



Impact Report 2020-21



Leadership Statement

We never dreamed the period of this Annual Report would be beginning during a global pandemic and national lockdown. Women's Aid were concerned about patterns of domestic violence that were emerging from Spain, Italy, France and China, and other parts of the UK and Ireland were also showing that domestic violence and abuse is on the increase. These patterns are expected and where we see any natural disasters around the world the rates of both domestic and sexual abuse increase. There is more opportunity for the abuser to perpetrate the abuse in many forms through vulnerability and isolation. Increased household tensions due to forced co-existence, economic stress and worries about the virus were all contributing factors to already stressed households; add domestic violence and abuse and it is extremely worrying family environment for women, children and young people. This environment is difficult to manage in relation to safety and risk assessment, so in response we focused on safety planning in key public messages and awareness raising during this time. During Covid-19 there were decreased access to pathways to support which were easier for women before we entered this uncharted territory. Access to GPs, health providers, police and justice systems were all now more difficult for women to gain entry to. This is extremely worrying in relation to physical assaults and injuries that women find themselves reluctant to access medical support for, because of fear of the virus.

We knew we had to get the message out that we were open. We took to social media with our 'At Home Should Not Mean At Risk' campaign in March 2020. The message was simple - 'we are here to help'. We shared tips for safety planning online and developed quizzes to engage women and raise awareness of domestic abuse. We contacted media outlets to share concerns and ask for support to raise awareness, which led to coverage on BBC NI TalkBack, Good morning Ulster and Evening Extra, Cool FM and Q radio news. With funding from Belfast City Council we ran a poster campaign to support our online campaign. We contacted the Pharmaceutical Society and were able to get the addresses of the 110 pharmacies in the Belfast and Lisburn area to send posters to display. We contacted the Henderson Group who own much of the local Spar network, who were keen to help and asked for posters for all their stores across NI. Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid were also able to share our poster template with the other local Women's Aid groups to use and the major supermarkets also agreed to display our posters. Through campaigning and increased awareness raising initiatives, both online and in the local community, we aimed to ensure that women affected by domestic abuse, were aware that our services were still available and where to access support. The introduction of our live Web Chat service exemplified how we adapted to provide another channel for women to safely access information and support services where a phone call is not a safe option. This was set up in direct response to Covid-19 to make our service more accessible; we have had referrals into refuge and floating support services through this channel of communication. Our priority has continued to be accessibility of life-saving, frontline services for women and children.

Tackling domestic abuse and our work to support women and children does not happen in a vacuum. Over the course of the last number of months, we have continued to build and consolidate crucial and highly effective multi-agency partnerships to ensure improved communication channels, collaborative working and shared outcomes.

We have continued to work closely with the PSNI to ensure better protection and safeguarding for women and children. Our partnership with the Housing Executive, particularly Belfast Housing Solutions Team, has proved highly successful in enabling women and children to find safe and secure accommodation. While dealing with the challenge of maintaining services during the pandemic, we undertook a comprehensive change management programme that included a staff restructure, streamlining senior management and back-office functions and investing more resources into frontline services. We upgraded our telephone system and invested in our IT infrastructure, migrated over the Microsoft 365 and introduced a new case management system. We extend a massive thank you to the staff teams for who have embraced the changes.

In September 2020 we were delighted to welcome HRH The Duchess of Cornwall to visit our Adelaide Park premises, where she met staff and women who use our service. We wish to thank HRH for the visit and acknowledge her work raising awareness of domestic abuse. We also wish to thank the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE who help facilitate the visit. In January we tendered for the new Advocacy Service for Northern Ireland as part of a collaborative bid with Foyle Family Justice Centre and Men's Advisory Project NI. This was successful and we have since formed a consortium 'ASSIST NI' to deliver this service. In February we won a Chartered Institute of Housing Award under the category 'Communications in a Crisis' for our 'At Home Should Not Mean At Risk' campaign.

We would like to offer special thanks to Supporting People for additional funding to support with the Covid-19 emergency. With thanks to The National Lottery Community Fund Northern Ireland, we were awarded a grant to enable the organisation to purchase a 'people carrier' to transport food, essentials and emergency support in the community. We are appreciative also to Belfast City Council for awarding us with Covid-19 Thematic Community Support Funding to support women impacted by domestic abuse during lockdown. The Safeguarding Board NI and the Department of Health awarded us a Covid-19 payment. I would like to thank Belfast Trust, South Eastern Trust, The Department of Justice and the Human Trafficking Team, and Children in Need for their continued support. We benefitted from the Comic Relief and Children in Need 'Big Night in' fund. It is because of our funders, that we found ourselves in a position to adapt and meet the demands of a changing and unpredictable climate.

We have continued to work alongside Women's Aid Federation NI and our local Women's Aid sister 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 amidst the backdrop of the pandemic and remain high on the agenda for politicians and decision makers. It is with thanks to the dedication and shared efforts of our staff and volunteers, our Trustee Board, stakeholders, funders, partner agencies and the community, that we weather the Covid-19 storm. With the community landscape changing, we are certain that this commitment along with the organisation's strategic vision and oversight, strengthens our services moving forward in our mission to tackle domestic abuse.

Kelly Andrews
Chief Executive

Gail Clarke
Trustee Board Chair

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 ethos

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

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 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 abuse.
- 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.

What we do...



Awareness raising



Housing support & refuge



Training & education



Community support



Court support



Support for children & young people



Partnership working



Counselling

The intentional and persistent physical, emotional, financial or sexual abuse of a woman and her children.

Is a violation of women and children's human rights.

It includes rape and murder.

What is domestic abuse?

It affects women of all ages and backgrounds, though can affect women in a range of different ways.

It will affect an average of 1 in 4 women in their lifetime.

23 children in the Resilience Project



266 women housed in refuge accommodation



163 children housed in refuge accommodation



384 helping hands sessions provided



41 children in the Next Steps Project



88 children in the Children & Young People Project



440 childcare sessions provided



130 women supported in the Young Women's Project



93 children linked to these women



814 women supported through our Floating Support Project (26-55 years)



1,095 children linked to these women



66 women in the Trafficking Project



27 children linked to these women



22 women in the TILI Project



22 children linked to these women



112 women supported through our two PSNI support workers



138 children linked to these women



Statement of Accounts

Income From	£	%
Supporting People – Refuge	£819,919	31%
Supporting People – Floating Support	£481,143	18%
Housing Management	£560,937	21%
PBNI	£24,720	1%
Health & Social Care Trusts	£211,102	8%
Grants	£328,747	12%
Donations	£138,412	5%
Investment Income	£34,354	1%
Rental Income	£24,900	1%
Utilities Income	£19,440	1%
Training	£2,282	<1%
	£2,645,956	100%

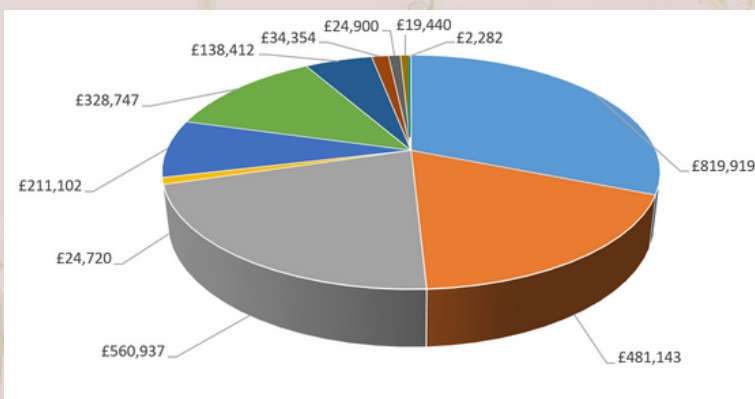
Resources Expended	£	%
Supported Housing	1,439,120	59%
Outreach Support	931,119	38%
Other	72,305	3%
Voluntary Income/Raising Funds	7,190	<1%
	£2,449,734	100%

Summary Balance Sheet

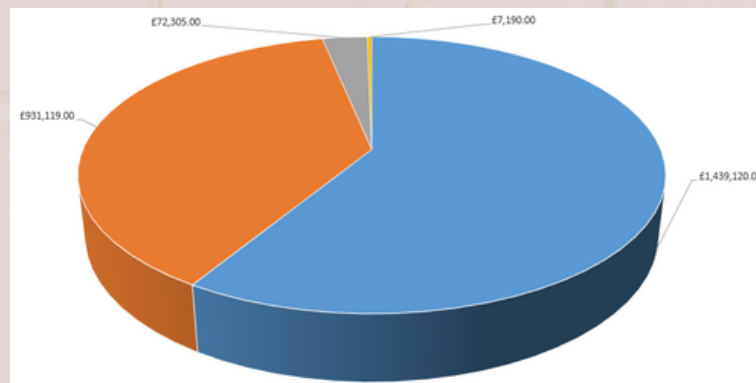
At 31 March 2021 Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid held the following assets:	£
Fixed Assets	3,665,263
Net Current Asset after pension liability	1,184,205
	4,849,468

And the following funds:	£
Unrestricted	1,643,188
Designated	1,753,456
Restricted	1,452,824
	4,849,468

Incoming Resources 2020/21



Resources Expended 2020/21



Thank-you to our funders

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 during the year.

- Belfast City Council
- Belfast Policing & Community Safety Partnership
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Celtic Football Club Foundation
- Christian Fellowship Church
- Children in Need
- Council for the Homeless Northern Ireland
- Citi Bank
- Copytext
- Department of Education Pathways Fund
- Department of Health
- Department of Justice
- Donaghy Bros Electrical
- Down Royal Racecourse
- Glenmachan Church
- Graham Bam Contracts
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Homeless Prevention Fund - Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Kith & Kin Financial Wellbeing
- Lisburn Policing & Community Safety Partnership
- LUSH Ltd
- McFarland Graham & McCombe
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Probation Board Northern Ireland
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
- St John's Church Malone
- Supporting People
- Tesco
- Thales Aerospace
- UNISON/Royal Victoria Hospital Maternity Unit
- Wallace High School
- Whitemountain Breedon Group
- Hestia/TILI
- Comic Relief
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Community Development and Health Network NI (Elevate)
- VINCI
- Educator Advocate Fund (Department of Health IRIS project)

General information

Directors

A. Bradley (Treasurer)
D. Carville
G. Clarke (Chair)
K. Douglas
N. Gallagher
R. Harrison
T. Kimber (Vice-Chair)
R. McAdam
K. Mooney

Date of

Incorporation

11 August 1987

Charity Number

NIC106099

Auditors

Jackson Andrews

Bankers

Ulster Bank

Registered Office

30 Adelaide Park
Belfast
BT9 6FY

Solicitors

Flynn & McGettrick

Registered with the Charity Commission for
Northern Ireland: NIC106099

Company Number:
NI020807

HMRC Reference Number:
XT3255

Contact Details

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