

Joint working protocol

December 2015

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**Joint Working Protocol**

**Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland and**

**Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

**2 December 2015**

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Northern Ireland Housing Executive

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**24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline:**

0808 802 1414

Email Support: 24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org

Text support to 07797 805 839

Freephone from all landlines and mobiles. Translation service available.

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



Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Homelessness Policy

2 Adelaide Street. Belfast BT2 8PB

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E-mail: sean.mcgibbon@nihe.gov.uk

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**Aim of protocol**

The aim of this protocol is through collaborative working to:

*Promote and enhance the safety of those who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse through increased awareness, collaborative working and effective and efficient referral.*

This joint working protocol has been developed by Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy Department). Both parties recognise, in order to ensure that effective, quality services are available for those experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse in our society, a commitment to a shared process across all relevant organisations is required.

The elimination of domestic and sexual violence and abuse requires an integrated approach, as well as the combined skills, commitment and responsibilities of all government departments, criminal justice agencies, local domestic violence partnerships and relevant voluntary and statutory organisations.

Women’s Aid and Northern Ireland Housing Executive are committed to working in partnership and have, over the past years, built up a strong and strategic working relationship. Both organisations are delighted to agree and present this joint protocol for working together. The protocol reflects both organisations’ commitment to inter agency working and applies to all Housing Executive Outlets and local Women’s Aid groups and Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland, including the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline (full details provided at Appendices 1 & 2).

**Developing the protocol**

Interim arrangements have been in place since circa 2010 that Women’s Aid complete the MARAC risk identification checklist (RIC) for cases which have been referred to them by NIHE staff. No formal recording processes were set up at the time these arrangements were introduced. This protocol has been initiated through a series of meetings involving representatives from Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy Department). At these meetings concerns were expressed by both parties that “interim” arrangements may not have been working as originally anticipated. It was proposed that “interim” arrangements are ended and agreement made for a permanent process to be adopted.

This joint protocol sets out both organisations commitment to working together and builds upon the strength of current partnership working. It reaffirms and renews both organisations’ on-going commitment to effective partnership working and places this within the current strategic context. Each organisation is mindful and appreciative of the other’s role and expertise. In developing this protocol, we want to ensure the provision of the most effective response available from each organisation’s services.

**Introduction to organisations**

**Women’s Aid**

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation challenging and addressing domestic and sexual violence and abuse in Northern Ireland. Women’s Aid has 40 years’ experience working with women and children who experience, or are at risk of, domestic and sexual violence. Women’s Aid has developed a comprehensive range of life saving support services that address risk and need, minimise risk and harm, raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence and challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate it.

**24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline**

Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland manages the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline which is open to all women and men experiencing domestic and sexual violence.

**Refuges**

Local Women’s Aid groups have a network of refuges, providing temporary accommodation and support for women and children experiencing domestic and sexual violence and abuse. Refuges are equipped with playrooms and communal facilities. Access to refuges save women and children’s lives and provide respite, safety and support.

**Outreach / Floating Support**

Women’s Aid provides an individually tailored and responsive service, based upon a woman’s needs and those of her children. This tailored service can include a range of emotional and practical support services, including outreach and aftercare. Group work programmes and personal development opportunities are also provided.

Additionally, Women’s Aid has a network of resource centres across Northern Ireland for women seeking information and support, group work and training.

**Children and young people**

There is also a range of tailored, age appropriate support for children and young people. This work is further documented in the Women’s Aid strategy for children and young people **“Our Place-Safe Space”** and the directory of services for children and young people.

**Core work of Women’s Aid in Northern Ireland**

The core work of Women’s Aid in Northern Ireland, including Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland and the local Women’s Aid groups is to:

* provide refuge accommodation to women and their children suffering, mental, physical, financial or sexual abuse within the home.
* run the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline which is available to all women and men affected by domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse.
* provide a range of support services to enable women who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children.
* provide a range of support services to children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.
* run preventative education programmes in schools and other settings.
* educate and inform the public, media, police, courts, social services and other agencies of the impact and effects of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.
* advise and support all relevant agencies in the development of domestic and sexual violence policies, protocols and service delivery, and
* work in partnership with all relevant agencies to ensure a joined up approach to addressing domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

**Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive was established in 1971 as Northern Ireland’s strategic housing authority offering a range of services to people living in socially rented, privately rented and owner occupied accommodation as well as supporting and working with a number of other public bodies. The vision of Northern Ireland Housing Executive is one in which housing plays its part in creating a peaceful, inclusive, prosperous and fair society.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive plays a key role in working with local communities and other agencies, whether public, private or voluntary sector, to tackle issues that make a real difference to everyone's quality of life. One of these issues is addressing homelessness. Northern Ireland Housing Executive has been responding to homelessness for 26 years and in that time has developed considerable experience and expertise. With the publication of the first Homelessness Strategy in 2002 and the introduction of Supporting People in 2003 substantial progress has been achieved in how homelessness is managed.

Homelessness continues to be a significant challenge in Northern Ireland and a problem that afflicts the lives of many citizens. Homelessness can happen to anyone, for any number of reasons. Domestic and sexual violence can often be an underlying issue. Homelessness impacts on individual lives for years and this influence goes beyond the immediate lack of accommodation. It impedes an individual’s health, financial and social well-being. For this reason, no one organisation or agency can address these issues in isolation. There is now a greater need than ever to respond to homelessness in a coordinated multi agency approach as required in the legislation and for each partner to contribute their expertise and resources to promote social inclusion.

**Domestic and sexual violence and abuse**

Domestic and sexual violence and abuse involves the abuse of power and control by one person over another. Domestic and sexual violence and abuse currently occur across our society, within all communities and present a serious violation of Article 5 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights – that “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Domestic and sexual violence and abuse are clearly interlinked and are both recognised as serious issues facing society that form part of a policy agenda across government. Domestic and sexual violence and abuse can have a detrimental and long term impact upon individuals and present a clear violation of their human rights. Both domestic and sexual violence and abuse remain very much hidden crimes, surrounded by stigma and significantly under reported.

Research clearly shows that the majority of victims are women and children, however recently, the prevalence and context of male victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse is becoming clearer and more widely recognised. Anyone can experience domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexuality, social class or geography.

**PSNI statistics (2014-15)**

The Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) statistics for 2014-2015[[1]](#footnote-1) show that a domestic abuse incidentis reportedevery **19** minutes of every day of the year in Northern Ireland. The PSNI responded to a total of **28,287** domestic abuse incidents throughout 2014/15 (this is an average of **77** domestic abuse incidents per day).

Additionally there were a total of **13,426** domestic abuse crimes in 2014/15.  This represents on average, approximately 1 domestic abuse crime perpetrated approximately every **39** minutes in Northern Ireland.

Additionally, there were **2,734** sexual offences including **737** offences of rape.

In extreme cases domestic violence and abuse can lead to homicide.  PSNI statistics show that in 2014/15[[2]](#footnote-2) there were **6** murders as a direct result of domestic violence.

The number of all recorded offences of murder in 2014/15 total **16**.  Therefore **37.5%** of all murders in Northern Ireland in 2014/15 had a domestic motivation.

**Women’s Aid statistics (2014-15)**

* The 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline, open to all women and men affected by domestic & sexual violence, managed **34,420** calls.  The previous year 2013–14 the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline managed **55,029** calls. This drop in calls during 2014-15 was due to major faults within the Helpline telephone system which has now been fully replaced with funding from NIHE.
* **932** women and **689** children sought refuge.
* **71** women in refuge were supported during their pregnancies and **13** babies were born to women in refuge.
* **3,567** women with **4,186** children accessed the Floating Support service, and a further **2,395** women accessed other Women’s Aid outreach services, enabling women to access support whilst remaining in their own homes and communities.
* **161** teachers were trained to deliver the Helping Hands programme in primary schools.

Women’s Aid and the Housing Executive are delighted to launch this joint protocol at an exciting and progressive time as Government develops a draft joint strategy for Northern Ireland to address both domestic and sexual violence and abuse. The draft strategy, **Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland 2013 – 2020** has been produced by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Justice and is currently under consideration by those departments.

The draft strategy presents a clear vision[[3]](#footnote-3):

**…that zero tolerance for violence and abuse becomes the norm in our communities**.

Definitions of domestic and sexual violence are presented as follows:-

**Domestic violence and abuse:**

*‘threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation) by a current or former intimate partner or family member’ [[4]](#footnote-4)*

**Sexual violence and abuse**

*‘any behaviour (physical; verbal, virtual/digital) perceived to be of a sexual nature which is controlling, coercive, exploitative, harmful, or unwanted that is inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation) without their informed consent or understanding.[[5]](#footnote-5)*

*N.B These are draft definitions of domestic and sexual violence presented in Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland 2013 – 2020- produced by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Justice - public consultation document 15 January 2014*

**N.I. Housing Executive statistics (2014-15)**

During the year 2014/15 there was 956 people who presented as homeless because

of domestic or sexual violence. Of these, 832 were accepted as homeless. This figure

represents 7.6% of the total number accepted of 11016

The human cost of violence and abuse to individuals and families must never be undermined or under estimated. This can include physical, emotional and psychological damage, breakdown in relationships and families, and a reduction in the life opportunities for individuals.

Addressing domestic and sexual violence and abuse is everybody’s business and there is a definite need for all Government departments and agencies to understand the context of the problem, be clear about the role they can play and to work together collectively to ensure quality referral and service provision.

**The strategic context**

The policy environment has changed significantly in relation to domestic and sexual violence and abuse over the last two decades and this has presented positive change at both government and community level in relation to domestic and sexual violence strategy, policy and provision. Presently, the development of a joint draft strategy for Northern Ireland to address both domestic and sexual violence and abuse presents a progressive and strategic approach. The main areas for focus, as outlined in the Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland 2013 – 2020 (draft) are:

* Prevention and early intervention
* Encouragement and recognition of disclosure of violence/abuse
* Responding to disclosure of violence/abuse
* Identification of harm
* Coordinated action
* Further development of general and specialist services and expertise, and
* Enhancing protection and justice.

The five strands of the draft strategy are:

* **Strand 1** - Driving Change
* **Strand 2** - Prevention and Early Intervention
* **Strand 3** - Delivering Change
* **Strand 4** - Support
* **Strand 5** - Protection and Justice.

In addition to this overarching government strategy, the publication of this joint working protocol between Women’s Aid and the Housing Executive comes at a key point in the promotion of a range of government strategies to address and overcome domestic and sexual violence in our society. Such strategies include, among others:

* *Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities*, Community Safety Strategy, Department of Justice (July 2012)
* *Supporting People Housing Related Support Strategy* (Northern Ireland Housing Executive, May 2013)[[6]](#footnote-6)
* *Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland*[[7]](#footnote-7), 2012-2017
* *The Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland* 2012-2017[[8]](#footnote-8).
* *Families Matter*-Supporting Families in Northern Ireland, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2009

Domestic and sexual violence and abuse are now recognised as serious issues facing society and form part of a policy agenda across government. As a direct result of a clear strategic focus from government and greater public awareness of the issue, statutory and voluntary agencies are developing clear roles, policies and responses for all victims of domestic and sexual violence, leading to effective partnership working, greater service provision and more effective response to need.

**A shared statement of intention**

Both parties to this joint protocol are committed to providing the best possible services to victims experiencing domestic and sexual violence and abuse and their families.

While acknowledging that each organisation maintains its independence, this protocol aims to ensure that Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Women’s Aid will work in a coordinated way to achieve shared objectives.

Both parties will work together to achieve high quality services, effective and efficient referral processes, excellent working partnerships and to ensure the seamless provision of services for those in need.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Women’s Aid believe:

* Domestic and sexual violence and abuse are never the victim’s fault.
* The responsibility to stop violence and abuse rests with the perpetrator.
* The rights and needs of victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse should be recognised and addressed.
* In working with the individual on the basis of choice and consent.
* In providing services which are confidential and professional.
* In promoting a non-judgemental, respectful and supportive approach.
* In equal access to services for all victims of domestic and sexual violence.
* In the effectiveness of a partnership approach.
* In recognising and promoting the value and contribution of each organisation and its services.

**Working together**

**Women’s Aid will:**

* Provide contact details for each local Women’s Aid group.
* Establish and maintain contact with Housing Executive local outlets as appropriate.
* Provide supplies of printed resources on domestic and sexual violence and Women’s Aid services to Housing Executive local outlets. This will include 24-Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline cards, posters and information leaflets in a range of languages. Information relating to local Women’s Aid services and programmes, including children’s services, will also be provided.
* Advise local Housing Executive Outlets of relevant changes and additions to service provision.
* Accept referrals from local Housing Executive Outlets to all Women’s Aid services[[9]](#footnote-9) in the format identified (see appendix 3).
* Follow up all referrals within 1 – 2 working days of receipt.
* Assess need and offer support, being mindful of the individual’s right to choose.
* Complete the MARAC risk identification checklist (DASH form) for cases which are assessed as high risk.
* Identify any gaps in the provision of support and refer to the appropriate services and agencies.
* Keep a record of the number of referrals accepted from the Housing Executive and provide quarterly statistical updates.
* Share relevant information relating to an individual’s situation with the local Housing Executive Outlet, in line with confidentiality policies, information sharing protocols and with client consent.
* Complete the necessary administration referral forms and return to the Housing Executive Outlet within one week of receipt.
* Provide joint information / awareness sessions on domestic and sexual violence, following agreement of joint protocol with identified Housing Executive staff, including Senior Housing Officers and “front line” staff. Such sessions will focus upon raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence, examining positive response and outlining the key elements of the joint protocol. It is anticipated the training sessions will also be a positive step in developing effective working relations between staff from both organisations at a local level.
* Avail of appropriate opportunities at local inter agency fora to reflect joint working between Housing Executive and Women’s Aid.
* Review and monitor the effectiveness of the joint protocol annually.

**Housing Executive will:**

* Identify cases who make contact with Housing Executive Outlets who may be experiencing domestic/sexual violence and make referrals using the necessary form (see appendix 3) to local Women’s Aid services or the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline[[10]](#footnote-10).
* Identify a named contact person in each Housing Executive local outlet.
* Establish and maintain contact with local branch/es of Women’s Aid as appropriate.
* Provide Women’s Aid with supplies of printed resources relating to Housing Executive services.
* Display information profiling Women’s Aid services including leaflets and posters in offices and public areas of Housing Executive local outlets.
* Advise Women’s Aid groups of relevant changes and additions to service provision.
* Provide anyone presenting as homeless with a 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline card as part of the advice and assistance pack.
* Keep a record of referrals made to Women’s Aid.
* Follow up all referrals with Women’s Aid groups and accept and monitor Women’s Aid return of Referral forms.
* Share relevant information relating to an individual’s situation with the Women’s Aid group, in line with confidentiality, information sharing protocols and with client consent.
* In cases where domestic and/or sexual violence and abuse is suspected and client consent for referral is not given, Housing Executive will consider how best to progress sharing this information in order to protect the vulnerable person from further harm. This may include processing a referral via the NIHE Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy and Procedures.
* Identify staff to attend joint information / awareness sessions on domestic and sexual violence, following agreement of joint protocol. Such sessions will focus upon raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence, examining positive response and outlining the key elements of the joint protocol. It is anticipated the training sessions will also be a positive step in developing effective working relations between staff from both organisations at a local level.
* Avail of appropriate opportunities at local inter agency forums to reflect joint working between the Housing Executive and Women’s Aid.
* Review and monitor the effectiveness of the joint protocol annually.

**Organisational policies**

This protocol should be read and implemented in conjunction with the following policies:

**Women’s Aid**

* Safeguarding and Child Protection
* Adult Safeguarding
* Code of Conduct for Employers & Workers
* Confidentiality
* Domestic Violence in the Workplace
* Equal Opportunities for Service Users
* Equal Opportunities for Staff
* Lone Working
* Staff Training & Development
* Collaborative & Partnership Working
* Comments & Complaints
* Information Communications Technology
* Protection from Abuse
* Quality Assurance
* Retention of Records
* Information Management (Data Protection / Record Retention / IT / Confidentiality )

**Housing Executive**

The Housing Executive has a range of policies that impact on both staff and customers in the delivery of its frontline services. The following are key policies in relation to this protocol but are not exhaustive:

* Child Protection
* Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
* Staff code of conduct
* Complaints procedure
* Equality Scheme
* Health & safety
* Freedom of Information Act
* Environmental
* Information management (Data protection/handling sensitive or confidential information/record retention)

**Signatories**

Both parties are delighted to agree and present this joint protocol for working together

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Signed | Annie Campbell  Chief Executive Officer  On behalf of Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland | Date |
| Signed | Siobhan McCauley  Director of Regional Services  **On behalf of the**  **Northern Ireland Housing Executive** | **Date** |

Appendix 1 - Contact details for Women’s Aid groups throughout Northern Ireland

24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

Call: 0808 802 1414

Email Support: [24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org](mailto:24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org)

Text **support** to 07797 805 839

Freephone from all landlines and mobiles. Translation service available.

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

For further information on domestic & sexual violence visit [www.womensaidni.org](http://www.womensaidni.org)

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**Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland**

129 University Street

Belfast BT7 1HP

Tel: 028 9024 9041

Fax: 028 9023 9296

Email: info@womensaidni.org

Website: www.womensaidni.org

**List of local Women’s Aid Groups – contact & referral details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey Women’s Aid**  2 Cullybackey Road, Ballymena, BT43 5DF  Chief Executive Officer: Rosemary Magill  t: 028 2563 2136 f: 028 2565 3304  e: womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com  w: [www.womens-aid.org.uk](http://www.womens-aid.org.uk)  Referrals to:  [gail.mclaughlin@abcln.cjsm.net](mailto:gail.mclaughlin@abcln.cjsm.net)  -------------------------------------------------------------------  **Armaghdown Women’s Aid**  7 Downshire Place, Belfast Road, Newry BT34 1DZ  Chief Executive Officer: Eileen Murphy  t: 028 3025 0765 f: 028 3026 9606  e: newrywomensaid@btconnect.com  w: [www.womensaidnewry.co.uk](http://www.womensaidnewry.co.uk)  Referrals to: [rhiannon.gallagher@waidarmaghdown.cjsm.net](mailto:rhiannon.gallagher@waidarmaghdown.cjsm.net)  (Senior Worker – Portadown Resource Centre) [jude.johnston@waidarmaghdown.cjsm.net](mailto:jude.johnston@waidarmaghdown.cjsm.net)  (Senior Worker – Refuge)  [clare.mcconville@waidarmaghdown.cjsm.net](mailto:clare.mcconville@waidarmaghdown.cjsm.net)  (Senior Worker - Newry Resource Centre / Armagh Resource Centre)  --------------------------------------------------------------  **Belfast & Lisburn Women’s Aid**  30 Adelaide Park, Belfast, BT9 6FY  Chief Executive Officer: Patricia Lyness  t: 028 9066 6049 f: 028 9068 2874  e: admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk  w: [www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk)  Referrals to:  [Cora.de.baroid@blwa.cjsm.net](mailto:Cora.de.baroid@blwa.cjsm.net)  **---------------------------------------------------------------**  **Causeway Women’s Aid**  23 Abbey Street, Coleraine, BT52 1DU  Chief Executive Officer: Sharon Burnett  t: 028 7035 6573 f: 028 7032 6949  e: administrator@causewaywomensaid.org  Referrals to:  [mathilda.taulbutt@causewaywa.cjsm.net](mailto:mathilda.taulbutt@causewaywa.cjsm.net) | **Fermanagh Women’s Aid**  19 Darling Street, Enniskillen, BT74 7DP  Chief Executive Officer: Mary McCann  t: 028 6632 8898 f: 028 6632 8859  e: womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com  Referrals to:  [denise.crudden@fermanaghwa.cjsm.net](mailto:denise.crudden@fermanaghwa.cjsm.net)  **Foyle Women’s Aid**  Pathways, 24 Pump Street, Derry, BT48 6JG  Chief Executive Officer: Marie Brown  t: 028 7141 6800 f: 028 7136 5134  e: info@foylewomensaid.org  w: [www.foylewomensaid.org](http://www.foylewomensaid.org)  Referrals to:  [jo.corcoran@foylewa.cjsm.net](mailto:jo.corcoran@foylewa.cjsm.net)  **---------------------------------------------------**  **Mid-Ulster Women’s Aid**  27 Old Coagh Road, Cookstown, BT80 8QG  Chief Executive Officer: Martina Watson  t: 028 8676 9300 f: 028 8676 9300  e: admin@midulsterwomensaid.org.uk  w: www.midulsterwomensaid.org.uk  Referrals to:  [helena.heron@cookstownwomensaid.cjsm.net](mailto:helena.heron@cookstownwomensaid.cjsm.net)  **--------------------------------------------------------**  **North Down & Ards Women’s Aid**  18 Bingham Street, Bangor, BT20 5DW  Chief Executive Officer: Beth Scott  t: 028 9127 3196 f : 028 9145 5245  e: info@ndawomensaid.org  w: [www.ndawa.org](http://www.ndawa.org)  Referrals to:  [denise.bradley@ndawa.cjsm.net](mailto:denise.bradley@ndawa.cjsm.net)  **---------------------------------------------------------**  **Omagh Women’s Aid**  27 Market Street, Omagh, BT78 1EL  Chief Executive Officer: Orla Conway  t: 028 8224 1414 f: 028 8224 1414  e: [info@omaghwomensaid.org](mailto:info@omaghwomensaid.org)  w. [www.omaghwomensaid.org](http://www.omaghwomensaid.org)  Referrals to:  [valene.mccaughey@omaghwomensaid.cjsm.net](mailto:valene.mccaughey@omaghwomensaid.cjsm.net) |

Appendix 2- Contact details for Housing Executive outlets throughout N Ireland

**Contact telephone number: 03448 920900**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Local Outlet** | **NIHE Area** | **Senior Housing Officer** |
| **Antrim** | North East | Marion Espie |
| **Ballymena** | North East | Lorraine Wilson |
| **Newtownabbey 1** | North East | Diane Greer |
| **Newtownabbey 2** | North East | Ian Craig |
| **Carrickfergus** | North East | Anne Glenn |
| **Larne** | North East | Letitia Edwards |
| **Ballymoney** | Causeway HSST\* | Amy Dobson |
| **Ballycastle** | Causeway HSST\* | Amy Dobson |
| **Coleraine** | Causeway HSST\* | Amy Dobson |
|  |  |  |
| **Magherafelt** | West | Margaret Kelly |
| **Cookstown** | West | Siobhan McKeown |
| **Omagh** | West | Anette McCarney |
| **Limavady** | Causeway HSST\* | Amy Dobson |
| **Strabane** | West | Declan Graham |
| **Waterloo** | West | Sheila Butler |
| **Waterside** | West | Marie Calllan |
| **Collon** | West | Paul Devine |
|  |  |  |
| **Fermanagh** | South | Edith Bell |
| **Dungannon** | South | Katrina Farley |
| **Armagh** | South | Janet Agnew |
| **Lurgan Brownlow** | South | Paula McQuillan |
| **Portadown** | South | Melvin Spiers |
| **Newry** | South | Niall Fitzpatrick |
| **Banbridge** | South | Rose Moore |
|  |  |  |
| **Belfast North** | Belfast | Tommy Davidson & Ben Urqhart |
| **Belfast South & East** | Belfast | Brian Graham &  Pat Bates |
| **Belfast West** | Belfast | Jean McKinney & Sean O’Kane |
| **Shankill** | Belfast | Teresa Maguire |
| **Homeless Services Unit** | Belfast | Susan Gilbride |
|  |  |  |
| **Castlereagh** | South East | Margaret Black |
| **Bangor** | South East | Marion Crymble |
| **Newtownards** | South East | Robert Hall |
| **Lisburn** | South East | Sam Purdy |
| **Dairy Farm** | South East | Patricia Rice & Maura Kerr |
| **Downpatrick** | South East | Bronagh Magorrian |
|  |  |  |
| *HSST\* = Housing Solutions and Support team* | | |

Appendix 3 - Referral forms *Form WA1/2015*

**HOUSING EXECUTIVE REFERRAL TO WOMEN’S AID**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** |  | | | |
| **ADDRESS** |  | | | |
|  | | | |
|  | | | |
| **HOUSEHOLD DETAILS** |  | | | |
|  | | | |
|  | | | |
| **INCIDENT DETAILS** |  | | | |
|  | | | |
|  | | | |
| **SAFE CONTACT DETAILS** |  | | | |
| **DATE OF INCIDENT** |  |  |  | |
| **DATE OF REFERRAL** |  |  |  | |
| **Signature of applicant**  **(Approval for Referral ~ see below)** | |  | | |
| **Women’s Aid Leaflet & Help Line Card Provided?** | | **Y** | | **N** |

*By signing this referral form you agree to NIHE referring your case to Women’s Aid and for Women’s Aid to get in touch with you via your safe contact details within the next 1-2 working days to discuss what support they may be able to offer you.*

*In the meantime you can contact the 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline, 0808 802 1414. Email:* [*24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org*](mailto:24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org)

*Text support to 07797 805839. Freephone from all landlines and mobiles.*

*Form WA2/2015*

**WOMEN’S AID RETURN TO HOUSING EXECUTIVE REFERRAL**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAME** |  | | | | | |
| **ADDRESS** |  | | | | | |
|  | | | | | |
|  | | | | | |
| **DATE REFERRAL REC’D** |  |  | |  | | |
| **DATE CONTACT MADE** |  |  | |  | | |
| **WOMEN’S AID SERVICES OFFERED?** | **Y** | | **N** | | | |
| **MARAC REFERRAL MADE?** | **Y** | | **N** | | | |
| **ADDITIONAL INFO,**  **e.g. Number of contact attempts; services taken up; reason why no referral made by Women’s Aid etc.** |  | | | | | |
|  | | | | | |
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|  | | | | | |
| **Signed on behalf of Women’s Aid & Date** |  | | |  |  |  |
| **Please print name** |  | | | | | |
| **PLEASE RETURN TO**  **NIHE** | Details to be provided by NIHE referrer. | | | | | |

1. [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland 2013 – 2020*- Draft Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy jointly produced by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Justice - public consultation document 15 January 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <http://www.nihe.gov.uk/housing_related_support_strategy.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Department for Social Development (2012) Facing the Future: Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Northern Ireland Housing Executive (April 2012) Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland, 2012- 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *See Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland website for details of services* [*www.womensaidni.org*](http://www.womensaidni.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *See Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland website for details of services* [*www.womensaidni.org*](http://www.womensaidni.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)