Women's Aid
BELFAST & LISBURN

Annual Impact Report 2023-24



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Women's Aid BELFAST & LISBURN

Leadership Statement (1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024)

Violence against women and girls in Northern Ireland continues to plague our society. Our femicide rates are shocking. For many of those murdered, it started with domestic violence and abuse, whether that be physical abuse, sexual abuse, coercive control, emotional abuse, financial abuse, or online abuse. This needs to stop, attitudes that perpetuate misogyny and gender inequality need to change. Almost 4 in 5 victims of sexual offences recorded by the Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) in 2022/23 were female; 75% of girls experience street harassment at least once in their lifetime, 1 in 2 girls aged 16 have received an unwanted intimate photo/video at least once in their lifetime. We need to see real action.

This past year we have seen some progress with the development of the End Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. Led by the Executive Office and co-designed with a range of stakeholders, Women's Aid ensured the voices of woman and children were heard during the design and consultation phase. This ambitious framework has the potential to deliver transformative change if appropriately funded and embraced by government departments and partners.

During the year Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid continued to deliver high quality frontline services. Our refuge accommodation housed 178 women and 119 children. Our community based Floating Support service supported 710 women who had 759 children linked to them. Our partnership with the Housing Executive has proved highly successful in enabling women and children to get safe and secure accommodation. We particularly want to thank the Belfast Housing Solutions Team and the local Lisburn Office who we work with daily. Our Children and Young People Services continue to face sufficient demand: 1,000 key worker sessions were delivered to children and teenagers in the community, and 1,074 sessions offered to mums and their children living in refuge. Our Trafficking Project supported 564 women with 286 children linked to them. We were delighted to be awarded a new tender by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to continue this service.

We continue to deliver the ASSIST NI services with our consortium partners, Foyle Family Justice Centre and Men's Advisory Project. The service brought in and offered support to 9,559 people; demand remains high on the service. We would like to thank the staff team of ASSIST for the committed and tremendous efforts during a challenging year. We want to extend our thanks to the staff of BLWA who support the delivery of ASSIST. We would also like to thank our project partners and funders (DOJ/PSNI).

Some highlights from the year included our annual conference in Titanic Belfast 'Silent Voices', with a fabulous line up of speakers and interesting debate. We were honoured to received 'Women's Support Group of the Year' in the Northern Ireland Women's Awards 2023. During the 16 Days of Action, we were delighted to participate in the Social Youth Action Project led by Women's Aid Federation NI (WAFNI). We had a successful Christmas Appeal 'Domestic Abuse doesn't stop for Christmas', very special thanks to everyone who donated. We met HM Queen Camilla on her visit to Belfast. We thank Dame Fionnula J 'O Boyle, Lord Lieutenant of Belfast for her continued support.

Partnership working between statutory and voluntary agencies is key to us tackling domestic violence. Our staff continue to play an active role in several key partnerships, including the Belfast Area Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership and South-Eastern Area Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership. Our team share their expertise and knowledge through attendance at meetings, developing strategic and operational action plans, training and awareness events, seminars, and conferences. Through the local partnerships we were involved in delivering several awareness raising events. This collaborative partnership working continues into the field of safeguarding through the Belfast Safeguarding Panel and South-Eastern Safeguarding Panel that both feed into the Safeguarding Board NI. Staff participate in the MARAC process and provide support to women assessed as high risk. We continue our work with the PSNI in Lisburn, Belfast and the PSNI Human Trafficking Team.

We work alongside Women's Aid Federation NI and our sister local Women's Aid groups to ensure a regional, joined-up response across Northern Ireland. Best-practice information sharing, regional campaigning, lobbying and policy development have ensured that the voices of women and children affected by domestic abuse are echoed and remain high on the agenda for politicians and decision makers.

We would like to thank our dedicated and passionate staff and volunteers who underpin the ethos of the organisation in their daily roles and who make a difference to the lives of women and children in our services, both directly and indirectly. Our Board of Trustees and Senior Management Team provide the governance, strategic, risk and financial oversight that the organisation requires and are vital attributes to the organisation. It is the individual and collective skillsets, experience and expertise within the organisation which truly makes a difference to the quality and impact of our work.

We would like to thank our funders, the Supporting People Programme (NIHE), the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, Belfast PCSPs, the Department of Justice and the Department of Education, Pathways Fund, Belfast City Council, RTE, Allstate NI, Balmoral Golf Club, Lisburn Golf Club, Belfast MET, Natwest and many others for their support from and all those who kindly donate to us.

Kelly Andrews, Chief Executive
Ruth Curran, Chair of Trustee Board

Who We Are

Our Mission

- To provide safety and support for women and children who experience domestic abuse.
- To work for and with women and children to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met.
- To challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic abuse as a form of violence against women.

Our Ethos

Self-help and mutual support for women, by women, with women.

Our Vision

To end domestic abuse in society, and establish a future where domestic abuse is unacceptable, and women and children are safe in their homes.

Our Core Aims

- To provide temporary refuge for women and their children suffering mental, physical, financial, or sexual abuse in the home.
- To offer support and advice to any woman who asks for it, whether or not she is living in a refuge. To offer supportive aftercare to women leaving the refuge.
- To encourage the woman to take control of her own future, whether this involves returning home or beginning an independent life.
- To meet the needs of children and young people affected by domestic abuse.
- To educate and inform the public, the media, the courts and statutory and voluntary agencies; always mindful of the the fact that abused women are a direct result of the general position of women in our society.

What We Do

03

- Awareness Raising
- Housing support & refuge
- Training & Education
- Community Support
- Counselling
- Court Support
- Support for children & young people
- Partnership working



Statistics

- 1,000 key worker sessions delivered to children and teenagers in the community.
- 178 women and 119 children housed in refuge accommodation.
- 211 women engaged in the 'Journey to Freedom' programme.
- 1,830 emotional literacy, art or play therapy and regulation support services accessed.
- 26 women engaged in mental health and addictions counselling.
- 211 children and teens supported while living in the community.
- 1,074 sessions offered to mums and their children in refuge.
- 168 women engaged in Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid counselling services.

Statistics

Young Women's Project

49 women supported	48 children linked to these women

Floating Support Project (26-55yrs)

710 women supported	759 children linked to these women

Trafficking Project

564 women supported	286 children linked to these women

PSNI Support Workers

81 women supported	98 children linked to these women

IRIS Project

96 women supported	101 children linked to these women

Promoting Positive Relationships Project

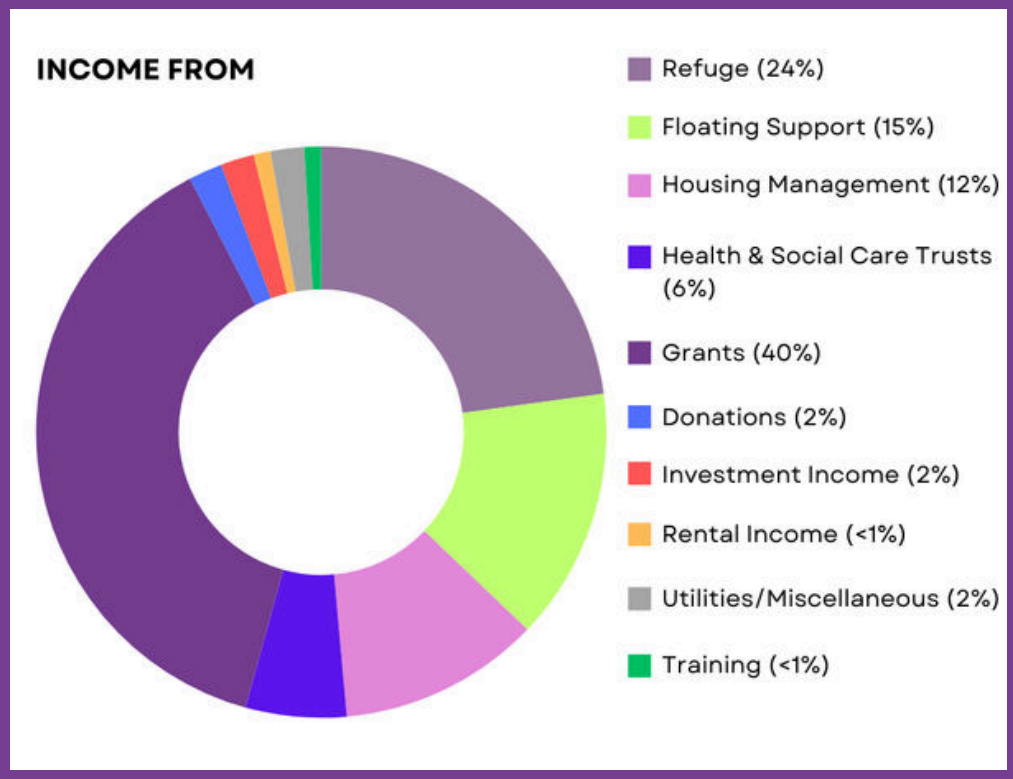
12 women supported	18 children linked to these women

Criminal Justice Project

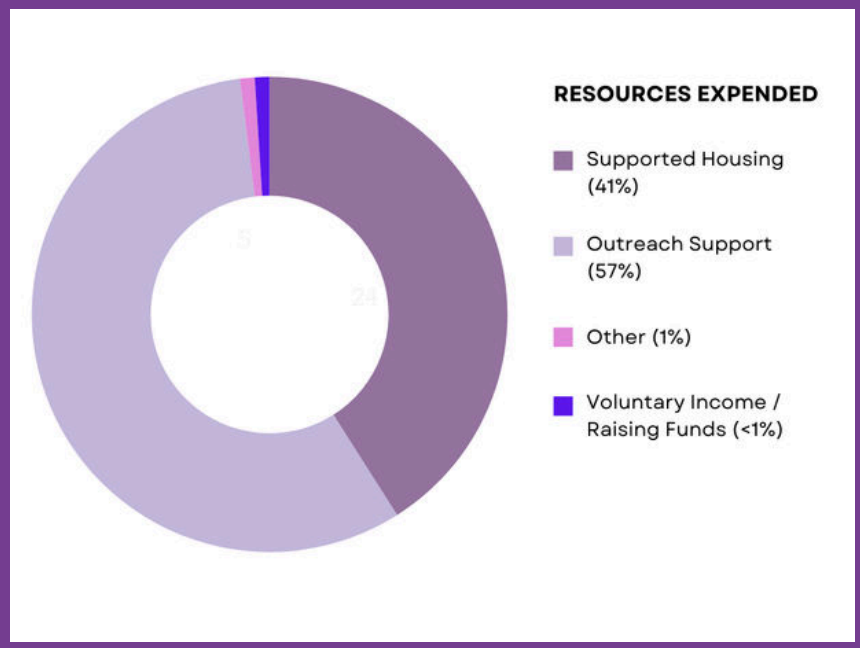
47 women supported	47 children linked to these women

Statement of Accounts

Income from	£	%
Supporting People - Refuge	870,305	24%
Supporting People - Floating Support	569,479	15%
Supporting People - Restricted Fund Repaid	-133,480	-4%
Housing Management	425,103	12%
Health & Social Care Trusts	227,187	6%
Grants	1,449,982	40%
Donations	84,987	2%
Investment Income	54,602	2%
Rental Income	28,200	<1%
Utilities / Miscellaneous Income	54,629	2%
Training	3,530	<1%
TOTAL	3,634,524	100%



Resources Expended	£	%
Supported Housing	1,571,740	41%
Outreach Support	2,174,858	57%
Other	57,131	1%
Voluntary Income/Raising Funds	24,464	<1%
TOTAL	3,828,193	100%



Summary Balance Sheet

At 31 March 2024, Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid held the following assets:	£
Fixed Assets	4,018,180
Net Current Asset after pension liability	1,040,565
TOTAL	5,058,745

And the following funds:	£
Unrestricted	2,178,987
Designated	1,636,249
Restricted	1,243,509
TOTAL	5,058,745

Copies of accounts can be obtained from 30 Adelaide Park, Belfast, BT9 6FY, or at www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk.

Thank You

With thanks to our funders, partner agencies, and to all the dedicated individuals, organisations and companies who have supported our work against domestic abuse so generously this year.

- Allstate
- Belfast City Council
- BHSCT
- Big Lottery
- Celtic FC Foundation
- Children in Need
- CITIBANK
- DOJ – Assist NI
- DOJ - Trafficking
- Homeless Connect, (Department of Communities /Social Development)
- Lisburn Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
- NIHE
- Pathways
- RTE
- SEHSCT
- South Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
- Supporting People – Refuge and Floating Support
- The Sisters of Mercy
- WAFNI

General Information

Directors

G. Clarke (resigned August 2023)
C. Conway
R. Curran (nee McAdam) (Chair)
K. Douglas
J. Downing
S. Finnegan
J. Ferguson
N. Gallagher
R. Harrison
T. Kennedy (Treasurer)
K. Mooney

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Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid

Date of Incorporation

11 August 1987

Charity Number

NIC106099

Auditors

Harbinson Mulholland

Solicitors

Flynn and McGettrick

Bankers

Ulster Bank Limited

Registered Office

30 Adelaide Park
Belfast, BT9 6FY

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: NIC106099

Company Number: NI020807

HMRC Reference Number: XT3255

Women's Aid
BELFAST & LISBURN