Our Vision

To eliminate domestic and sexual violence against women and children.

Our Mission Statement

- To provide specialised support services for women and children who experience domestic and sexual violence.
- 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 and sexual violence as a form of violence against women.

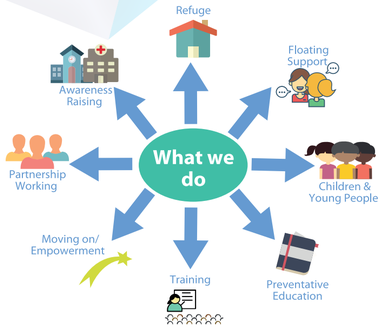
Our Ethos

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

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 and 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 violence.
- To educate and inform the public, the media, the courts and statutory and voluntary agencies, always mindful of the fact that abused women are a direct result of the general position of women in our society.







In 2018/19 the PSNI responded to 31,682 incidents

16,182 of those incidents, crimes had been committed

This represents the highest level recorded since PSNI data records started in 2004/5

With thanks to our funders

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

- ASDA Dundonald
- Belfast City Council Belfast District PCSP
- Belfast City Council Women's Network
- Belfast City Hospital Transport Dept.
- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust – Human Resources/ Equalities Team
- Big Lottery Fund
- Boys Model School
- Capita/Prudential
- Cash for Kids – Mission Christmas
- Celtic Football Club
- Christian Fellowship Church - Newtownards & Strandtown
- Compassion Belfast (UT Church)
- Cooke Centenery Church
- Council for the Homeless NI (CHNI)
- Department of Education – Pathways Fund
- Department of Justice
- Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP
- Lisburn Zone Indoor bowls
- NIHE – Housing Management
- NIHE – Supporting People
- M&S Ballyhackamore Belfast
- Parkview Special School Lisburn
- Red Cross via WAFNI
- South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust
- St John's Church Malone
- Tesco Extra Newtownbreda
- Unison
- Wallace High School, Lisburn
- Whitemountain Quarries Ltd

General Information

Directors
A Bradley (Treasurer)
A O'Neill
P Duvant
C English
G Clarke (Chair)
T Kimber
C Woolsey
N Gallagher
S Topping
R McAdam
K Douglas

Registered Office
30 Adelaide Park,
Belfast. BT9 6FY

Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC106099
Company number NI020807
HMRC reference number XT3255

Date of Incorporation
11 August 1987

Charity Number
NIC106099

Auditors
Jackson Andrews

Bankers
Ulster Bank

Solicitors
Flynn & McGettrick

02890 666049
admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk
www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk
Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
@WomensaidBel_Lis

Donate via text Giving JustGiving

Donate to Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk/support-us/donate-now

"Women's Aid helped me 'face up' for the first time in my life that I was a victim of abuse. That abuse being more emotional and verbal and damaging in the extreme. Women's Aid made me a survivor and gave me a belief in myself that I never thought possible." *Quote from a woman*

women's aid

Belfast and Lisburn

Working to End Domestic Violence

IMPACT REPORT 2018 -2019



Leadership Statement

In Northern Ireland we have seen progression over a number of years in terms of how society views domestic violence. Domestic violence is a serious crime which we know often goes unreported. We are, however, encouraged to see more and more women coming forward to report domestic violence and seek support. This is reflected in the PSNI statistics that have seen an increase in reporting of domestic violence since records started in 2004/5. Police responded to 31,682 incidents and in 16,182 of these incidents, crimes had been committed. While reporting is on the increase in Northern Ireland we remain without many of the legislative protections. Women's Aid wish to see the enacting of legislation in Northern Ireland to tackle stalking, coercive control, psychological and emotional abuse. We know that coercive control is an overarching motivator in many domestic homicides. Northern Ireland remains the only part of the UK without this legislation. We believe that victims and survivors deserve the same protections as other citizens in the UK.

This year Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid supported and housed 283 women and 153 children in the Refuge Service, 846 women were supported through the Floating Support Service and 148 engaged in the Gateway Early Intervention Service. 271 women accessed our One Stop Shop Service and 485 women were supported in group work programmes. Our Children and Young People's service held 402 one to one sessions in refuge, with 1688 play sessions, 184 trips, outing and events. We worked directly with 280 children and young people in the community providing 981 one to one sessions and 133 children benefitted from group work programmes. We are currently reviewing our services to enable us to be better able to meet demand.

The Board of Trustees commissioned an independent consultant to carry out a Governance Review in July 2018. The aim of this Governance Review was to ensure Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid's governance procedures and practices were sound. Governance procedures and practices should not only comply with charity and company law, but should also give funders and other stakeholders the confidence that the group is well run and meets best practice standards. A further aim of a Governance Review is to contribute to the sustainability of Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid by providing a benchmark of good practice and identifying action points to improve governance and management. The Review made 39 recommendations that the board are currently implementing, including the establishment of a Governance & Risk Committee.

Partnership working between statutory and voluntary agencies is key to us tackling domestic violence. Our staff continue to play an active role in a number of key partnerships including the Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnerships' in both Belfast and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts. 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 a number of awareness raising events including Domestic Violence and Mental Health. During the year we welcomed Jackson Katz to Northern Ireland. Katz has trained thousands of educators on his bystander and leadership-based approach to gender violence and sexual harassment prevention. 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 and the Public Protection Unit in Belfast. We have a workers placed with the PSNI to offer an immediate response and pathway into our service. This successful initiative supported 164 women into our service.

During the year we saw a big increase in our online engagement. Facebook reach has increased to 231,264 compared to 26,934 last year. Twitter has been more actively utilised with 409,900 tweet impressions compared to 45,400 last year. For the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (25/11/2018 – 10/12/2018) our theme was that domestic violence is everyone's business, women and men alike – 'Behind Closed Doors No More'. In 2018, our campaign was rolled out in collaboration with the Belfast Domestic Violence Partnership and was aimed at highlighting why domestic violence is 'everyone's business.' A social media package was rolled out for each of the 16 Days which was adopted by a number of key stakeholders. A number of events were held including our petition at Belfast City Hall and the Jackson Katz event facilitated by Belfast DV/SV Partnership.

In January 2019 we held our "Why Doesn't She Just Leave?" Annual Conference. Women who fail to escape from abusive relationships are subjected to extraordinary prejudice. The tendency to blame the victim has strongly influenced the direction of interventions. It has led researchers and practitioners to seek an explanation of the perpetrator's crime in the character and pathology of the woman. Comments such as "Why doesn't she just leave?" and "Why didn't she protect her children?" are some examples of the continued attitudes which focus on the woman and not on the behaviour of perpetrator or the crime committed. We had a range of high-profile speakers including members of the judiciary (legislative developments), The Suzie Lamplugh Trust (Stalking), Make a Stand Campaign with the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (Housing and Domestic Violence), Women's Aid representatives (PSNI response) and Monica McWilliams (Research).

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, the Lisburn and Belfast PCSPs, the Department of Justice and the Department of Education Pathways Fund for their continued support from and all those who kindly donate to us.

Gail Clarke
Chair

Kelly Andrews
Chief Executive

283 women housed in refuge

153 children housed in refuge

846 women were supported by the Floating Support Team

148 women engaged in our Gateway Early Intervention service

164 women were supported by the PSNI Support Workers

46 women were supported by the Older Women's Project

485 women were supported in group work programmes including Journey to Freedom and New Beginnings

271 women accessed information in our One Stop Shop in Belfast including access to legal, benefits and housing advice

Our work with children in refuge included...

402 one-to-one sessions

1688 play sessions

184 trips, outings and events

500 creche & child care sessions were faciliated

We worked directly with **280** children & young people in the community/resource centre, providing **981** one-to-one support sessions

133 children benefited from group work programmes in refuges and in the resource centre

"My confidence in myself is certainly higher than ever! Of course i still have dips in my mood but i now allow myself to see that it is totally natural and okay for that to happen. To put it simply... i'm happier"
Quote from a young person

Statement of Accounts

Income From	£	%
Supporting People - Refuge	£818,385	41%
Supporting People - Floating Support	£481,143	24%
Housing Management	£224,521	11%
Health & Social Care Trusts	£201,102	10%
Grants	£156,283	8%
Donations	£56,239	3%
Investment Income	£41,803	2%
Rental Income	£10,273	<1%
Utilities Income	£18,571	1%
Training	£2,395	<1%
	2,010,715	**100%**

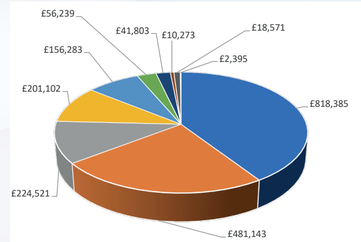
Resources Expended	£	%
Supported Housing	1,192,333	54%
Outreach Support	914,323	42%
Other	79,195	4%
Voluntary Income/Raising Funds	15,362	<1%
	2,201,213	**100%**

Summary Balance Sheet

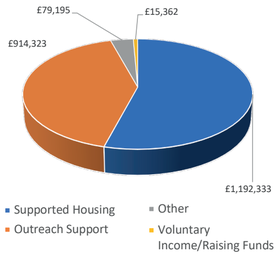
At 31 March 2019 Women's Aid held the following assets:	£
Fixed Assets	3,805,478
Net Current Asset after pension liability	875,145
	4,680,623

And the following funds:	£
Unrestricted	1,431,103
Designated	1,795,967
Restricted	1,453,553
	4,680,623

Incoming Resources 2018/19



Resources Expended 2018/19



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