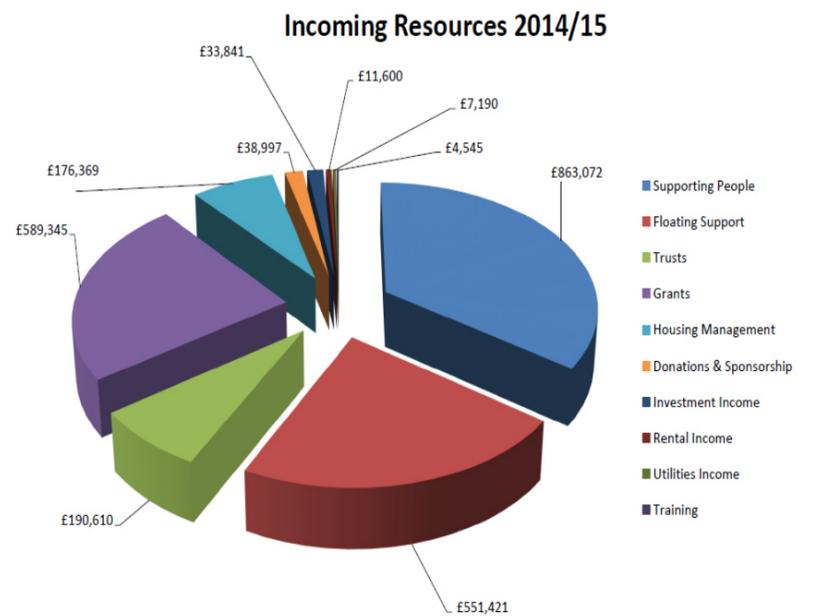


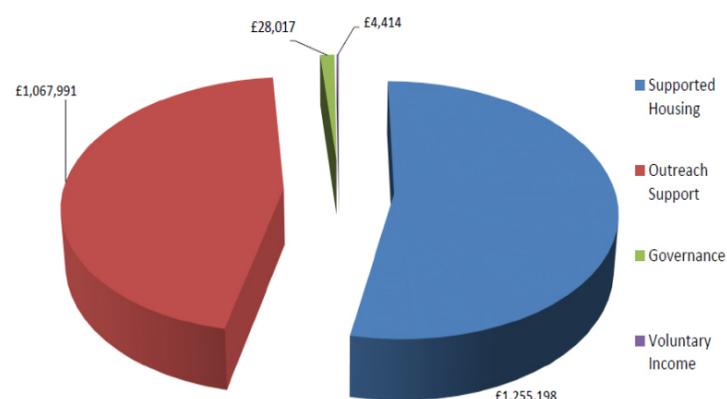
## FINANCES FOR THE YEAR



### Incoming Resources 2014/15

	£	%	%
Supporting People	£ 863,072	35%	35%
Floating Support	£ 551,421	22%	22%
Trufts	£ 190,610	8%	8%
Grants	£ 589,345	24%	24%
Housing Management	£ 176,369	7%	7%
Donations & Sponsorship	£ 38,997	2%	2%
Investment Income	£ 33,841	1%	1%
Rental Income	£ 11,600	0%	< 1%
Utilities Income	£ 7,190	0%	< 1%
Training	£ 4,545	0%	< 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2,466,990</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### Resources Expended 2014/15



### Resources Expended 2014/15

	£	%
Supported Housing	£ 1,255,198	53%
Outreach Support	£ 1,067,991	45%
Governance	£ 28,017	1%
Voluntary Income	£ 4,414	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 2,355,620</b>	<b>100%</b>

## REFERENCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DETAILS

### Financial Review

Thanks to the support of our funders we were able to meet the accommodation and support needs of women and children using our services. A list of our funders is shown below. The charts show the breakdown of income and expenditure for the year. These are extracts from the audited accounts for the 12 months to 31 March 2015.

Copies of full accounts can be obtained from 30 Adelaide Park, Belfast, BT9 6FY on request.

### Directors

G Somerville, S Simons, A Simpson, M McCallion, A Lloyd-Stevens, A Chapman, G Andrews, A O'Neill, T Kimber, T Adams, A Bradley (appointed 12 May 2014)

### Resigned

C Brown (resigned 6 October 2014), J Orr (resigned 4 August 2014), A Martynowicz (resigned 2 December

2014), T O'Hara (resigned 2 December 2014)

### Secretary

Cora de Baroid, 30 Adelaide Park, Belfast, BT9 6FY

### Company Registration Number

NI 020807

### Date of Incorporation

11 August 1987

### Charity Number

XT3255

### Auditors

Harbinson Mulholland

### Bankers

Ulster Bank

### Solicitors

Flynn & McGettrick

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FUNDERS

Thank you to our partner agencies listed below and to all the dedicated individuals, organisations and companies who supported our work against Domestic Violence so generously during the year.

- Belfast City Council Local Investment Fund
- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
- Big Lottery Fund – Energy Efficiency Grant
- Big Lottery Fund – Improving Futures
- Big Lottery Fund – Reaching out – Connecting with Older People
- Comic Relief
- Department of Education—Early Years Fund
- Department of Justice
- Department of Social Development Council
- DHSS&PS
- Down District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
- Health & Social Care Board
- Lisburn Policing and Community Safety Partnership
- North Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Supporting People
- Police Service Northern Ireland
- Probation Board Northern Ireland
- South Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership
- South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

**Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid  
Support & Resource Centre**

30 Adelaide Park

Belfast BT9 6FY

Tel: 02890 666049

Fax: 02890 682874

Email: [admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk)

Web: [www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk)

Charity No: XT3255

24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline 0808 802 1414

# Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid 1975 - 2015



## ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015

*women's aid*

Belfast and Lisburn

working to end domestic violence

## WE BELIEVE

### OUR VISION

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

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To provide safety and support for women and children who experience domestic 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 violence as a form of violence against women.

### OUR ETHOS

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

### OUR BELIEFS

- With support women can survive domestic violence and make positive changes in their lives.
- With support children can survive domestic violence and move positively into adulthood.
- The most effective method of safeguarding children is to protect mothers.
- Domestic violence is complex and can be best tackled by interagency working.
- Domestic violence is a violation of the human rights principle that we are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
- Domestic violence is a direct consequence of the unequal position of women in society and if discrimination is left unchallenged, violence against women will continue.
- By actively promoting equality and diversity we can build a society where domestic violence is unacceptable.

### 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.

## ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Domestic Violence is the intentional and persistent physical, emotional or sexual abuse of a woman and her children. It includes rape and murder.**
- **Domestic violence is a human rights violation.**
- **One in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime.**
- **Domestic violence affects women of all ages and all backgrounds.**
- **Domestic violence usually increases in frequency and severity over time.**
- **There were 28,287 domestic abuse incidents recorded in 2014/15 by the PSNI, 2.39 % higher than the 2013/14 figure of 27628.**
- **The PSNI responded to a domestic incident every 19 minutes of every day.**
- **6 murders with a domestic abuse motivation were recorded by the PSNI in 2014/15 and accounted for 37.5 % of all murders recorded by the police (16 murders in total).**
- **13,428 domestic abuse crimes were reported, this represents approx. 13% of the overall crime in NI.**

### BELFAST AND LISBURN WOMEN'S AID

#### STATISTICS 2014/15

- **317 women and 238 children lived in our refuges during the year.**
- **848 women were supported by the Floating Support Team enabling women to access support whilst remaining in their own homes and communities.**
- **145 children and young people were supported in our Children and Young People's Teams.**
- **186 women and 297 young children were supported by the Gateway Team.**
- **86 women were supported by the Women's Safety Worker in PBNI.**
- **97 women were supported via our Older Women's Project.**
- **149 women were supported by the PSNI Support Workers.**
- **521 women were supported in group-work programmes.**
- **308 women accessed information in our One-Stop Shops.**

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2014-2015

I am delighted as Chair of Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid to reflect on the year. Firstly, I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to staff, volunteers and my Committee colleagues. The combined effort and commitment from everyone ensured the organisation came through another successful year, in a vibrant state, fit for purpose and in a position to meet future challenges ahead.

My thanks and appreciation goes to all our funders and for the generous voluntary donations from the public, without these significant financial contributions we would have been unable to provide such high quality services to women and children who experience, or are at risk of, domestic violence.

Matched against maintaining quality services are budgetary pressures and although the organisation experienced some funding cuts in the year, we managed through prudent financial planning to absorb them without significant impact

on services. We continued to deliver services in a changing and often challenging environment.

Once again this year, the number of women and children we supported evidences the ever-increasing need for our services. Domestic violence is a serious threat to women and children's safety, health and well-being. Rather than home being a safe place, it becomes dangerous where levels of fear and threats of significant risk and harm is high.

Addressing the needs of children and young people remains a strong focus of our work with staff seeing a slight increase in the number supported. Similarly, staff responded to changing demographics dealing with a small increase in women from very diverse cultures and ethnic groups.

#### Delivering Services

We are proud that we delivered on our core aims and strategic objectives and

continued to provide safety, protection and support for women and children at the point of crisis, risk and need. We received an award as finalists in the Department of Education and Learning Vocational Qualification event held in June at Stormont. The award demonstrated our commitment to developing staff and volunteers with high quality training and through their commitment and dedication high standards were maintained. We worked closely with a range of partner agencies across all sectors to ensure the delivery of services. With the help of a number of these agencies women were able to enjoy pamper, health and well-being sessions to help them recover from their experience of violence and abuse.

#### Raising Awareness and Influencing Change

Effective partnership with a range of agencies continued, promoting a positive and professional image of the organisation. We played a key role in the Belfast and South Eastern Trust Domestic Violence Partnerships and contributed to the consultation on the Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy.

As a member of Women's Aid Federation NI we contributed to a range of regional development work including responding to government policy and strategy consultations.

We provided a number of bespoke training, awareness and information sessions to statutory, voluntary and community groups, including for the first time dental students. Colleagues from Ruhama in Dublin provided multi agency training and awareness on Human Trafficking.

#### 40th Anniversary

This year was a big year as we celebrated our 40th anniversary in March in the City Hall by kind permission of the Deputy Lord Mayor who chose us as one of her Charities of the Year.

A number of key speakers including the Attorney General John Larkin, former Deputy Chief Constable Judith Gillespie, Professor Monica McWilliams Academic and former Human Rights Commissioner and other speakers who had worked with us over the years. Attendees heard about changes and development in policy, practice and understanding of domestic violence over four decades.

A number of organisations and businesses also helped to make the event an enjoyable one through their kind donations and sponsorship.

We marked International Women's Day in March with the launch of The Haven DVD and art work done by children living

in refuge which was displayed in the City Hall and eventually made into a calendar. Women using our services attended art and personal development workshops that saw the exhibition of their art work in the Ulster Hall. Special thanks must go to the musicians and artists who gave their time and expertise.

We officially launched our new website in the City Hall as part of the Belfast DPCSP wider public event. Thanks also to staff who helped to develop our social media presence, Facebook and Twitter, promoting our work to a wider audience.

We were a partner in the European funded Reach project which raised awareness about trafficking and prostitution across Ireland. Partners included the Departments of Justice in the North and South and agencies from the statutory, public, and voluntary sectors from both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

We provided expert guidance and consultation to Lord Morrow that culminated in the successful passage through the Assembly of his Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill.

We hosted a number of visits to our refuges including Kevin Hyland the new Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Members of the Scottish Parliament, the Attorney General from Boston, and solicitors from the Law Centre.

#### Finance and Fundraising

Continued support from a number of funders enabled us to provide the services, staff and resources required to meet our core aims and objectives. Funding from Belfast City Council's Local Investment Fund enabled us to refurbish and modernise the Annexe Building that is utilised for training, meetings and the weekly One Stop Shop service.

Good planning, expertise and effective governance systems meant that funds were well managed ensuring the organisation remains ready to meet future challenges.

#### Governance

A number of changes occurred within the Board. Many thanks go to some long serving Board members who stood down after giving considerable time and commitment to the organisation and a number of new Board members were also recruited.

*Patricia Lyness*

**Management Coordinator**

*Alice Chapman*

**Chair**