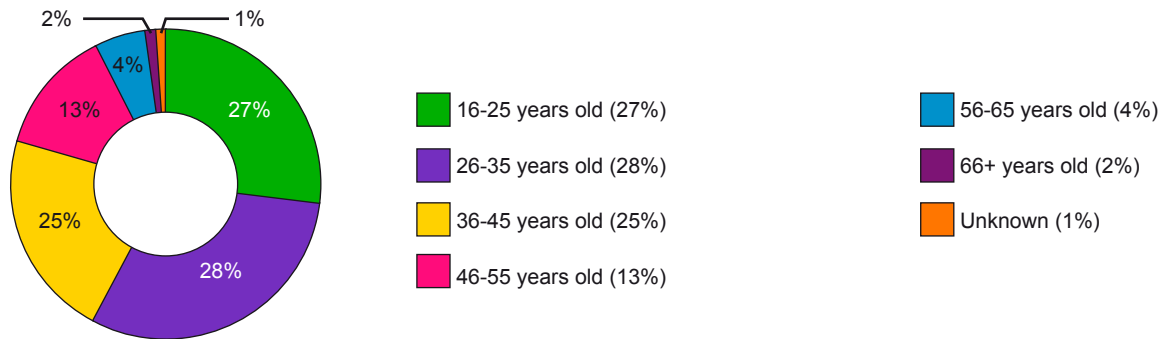
546
children stayed in refuges

**53
women were
supported
during their
pregnancies**

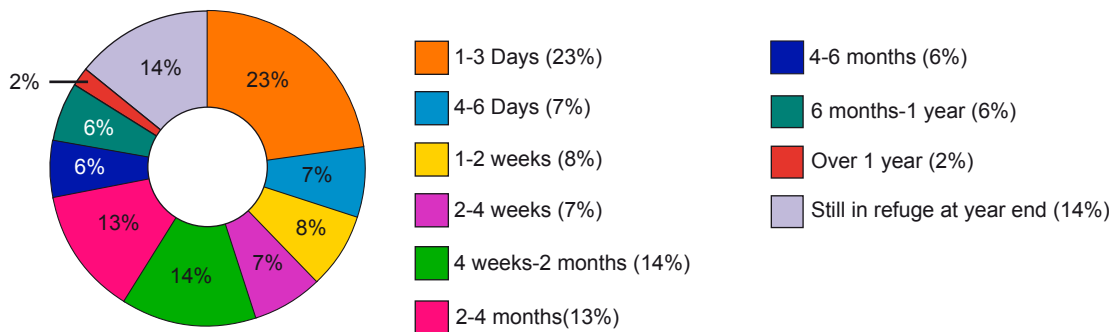
Age Range

Domestic violence affects women of all ages. It is important to recognise that many women suffer for years before reaching out for support. The age range of women staying in Women's Aid refuges is illustrated in the chart below. The most predominant age group this year is the 26 – 35 year olds, who represent 28% of all women staying in refuge in this year. The second highest group are the 16 – 25 year olds, who make up 27% of those staying in refuge in this year. Overall, 80% of women in refuge this year were aged between 16 and 45. 17% of women were aged between 46 and 65. 2% of women who stayed in our refuges were over 66 years old - this is a rise of 1% from last year.

Age range of women staying in Women's Aid refuges: 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013



Length of stay of women & children in Women's Aid refuges: 1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013



Floating Support

The number of women accessing Floating Support and outreach services across Northern Ireland has remained steady in 2012-13. A total of 3,659 women accessed Floating Support services this year, a similar figure to 2011-12 when the number was 3,663. This represents a rise of 24.5% from 2009-10.

4,469 children were indirectly supported through the Floating Support service. This represents an increase of 7.6% on the 2011-12 figures, when 4,152 children were indirectly supported.

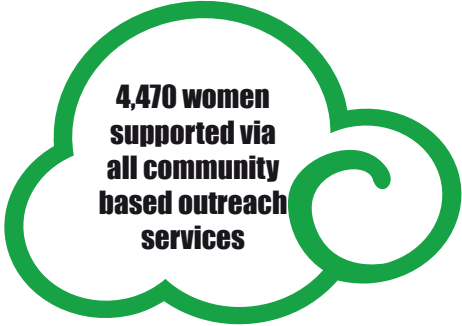
Referrals to Floating Support can come from a variety of sources, including the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline, which is open to all women and men affected by domestic violence. Among the agencies contacting Women's Aid to refer women to our services are:

- PSNI
- Social Services
- Nurses / Doctors / midwives / healthcare professionals
- NI Housing Executive
- Probation Board NI
- Simon Community
- Triangle Housing
- Solicitors
- Other Women's Aid groups
- Citizen Advice Bureaux
- Gingerbread NI
- Victim Support NI
- YMCA
- SureStart
- Travellers' Support Committee
- Community Mental Health
- Homecare
- NIACRO
- Community Addiction
- CAMHS
- Friends/relatives
- MARAC
- IDAP
- Other voluntary organisations
- NSPCC
- Barnardo's
- Women's Groups
- Political parties
- Church groups

Community/outreach services

An additional 811 women accessed other outreach services provided by Women's Aid groups across Northern Ireland. This figure is lower than last year (1,909 women) and this is partially due to the closure of certain funding streams and subsequent reduction in service provision. This brings the total number of women accessing all community based services to 4,470.

Unfortunately, in spite of our efforts, waiting lists continue to operate across our local groups for community-based outreach support. This shows the real need for the expansion of such vital support initiatives for victims of domestic violence in Northern Ireland. Nonetheless, our outreach services continue to enable many women and their children to access support whilst remaining in their own homes and communities.

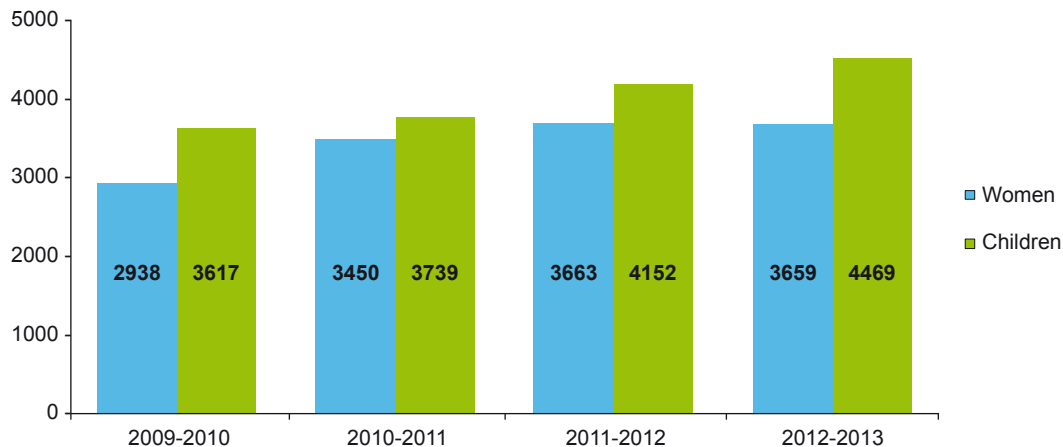


4,470 women supported via all community based outreach services

A total of **3,659** women accessed Floating Support

4,469 children were indirectly supported through the Floating Support service

Numbers of women and children supported through Floating Support 09/10 - 12/13

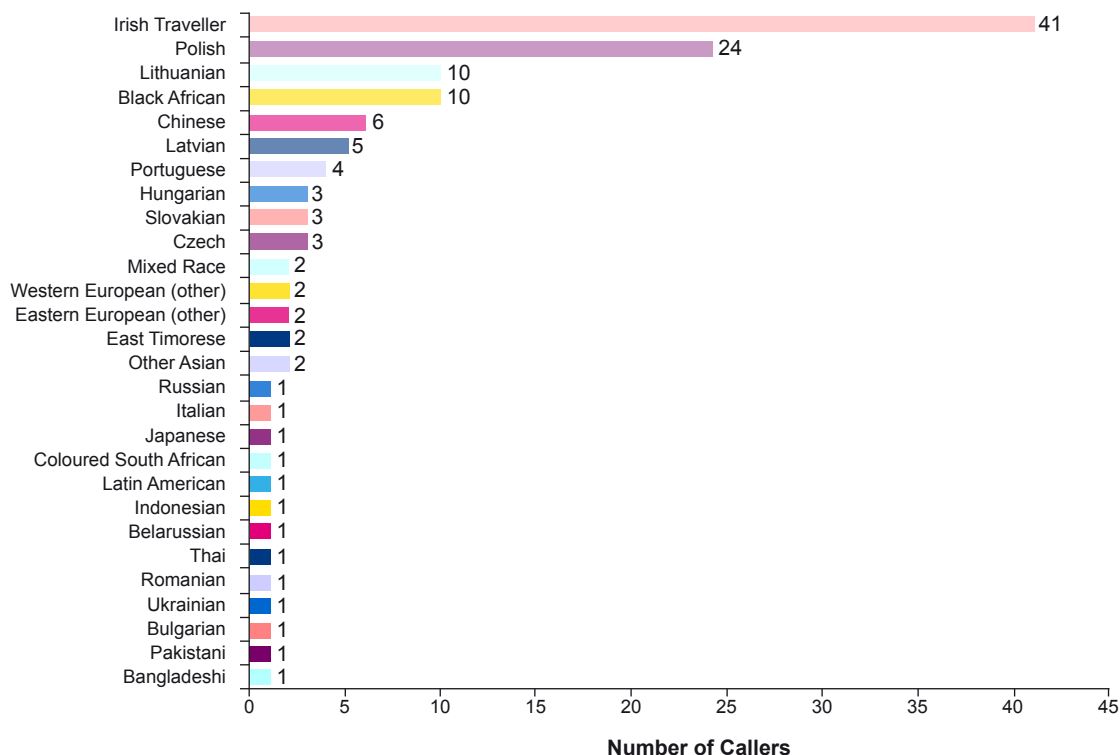


Black & Minority Ethnic Women

As Northern Ireland continues to become an increasingly diverse society, so Women’s Aid works to rise to this challenge and ensure our services are inclusive for all women and children. Women’s Aid has published information leaflets in 12 different languages. In addition, our 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline, which is open to all women and men affected by domestic violence, uses Language Line translation service which all of our local Women’s Aid groups can access.

In 2012-13, 132 women from black and minority ethnic communities, including the Travelling community, were accommodated in our local refuges, a decrease of 89 from 2011-12. 224 women from BME communities accessed Floating Support services, an increase of 42 on last year’s figure. Women’s Aid is actively seeking ways to reach out to women and children from all communities who need our services.

**Women from black, minority and ethnic communities accommodated in Women's Aid Refuges:
1st April 2012 - 31st March 2013**



132

women from black and minority ethnic communities, including the Travelling community, stayed in refuge

224

women from black, minority and ethnic communities accessed our Floating Support services

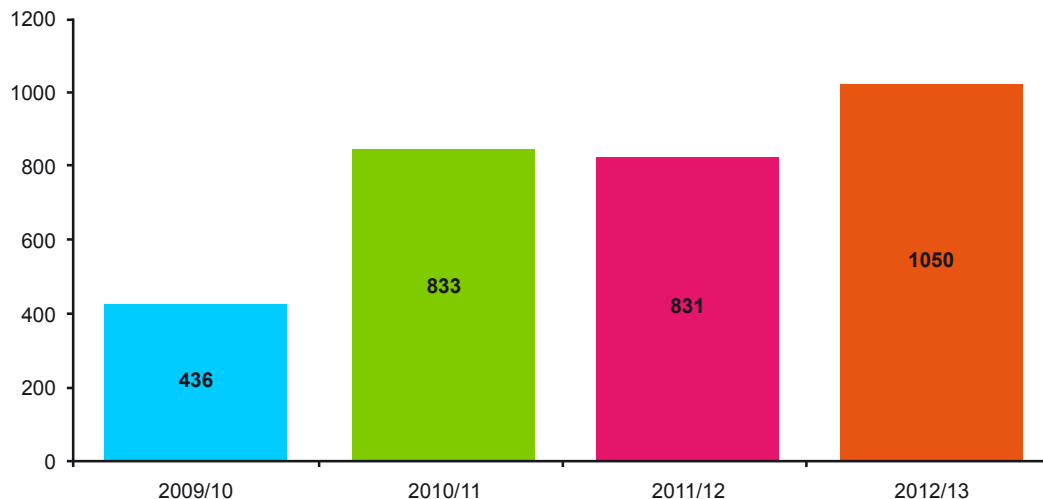
No Recourse to Public Funds

The number of women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds in Northern Ireland continues to be a source of concern for Women's Aid. Between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013, a total of 22 women who presented as having no recourse to public funds stayed in our refuges, this was a decrease of 46 from 2011-12 partly due to lack of funds to support the women. Women's Aid strives to help as many women in this harrowing situation as possible. However without dedicated emergency funds to provide for their basic needs, many of these women are left with no choice but to stay in an abusive relationship.

Disability

The number of women coming into our local refuges who disclosed having a disability, including addictions, was 206. This represents an increase of 10 on 2011-12 figures. A further 1,050 women with a disability were helped through Floating Support, an increase of 219 women on figures from 2011-12. Out of the 1050 women with disabilities, 630 presented with mental health issues.

Numbers of disabled women using Floating Support between 09/10 and 12/13





Women Engaged in Group Work Programmes

Between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013, women participated in a range of personal development courses run by our local groups. A total of 1,501 women benefitted from these programmes. 621 women took part in the *Journey to Freedom* programme, 120 mothers participated in *You and Me, Mum*, and a further 760 women partook in a number of other programmes offered by individual local Women's Aid groups.



Women Supported as part of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP)

During the year 2012-13, a total of 375 women with 519 children were engaged with a Women's Aid Women's Safety Worker, the support for women and children offered when their partners or ex-partners are undertaking the IDAP perpetrators programme run by PBNI.

Children and young people in Women's Aid: 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013

Women's Aid across Northern Ireland is committed to meeting the needs of all children and young people affected by domestic violence. This year, we were proud and delighted to launch our visionary strategy for children and young people, **Our Place – Safe Space**. To accompany the strategy we have developed a comprehensive performance measurement framework to measure outcomes for children and young people. This is the first year of its implementation in Women's Aid across Northern Ireland and already the outcomes measured clearly demonstrate the extent and the impact of this invaluable work. Evidence gathered using this framework shows that between 2012 and 2013, 546 children and young people were accommodated in refuges, 4,469 were indirectly supported through Floating Support and 1,517 one to one support sessions were held with children and young people in refuge. During the year, 14 babies were born to women in refuge, ensuring that both mother and baby had a place of safety and were able to access vital support during this special time. Additionally, 168 teachers were trained to deliver the *Helping Hands* programme to children in primary schools to increase their understanding of safety and support.

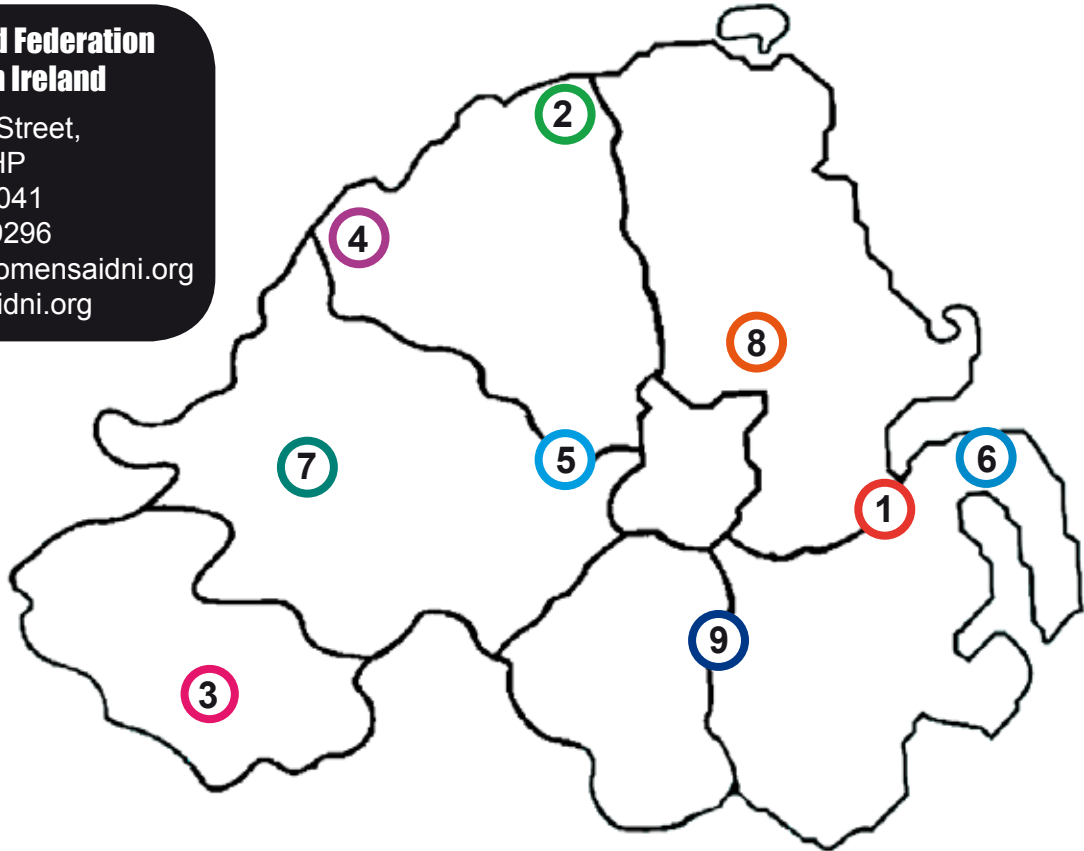
- 546 children were accommodated in refuge.
- 4,469 children were indirectly supported through the Floating Support service.
- 14 babies were born to women in refuge.
- 1,517 one to one support sessions were held with children and young people in refuge.
- 219 children were indirectly supported through mother's participation in **You and Me, Mum**.
- 168 teachers were trained to deliver the **Helping Hands** programme to children in primary schools.
- 519 children were indirectly supported through the Women's Safety Worker as part of the IDAP programme.



WOMEN'S AID LOCAL GROUPS

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

129 University Street,
Belfast, BT7 1HP
tel: 028 9024 9041
fax: 028 9023 9296
email: info@womensaidni.org
www.womensaidni.org



24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline: 0808 802 1414

Text support to 07797 805 839 Email: 24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org

Open to *all women and men* affected by domestic & sexual violence

1. Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid

30 Adelaide Park, Belfast, BT9 6FY
tel: 028 9066 6049, fax: 028 9068 2874
email: admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk
web: www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk

2. Causeway Women's Aid

23 Abbey Street, Coleraine, BT52 1DU
tel: 028 7035 6573, fax: 028 7032 6949
email: womensaidcoleraine@btinternet.com

3. Fermanagh Women's Aid

27a High Street, Enniskillen, BT74 7DQ
tel: 028 6632 8898, fax: 028 6632 8859
email: womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com

4. Foyle Women's Aid

Pathways, 24 Pump Street, Derry, BT48 6JG
tel: 028 7141 6800, fax: 028 7136 5134
email: admin@foylewomensaid.org
web: www.foylewomensaid.org

5. Mid-Ulster Women's Aid (previously Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid)

27 Old Coagh Road, Cookstown, BT80 8QG
tel: 028 8676 9300, fax: 028 8676 9300
email: admin@midulsterwomensaid.org.uk
web: www.midulsterwomensaid.org.uk

6. North Down & Ards Women's Aid

18 Bingham Street, Bangor, BT20 5DW
tel: 028 9127 3196, fax: 028 9145 5245
email: ndawomensaid@hotmail.com

7. Omagh Women's Aid

Resource Centre
27 Market Street, Omagh, BT78 1EL
tel: 028 8224 1414
email: info@omaghwomensaid.org
web: www.omaghwomensaid.org

8. Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey

2 Cullybackey Road, Ballymena, BT43 5DF
tel: 028 2563 2136, fax: 028 2565 3304
email: womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com
web: www.womens-aid.org.uk

9. Women's Aid Armagh Down (previously Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh)

7 Downshire Place, Belfast Road, Newry BT34 1DZ
tel: 028 3025 0765, fax: 028 3026 9606
email: newrywomensaid@btconnect.com
web: www.womensaidnewry.co.uk



LOCAL GROUPS: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid

Delivering services to a high standard

We continued to meet the safety, protection and support needs of women, children and young people experiencing domestic violence through listening to their needs and delivering services to a high standard. Our skilled, experienced and committed staff and volunteer teams continue to provide a strong foundation for all our work.

Improvements in systems for outreach

We improved systems to deal with outreach demand and established a single referral point, ensuring the appropriate response to risk and need and effective case management structures are in place.

Review of policies and governance

A comprehensive review of all our policies and procedures was completed. Governance structures were strengthened with the recruitment of new Board members, whose diverse skills and experiences support strategic development and sustainability.

Strengthening partnerships

The Women's Aid Gateway Project went live. The team, which includes a Health Visitor, started taking referrals from the Belfast and

South Eastern Health Trusts. The project provides early intervention services to children (aged 5-10 years) and their mums. The project implementation has presented some unplanned challenges, the most significant being around information sharing and consent issues. Addressing such challenges has been a learning experience and has developed a greater understanding of effective joint working with statutory partners.

Staff continued to play key roles in the Belfast and South Eastern Health Trust's Domestic Violence Partnerships, sharing their expertise at meetings, training days, seminars and conferences. We also hosted visits that included Director of the Public Prosecution Service, delegates to a major BASPCAN conference on child abuse, students and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines.

Working in PSNI Public Protection Units

We secured continuation funding for two full time workers based in PSNI Districts A and B Public Protection Units. This approach provides an immediate response and pathway to services for women assessed as high risk of repeat violence and abuse, as well as vital support through the criminal justice system. Plans are being developed to provide an additional post to work alongside locality based response officers.

Causeway Women's Aid

Children's services

We have safeguarded our children's services projects for three more years through Children in Need, ensuring support for children from 6 – 18 years old with programme delivery, group support and Youth Forum activities.

Big Lottery Funding

Our Big Lottery Fund project which provides outreach workers, a full training programme and crèche has been extended until 2015. We have also completed our crèche registration under the new Early Years standards, ensuring that all children have a safe environment to enjoy positive experiences.

Supporting People validation

We were very pleased with the outcome of our Supporting People validation for Refuge and Floating Support and the process proved valuable for all our services.

Working in partnership

New work this year saw us engage with community associations across Coleraine, Ballymoney and Moyle District Council areas to raise awareness of domestic violence and to facilitate groups to create a community resource for the wider community. Our Sure Start project will extend its geographical range soon and we have begun negotiations to secure a Criminal Justice Worker to be based within our PSNI Public Protection Unit.

Welfare Reform

Our Management Coordinator has been involved in lobbying on the Welfare Reform Bill giving evidence to the DSD Committee in Stormont on the negative impacts the proposed changes will have on women who are living with domestic violence.

Looking to the future

Looking forward, we have recognized that demand for community outreach support has grown significantly over the last year and, subsequently, the development of a triage service to enable us to manage and reduce risk for women is a priority for 2013-14. While there have been significant successes in funding, changes in funding allocation for advice services meant our advice project ceased in March 2013. Despite this loss we hope to redress this issue soon through partnership with Advice NI.

Cookstown and Dungannon Women's Aid

Moyola Park Ladies' Football team

Moyola Park Ladies' Football Team in Castledawson chose Cookstown and Dungannon Women's Aid as their charity of the year. This entailed putting the Women's Aid logo on their new football shirts and a large Women's Aid banner at their pitch. They also held a fundraising event for us and, as a result, gave us a substantial cheque which was gratefully received.

Big Lottery Grants

We received two Big Lottery grants this year, one to deliver three 6 week programmes in our Resource Centre and one to make energy saving improvements to the building. The funding covered loft insulation, additional radiators and new kitchen equipment.

International Women's Day

This year, Cookstown and Dungannon Women's Aid joined with Dungannon and South Tyrone Council to mark International Women's Day. Breakfast, lunch and goodie bags were provided. A number of successful

business women proved to be inspirational speakers, ensuring that everyone left enthused and motivated for the year ahead. In our refuge we went out to lunch to celebrate International Women's Day and service users and staff enjoyed each other's company over a lovely meal at a local restaurant.

Local Women Magazine

Our Floating Support service was chosen by the Local Women Reporter to feature in their January edition. Our refuge featured in the magazine when it was first issued and this year it was the turn of the Floating Support service. We received an increase in referrals in the months following the 2-page spread.

Family Support

For the first time we have been funded to provide family support. We received the funding from Children in Need for a 3 year project which has enabled us to employ 2 part time Family Support Workers to work across the 3 Council areas that our organisation covers.

Looking to the future

After 20 years as Cookstown and Dungannon Women's Aid, the organisation is planning on changing its name to Mid-Ulster Women's Aid. This is because the three Council areas of Magherafelt, Dungannon and Cookstown will be merging and as their boundaries are coterminous with Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid, the new name Mid-Ulster Women's Aid better reflects the area that is covered by this local group.

Fermanagh Women's Aid

Guard Against Violence Project

The Guard Against Violence Project was

launched in November 2012 and is on track to have trained 150 professionals and 250 service users in safety and protection in the context of domestic violence, racism and sectarianism.

Safer Ageing Fermanagh

Fermanagh Women's Aid has successfully received funding for an older people's project, *Safer Ageing Fermanagh*, which will enable victims of domestic violence and elder abuse to be supported in the community and avail of a range of services, including buddy volunteers and peer support programmes. This project will receive referrals from statutory and voluntary organisations from across Fermanagh and is being supported by the WHSCT.

Working in partnership

2012/13 saw Fermanagh Women's Aid take innovative steps in partnership working to tackle domestic violence. This has resulted in a partnership referral pathway for male victims of domestic violence who will receive support from Men's Action Network. We are very proud of this step forward and the support this partnership has received.

Expansion of our staff team

This year saw the Fermanagh Women's Aid staff team increase once again in size and skill. We are proud to welcome the new members of our *Safer Ageing Fermanagh Project*, including a Volunteer Coordinator, Trainer and Support Worker. We are proud also to now have a Services Coordinator, Emergency Accommodation Worker as well as a fantastic influx of committed volunteers.

Funding for children's services in deprived areas

We secured funding from Neighbourhood Renewal to support the work of our Children's

Services Team in areas of high deprivation, ensuring that economic circumstances are removed as a barrier to support.

Meeting needs through Floating Support

Floating Support staff continue to support ever-increasing numbers of women with ever more complex needs. We are proud to say that Fermanagh Women's Aid has worked with more women this year than ever before and are striving to expand this service, in accordance with need, to ensure access for every woman in Fermanagh.

Foyle Women's Aid

Independent Units

We opened the last three family units at Ashleywood Mews and within days they were occupied. The new accommodation has proved very successful in meeting the needs of families and feedback has proved very positive.

Central referral system

Teams have all moved into a temporary hub and the central referral system has again proved to have increased our effectiveness in assessing clients, prioritising support services and responding to high risk clients faster.

Ashleywood House

On-going and extensive work has been completed at Ashleywood House, which will be formally opened by Baroness Smith in November 2013. This centre will provide a warm and welcoming space for staff to work, agencies to access training, and women to access a wider range of programmes specifically designed with them and for them. Monitoring and evaluating this work will be much easier with our new OSKA IT system

that is being progressed in partnership with Causeway, Omagh and North Down and Ards Women's Aid.

Childcare and youth services

We have just received planning permission for our childcare and youth services building which will be underway before Christmas and opened in spring. We are working in partnership with the Trust to provide a wider range of support services to mothers and their children.

Working in partnership

The partnership between Foyle and the red team (local HSC Trust) has proven very successful. We are currently finalising the partnership with Zakon, and therapeutic programmes for young people will commence in December. Work completed to date includes a selection of web and leaflet designs, recruitment of the youth worker and a competition in schools for the name of the project.

Looking to the future

There are many new strategic developments planned in Foyle for the next five years. A very exciting development has been taking place in the European Board with our Justice Centre partners. A wide range of collaboration has been planned with this group and we are delighted to host the first European meeting in November in Derry/Londonderry.

North Down and Ards Women's Aid

The Children's Services Programme

It has been an exciting year for our Children's Services Programme. A Children in Need grant provided funding for the new post of Children's Services Coordinator. In addition to this post the Children's Services Programme now has a part-time Crèche Worker post and

two full time Children and Young Person's posts. Children's Services staff have further developed the Transformers groups and are designing a new initiative for Art Workshops. Staff have developed and delivered a pilot programme adapted from *Helping Hands* to Ards Sure Start. This pilot was well received and we look forward to running this new programme next year.

Social Guardian Training

We delivered Social Guardian training to 16 teachers from 11 schools within our area. As in the previous years, the training was well received. Teachers commented that the training provided them with 'an awareness of what a social guardian role entails', and that the training has equipped them to have 'a better understanding of how to deliver the *Helping Hands* programme within their individual classrooms.'

Demand for services

North Down and Ards Women's Aid continues to experience an increased demand for refuge, Floating Support services and children's services. Our dedicated and committed staff continue to meet the high level of demand for all services.

Funding

We are delighted to have been successful in our bid for funding from Henry Smith Charity. The funding is for 3 years for the post of Assessment Worker. This post provides us with a single point of entry referral system into Floating Support services. This post provides essential support and crisis services and enhances our risk management process.

Omagh Women's Aid

Strategic planning, restructuring and IT systems

Staff and Committee members spent a weekend in Donegal to reflect on the future strategic direction of Omagh Women's Aid and to develop a plan for the way ahead for the next three years. Omagh Women's Aid has also had a busy year restructuring the management of their support services and exploring new information technology systems, all with a view to improving our services to women and children, whilst maintaining value for money and quality for our funders. The new IT system will see an exciting partnership with our sisters in Foyle, Causeway and North Down and Ards Women's Aid.

New Committee members

New Committee members were recruited, trained and completed their induction programme during the year. Our Committee comprises skilled women from a range of backgrounds and professions.

Training and placement opportunities

We continued our commitment to offer quality training and placement opportunities to social work and social care students. A total of 6 students benefitted from experience working in our projects in the past year.

Food drive

As recession and welfare changes continue to impact negatively on women and children experiencing domestic violence, we responded to increasing requests for help with food and basic provisions by organising a food drive in partnership with ASDA. The people of Omagh

donated generously and we are now able to offer service users in dire need some basic provisions.

Domestic violence in post-conflict societies

We maintained our interest in the particular impact of domestic violence in post-conflict societies. Our team leader was part of a small delegation of Ireland-wide women who briefed the Stormont Assembly Working Group on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. She also attended a conference on UNSCR1325 in Croke Park, Dublin, along with another of our Senior Managers and a representative of Women's Aid Federation. They were delighted to be formally introduced to the Irish president, President Michael D. Higgins at this event.

Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne and Newtownabbey

Volunteers

In January 2013, our volunteers received the Queen's Award for volunteering at a ceremony in Mossley Mill in Newtownabbey, which was attended by Joan Christie, Lord Lieutenant for Northern Ireland. We have developed and provided accredited training for our volunteers and young mentors for the *Make It Better* project, which is facilitated by our Volunteer Co-ordinator and funded by Big Lottery *Reaching Out Programme*. We appreciate the invaluable contribution by our volunteers to our service provision.

Interagency working and partnerships

We are committed to collaborative working within the Northern Domestic Violence Partnership, IDAP Steering Committee, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership and Local Adult Safeguarding Partnership, Interagency Ethnic Minority Forum, Contact Service Management Committee, Older People's Panel and more. This serves to keep the issue of domestic violence and the impact on victims to the forefront of all relevant strategies and agencies.

Services for children and young people

The *Make It Better* team, funded by Big Lottery, have been recruited and are working with children and young people who have become disengaged from education due to violence in their homes. The team work in close collaboration with CYGNET workers funded by BBC Children In Need, who provide one to one tailored support for young people in crisis due to domestic violence. This work is supported by the Family Support Worker based in the refuge, who works with women and their children throughout their experience of living in crisis accommodation.

Governance

The Management Committee and sub groups working closely with staff, revised and amended all recruitment and selection policies and procedures as well as supervision and appraisal systems. In preparation for the new three year strategic plan they reviewed and updated core values and competencies for all staff and volunteers in the organisation.

Women's Aid in Newry, Mourne, South Down and South Armagh/ Armagh City and District

Refuge Refurbishment

Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down, South Armagh/Armagh District along with the Newry Junior Chamber of Commerce undertook a huge project to completely refurbish the refuge. After a marathon of fundraising, work was completed in August 2012. A community spirited event, promoted by local radio, saw many volunteers help and items donated. Local businesses provided refreshments for all workers. The refuge was repainted and new beds, bedding and bedroom furniture were provided. The communal kitchens were furnished with new dining sets & appliances. The grand finale was a celebratory barbeque held for the women and children who were delighted with the "new look" refuge.

Restructuring

During 2012-2013 we completed the restructuring of our organisation. New management levels were created and have proved very successful. With an evenly

shared workload, each staff member has a clearly defined role within the organisation and this has created a more efficient workforce who take pride in their department. This insightful move allowed senior management to successfully delegate work and in turn move the organisation forward and closer to our goals.

Funding Opportunities

We have successfully secured funding to continue the valuable work carried out by two of our experienced Support Workers in the form of our Criminal Justice Worker for the PSNI in E District and the Women's Safety Worker for the PBNI IDAP programme.

Training & Support Programmes

Throughout the year we have delivered domestic violence and abuse training and support programmes to a wide range of professionals, agencies, groups and schools.

Partnership

We continue to work with a wide range of agencies to ensure that awareness of the impact of domestic violence and abuse on victims is kept to the forefront of all relevant agencies.



FINANCE

Please note that the accounts that follow are an extract from the original document. A copy of the full accounts is available upon request by calling 028 9024 9041 or emailing info@womensaidni.org

NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S AID FEDERATION LTD
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

Company Information

Management Board	Christine Whiteman (Chair) Lorna McAlpine (Vice-Chair) Anne McMahan (Secretary) Margaret McMahan (Treasurer) Elsie Jordan Tara Maguire Ursula Marshall Bronagh McKee Agnieszka Martynowicz	Bankers	First Trust Bank Donegall Square North Belfast
Secretary	Anne McMahan	Solicitors	Flynn & McGettrick 9 Clarence Street Belfast BT2 8DY
Auditors	Lynn, Drake & Co Ltd Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 1 st Floor 34 B-D Main Street Moira BT67 0LE	Registered Office	129 University Street Belfast BT7 1HP
		Charity Number	XN 45049
		Registration Number	NI 021741
		Governing Document	Memorandum and Articles of Association
		Legal Status	Company Limited by Guarantee

The Management Board (Board of Directors) presents their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013.

Objects of the Charity

The aims of the Charity (which has ten member groups throughout Northern Ireland) have been encapsulated in the following mission statement:

Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence. We seek, through our work, to promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

The following are key aims of the Organisation:

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic violence and providing services for women and children. We recognise domestic violence as one form of violence against women. Women's Aid seeks to challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence and, through our work, promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

To oversee the delivery of a strategic and operational plan and development of a new strategic plan post 2013.

The core work of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland is structured under the four key aims:-

1. Challenge attitudes and beliefs / policy

Challenge the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence by lobbying, campaigning and influencing the policy agenda

- To educate and inform the public, media, police, courts, social services and other

agencies of the impact of domestic violence.

- To advise and support all relevant agencies in the development of domestic violence policies, protocols and service delivery.
- To work in partnership with all relevant agencies to ensure a joined up response to domestic violence.

2. Prevent Domestic Violence

Promote healthy and non-abusive relationships through research, education and training

- To provide a range of support services to enable women who are leaving a violent situation to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children.
- To provide a range of support services to children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.
- To run preventative education programmes in schools and other settings.

3. Support grassroots work

Support the work of local Women's Aid groups

- As the umbrella body tackling domestic violence in Northern Ireland we co-ordinate and lead local Women's Aid groups on all regional initiatives and developments.
- Develop and support local Women's Aid groups to provide refuge accommodation to women and their children suffering mental, physical or sexual abuse within the home.

- To manage the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline which provides the key co-ordination role for women accessing refuge and other services. (Funded under a separate Service Level Agreement)
- Develop and deliver a range of child protection training through Regional Children's Planning meetings with Women's Aid local groups. This supports the provision of services to children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.
- Work with local Women's Aid groups to develop and sustain a regional fundraising strategy.

4. Manage and Develop Resources

Manage and develop resources – personnel, financial resources, estate – to meet the challenges of a changing political, economic and social policy environment

- To ensure effective leadership and management through good governance and support to our Board of Trustees.
- To manage, supervise and train all staff and volunteers on a continuing basis.
- To maintain rigorous financial auditing and accounting systems.
- To consider the impact of the Review of Administration on the Federation and local Women's Aid groups. A change process is currently being facilitated by the Federation.
- To identify and secure funding for new premises for Women's Aid Federation NI offering disabled access, safety of night workers access, secure parking and adequate space for training and development.

- To oversee the delivery of the current strategic and operational plan and development of a new strategic plan post 2013.

Decision Making Structures

The governing body of Women's Aid Federation, the Management Board, is drawn from membership of our affiliated groups and expertise from external co-options. The Management Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of the activities are carried out by a staff team, lead by the Director and Management Team, who also report regularly to the Board.

Identified Risks

Uncertain and short term funding continues to make future planning extremely difficult. We will continue to negotiate with government departments to extend their commitment to ensure that our core work can effectively continue and secure the sustainability of all our projects. Some projects continue to be at risk with short-term funding.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a key role in all the services of Women's Aid. We are able to sustain our 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline with the vital support of our volunteers. The Management Board members (Directors) also volunteer their time freely to attend regular monthly Board meetings, sub groups and offer ongoing support to the organisation.

Review of the transactions and financial position of Women's Aid Federation

Women's Aid Federation's funds have mainly been applied to the objects specified by each project's funders. It is policy to meet all restricted fund deficits by transfers from the accumulated unrestricted funds.

The Statement of Financial Activities indicates that the Organisation had incoming resources of £831,356 in the year which was exceeded by resources expended of £925,211 by £93,855 and this amount has been transferred to the Organisation's accumulated funds.

The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2013 shows a net Accumulated Funds balance at that date of £441,801.

No significant events have occurred since that date of the Balance Sheet which affect the Organisation or which materially affect these financial statements.

Fixed Assets

There were no additions to fixed assets during the year.

The following persons were members of the Management Board at some time during the year to 31 March 2013: -

Christine Whiteman	Adeline Frew
Lorna McAlpine	Elsie Jordan
Anne McMahan	Ursula Marshall
Margaret McMahan	Tara Maguire
Karen Cooney	Bronagh McKee
Agnieszka Martynowicz	Iris Elliot

The Management Board in each year shall consist of one member nominated by each affiliated group. If a Group has no-one able

to serve, its committee may ask a second member of another group to act on their behalf. In the event that there are insufficient nominations and/or an identified skills deficit, the Management Board will seek co-options.

Reserves Policy

The charity's policy is to retain a level of free reserves, which matches the needs of the organisation, both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The reserves required should be sufficient to meet committed grant expenditure and the running costs for a period equivalent to six months annual expenditure. The charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board will review the appropriateness of the policy annually.

Charitable Status

Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd enjoys charitable status by the authority of the Inland Revenue under reference XN 45049.

Members

The members of the company at 31 March 2013 were as follows: -

- Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
- Fermanagh Women's Aid
- Causeway Women's Aid
- Foyle Women's Aid
- Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid
- North Down & Ards Women's Aid
- Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid
- Omagh Women's Aid
- Newry & Mourne, South Down & South Armagh Women's Aid
- Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also

responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors

So far as the Board of Directors are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, Lynn, Drake & Co Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Management Board



Anne McMahon
Secretary

14 September 2013

Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd.

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd for the Year Ended 31 March 2013 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

This report is made solely to the charity's Members, as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's Members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the management board and auditors

The management boards' responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Northern Ireland law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the statement of directors' responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, are properly prepared in accordance

with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you whether, in our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition, we report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if certain disclosures of directors remuneration specified by law are not made.

We read the report of the management board and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the management board in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the

financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularities or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2013 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and

- the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements.



Alistair Wells (Senior Statutory Auditor)
14 September 2013

For and on behalf of Lynn, Drake & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants and Registered
Auditors

1st Floor
34 B-D Main Street
Moira
BT67 0LE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2013 £	Total Funds 2012 £
Incoming Resources					
Activities in furtherance of the Charity's objectives:					
Grants Receivable	35,921	-	725,356	761,277	987,956
Income from charitable activities	69,779	-	-	69,779	43,602
Activities for generating funds:					
Interest receivable	300	-	-	300	429
Total Incoming Resources	<u>106,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>725,356</u>	<u>831,356</u>	<u>1,031,987</u>
Resources Expended					
Costs of generating funds:	-	-	22,706	22,706	21,600
Charitable Expenditure:					
Costs in furtherance of charitable objectives	27,500	-	849,220	876,720	953,476
Management and Administration of the Charity	-	-	25,785	25,785	21,554
Total Resources Expended	<u>27,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>897,711</u>	<u>925,211</u>	<u>996,630</u>
Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources					
Before Transfers	78,500	-	(172,355)	(93,855)	35,357
Transfer between Funds	(60,383)	17,500	42,883	-	-
Net Incoming Resources for the Year	<u>18,117</u>	<u>17,500</u>	<u>(129,472)</u>	<u>(93,855)</u>	<u>35,357</u>
Funds Balance brought forward at 1 April 2012	158,014	187,500	190,142	535,656	500,299
Net Movement in Funds in Year to 31 March 2013	18,117	17,500	(129,472)	(93,855)	35,357
Fund Balance carried forward at 31 March 2013	<u>176,131</u>	<u>205,000</u>	<u>60,670</u>	<u>441,801</u>	<u>535,656</u>

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities above.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	<u>53,000</u>	<u>53,000</u>
Current Assets		
Debtors & Prepayments	170,069	157,031
Bank Accounts	295,298	404,882
Cash in Hand	<u>-</u>	<u>98</u>
	465,367	562,011
Liabilities		
Amounts falling due within one year	(76,566)	(79,355)
Net Current Assets	<u>388,801</u>	<u>482,656</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	441,801	535,656
Liabilities – Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-
	<u>441,801</u>	<u>535,656</u>
Provisions and Charges		
Deferred Capital Grant Reserve	-	-
Net Assets	<u>441,801</u>	<u>535,656</u>
Represented By: Accumulated Funds		
Unrestricted – General	176,131	158,014
Unrestricted – Designated	205,000	187,500
Restricted	60,670	190,142
Balance at 31 March 2012	<u>441,801</u>	<u>535,656</u>

Approved by the Management Board on 14 September 2013 and signed on its behalf by;



Christine Whiteman



Margaret McMahon



THANK YOU

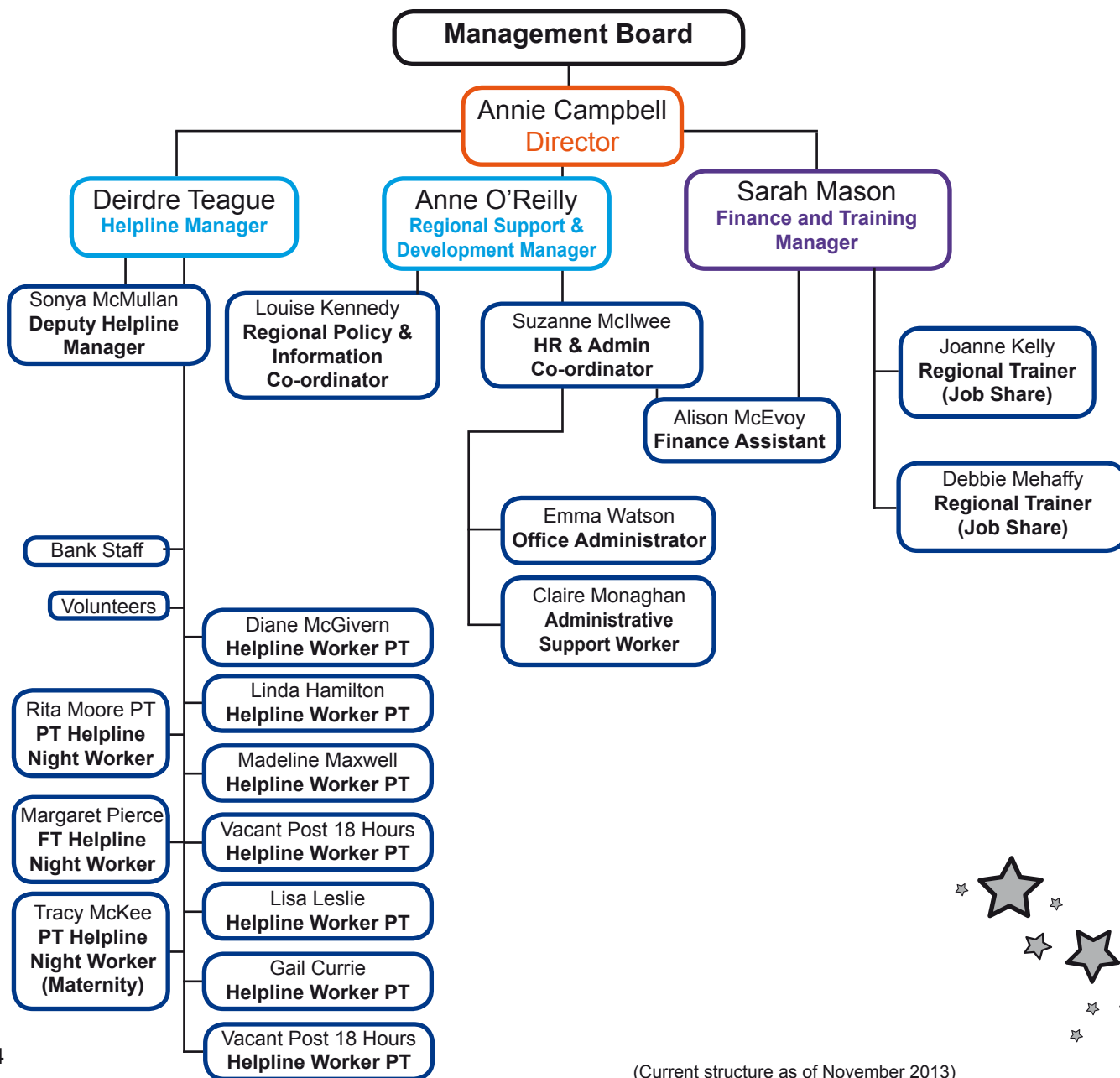
Women's Aid Federation NI would like to thank all our donors for their ongoing support and acknowledgement of our work and for enabling the continuation of so many vital projects.

- Community Foundation Northern Ireland
- Community Safety Unit, Department of Justice
- Cooneen Watts & Stone
- Department of Education
- Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
- Health & Social Care Board
- Individual Donors & Legacies
- Ladbrokes in the Community Charitable Trust
- Migrant Help
- Nationwide Building Society
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Probation Board Northern Ireland
- Volunteers



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WOMEN'S AID FEDERATION NI ORGANISATIONAL CHART



24 HOUR

Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

FREEPHONE

0808 802 1414

Open to *all women and men* affected by domestic & sexual violence

📱 text **support** to **07797 805 839** ✉ 24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org

women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland