

women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland

Working to end domestic violence

Our Place – Safe Space

Directory of children and young people's services in Northern Ireland



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Open to anyone affected by domestic violence

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Directory of children and young people's services in Northern Ireland
Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland 2012

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Section One

Introduction



1.1 Introduction

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation challenging and addressing domestic violence in Northern Ireland. Women's Aid provides refuge and a range of emotional and practical support services, including outreach and aftercare to women and children suffering from domestic and sexual violence. The core work of Women's Aid in Northern Ireland, including Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland and the 10 local 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 Violence Helpline
- provide a range of support services to enable women who are leaving a violent situation 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 and sexual 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 violence
- advise and support all relevant agencies in the development of domestic violence policies, protocols and service delivery, and
- work in partnership with all relevant agencies to ensure a joined up approach to domestic violence.

1.2 About this directory

This directory has been produced by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland in consultation with the ten local Women's Aid groups. (For contact details of local Women's Aid groups see page 31 and 32). It has been designed to be an awareness raising tool for agencies and organisations, to enable them to gain a full understanding and knowledge of the range of services and interventions provided by Women's Aid across Northern Ireland, to families experiencing or at risk of experiencing domestic and sexual violence. The directory has been produced to complement and accompany the Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland five year strategy for children and young people "Our Place – Safe Space" (2012-2017).

The overall purpose of the directory is:

To provide clear, accurate information to enable better access to vital, specialist services for children and young people.

The directory has the following aims:

- provide information on how children and young people may be affected by domestic and sexual violence

- present an overview of service provision for families, children and young people in Women’s Aid groups throughout Northern Ireland, and
- provide contact details for Women’s Aid on both a local and regional basis.

Throughout this directory the term “Women’s Aid” is used to reflect the overall Women’s Aid movement in Northern Ireland, which is made up of ten local Women’s Aid groups and Women’s Aid Federation. The ten local Women’s Aid groups are all members of Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland. Each Women’s Aid group offers a range of specialist services to women, children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.

This directory contains details of services provided by Women’s Aid collectively throughout Northern Ireland. It reflects the commitment of Women’s Aid to meeting the needs of children and young people who experience (or may experience) domestic violence.

The information in this directory was accurate at the time of publication, but it is important to note that services specific to children and young people are provided in the absence of core funding and may therefore be subject to withdrawal or change. While every effort has been made to reflect all Women’s Aid services in this directory, the list is not exhaustive. There may be variations or additional services provided locally. For more detailed information, contact your local group (see page 31 and 32 for contact details).

The publication of both this directory and the Women’s Aid five year strategy for children “Our Place – Safe Space” comes at a key point in the promotion of children’s rights, in strategies and policies, at both community and government level. A full outline of internal and external strategic drivers for this work is provided in the strategy document “Our Place – Safe Space” (2012-2017).

1.3 What is domestic violence?

Women’s Aid defines domestic violence as:

The intentional and persistent physical or emotional abuse of a woman, or of a woman and her children in a way that causes pain, distress or injury.

In Northern Ireland, Women’s Aid works in partnership with other agencies through the Tackling Violence at Home Government Strategy which defines domestic violence as:

Threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have

been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation¹.

Domestic violence can happen regardless of age, gender, social class, ethnicity, disability or life style.

Cases reported to the police indicate that about 3 to 4 times more females than males are victims of domestic violence. Most cases, therefore, involve violence perpetrated by men against women, but there are also male victims of female abuse and there are victims within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.²

Statistics for MARACs (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) in Northern Ireland show that between January 2010 and March 2012 inclusive, 3263 domestic violence cases were discussed. In these MARAC cases 3130 of the victims were women. A total of 4530 children were recorded as part of these households.

Domestic violence takes many forms, physical, psychological, economic, sexual and emotional and can often be a combination of several of these. Domestic violence happens as a direct result of the misuse of power and control by one individual over another.

In reality domestic violence and abuse is usually a pattern of persistent behaviour by the perpetrator designed to achieve power and control over the victim.³

Domestic violence often occurs over a period of time and due to the nature of this behaviour and the subsequent impact, leaving an abusive relationship can be a long and very difficult process. Women who are victims of domestic violence will experience a range of emotions, including fear, reluctance, uncertainty, worry and stress. Concern for children's welfare is a priority and it is essential that women and children are supported and met with an empathetic and proactive response from the very start.

1.4 Children, young people and domestic violence

Children have often been referred to as the hidden or forgotten victims of domestic violence. In recent years however, recognition that children and young people are impacted upon by domestic violence has spread, and policy and practice has begun to develop accordingly. Research shows that approximately one in four women in Northern Ireland have experienced or currently experience violence in the home.⁴

¹ *Tackling Violence at Home*, a strategy for addressing domestic violence and abuse in Northern Ireland -Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Northern Ireland Office (2005).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ McWilliams, M & McKiernan, J (1993) *Bringing it out in the Open*, HMSO: Belfast
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*It is important to remember that whole families suffer from domestic violence. For every woman experiencing violence in the home there will usually be children who are also suffering. The experiences of these children are often overlooked.*⁵

UNICEF research released in 2006⁶, showing per capita incidence, indicates that there are up to 240,000 – 963,000 children across the UK exposed to domestic violence and approximately 32,000 children and young people living with domestic violence in Northern Ireland. NSPCC research⁷, launched in November 2011, estimated that 33,000 babies under 1 in England are living with a parent who reports domestic abuse. This research goes on to state that infants as young as one year old can experience trauma symptoms as a result of domestic violence. These include eating problems, sleep disturbance, lack of normal responsiveness to adults, mood disturbances and problems interacting with peers and other adults.

Since 1999, Women's Aid across Northern Ireland gave refuge to 14,714 women and 14,356 children and young people. During the last 16 years Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland managed 282,860 calls to the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline.

Children and young people will experience domestic violence in many ways and every experience will be different. A study by Hughes(1992)⁸of families, who had experienced domestic violence, showed that 90% of children were in the same or next room when the violence was occurring. Studies by Leighton (1989)⁹showed that 68% of children from families where there was a history of domestic violence were witnesses. The Hidden Victims Study¹⁰of 108 mothers attending NCH family centres who had experienced domestic violence showed that 90% of children were aware of the violence, 75% had witnessed violence, 10% had witnessed sexual violence, 99% of children had seen their mothers crying or upset as a result of the violence and more than half of the women (52%) said their children had seen the resulting injuries. The Hidden Victims Study also showed that more than a quarter (27%) of the children involved had been hit or physically abused by the violent partner.

Domestic violence has adverse effects on children and young people and can be traumatic. It can impact upon all areas of life, including, health, education, the development of relationships, recreation and social activities. The effects of domestic violence on children are wide ranging and will differ for each child (see figure 1, Effects of domestic violence on children and young people).

⁵McNamee,S (1998) Caught in the Middle, Children's experiences of domestic violence. NIWAF: Belfast

⁶ UNICEF (2006) Behind Closed Doors, the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children. Body Shop International plc. West Sussex

⁷ Cuthbert, C, Rayns, G and Stanley, K (2011) All Babies Count. NSPCC

⁸Holder, R et al (1994) *Suffering in Silence? Children and Young People who witness Domestic Violence*, Hammersmith and Fulham, Domestic Violence Forum: London.

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰National Children's Homes, Action for Children (1994), *The Hidden Victims, Children and Domestic Violence*, NHC: London.

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A wealth of research has identified domestic violence as an underlying theme behind social issues such as, school dropout and exclusion, youth homelessness and young people engaging in risk taking behaviour. Children and young people have varying levels of resilience and all agencies that come into contact with children and young people who experience domestic violence have a responsibility to build upon this resilience.

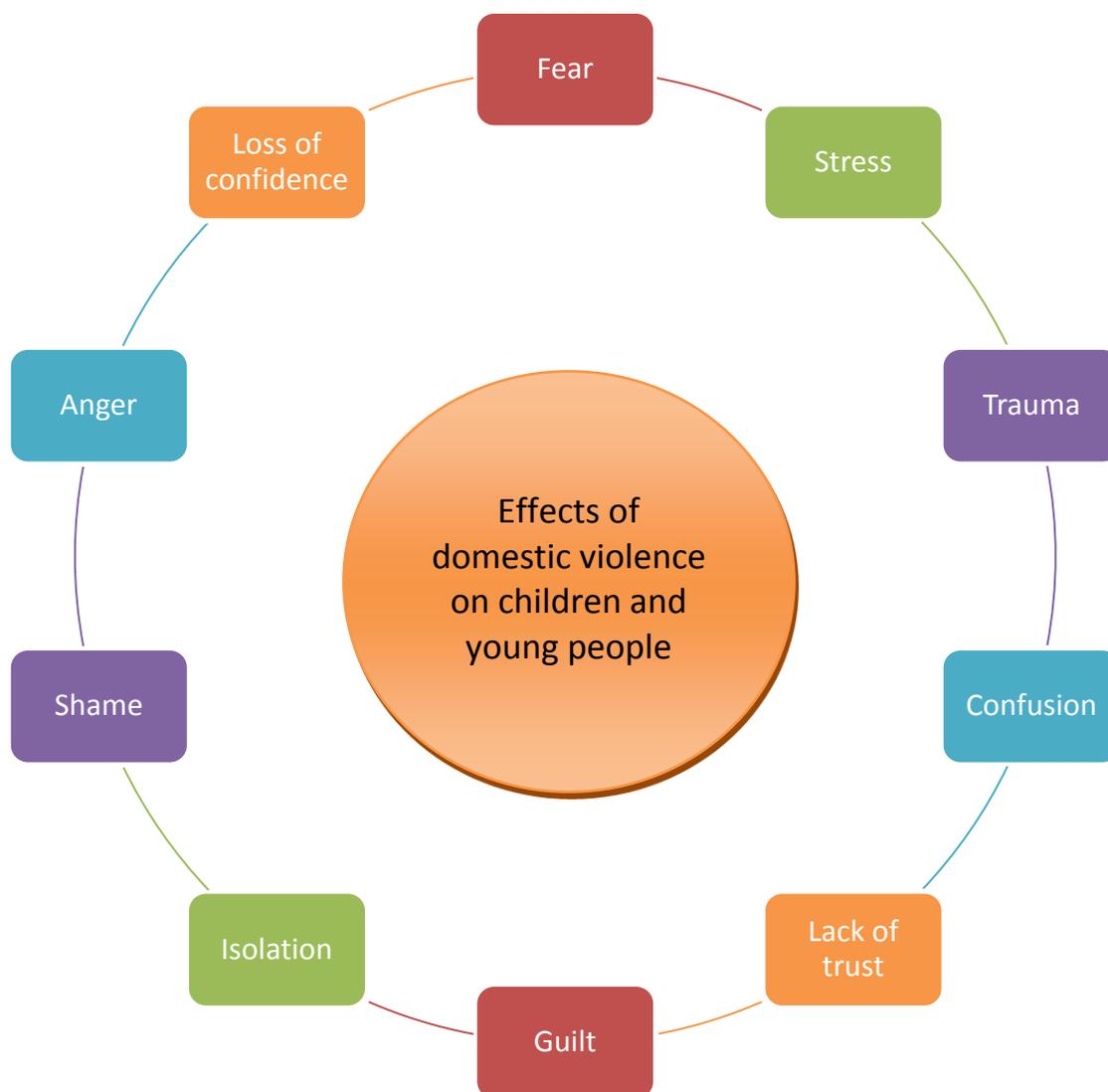


Figure 1
Effects of domestic violence on children and young people

“.....it appears plausible that children can recover from the impact of parental conflict and separation, provided that the violence is eliminated and proper supports and opportunities for recovery are provided”¹¹

¹¹ Jaffe et al (1990) Children of Battered Women, Sage Publications: London.
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Section Two

The Women's Aid Approach



What young people say they like about Women's Aid

Friends and company

It makes me happy

The food and treats, trips

Somewhere I can be myself- There is a great atmosphere with no pressure

Challenges me- Builds my confidence

Safe space- Acceptance

Can meet others who have been through similar experiences

Because it is fun but also can be serious when it needs to be

It raises awareness that domestic violence is wrong!

We can make a positive contribution, better our community

Feel that our voices are heard and acted upon!

Opportunities to meet people from different backgrounds cross community

It will have a lasting effect on me, I will be able to help others in the future

A selection of responses from youth consultation (Age 12-21)

2.1 Recognising and celebrating success

Women's Aid in Northern Ireland has a long and successful history, exceeding thirty years, of meeting the needs of children and young people who experience domestic violence. Over the years, service provision has developed to include working with children and young people, both in refuge and in the community. In recognition of a child or young person's experience, Women's Aid provides a range of age appropriate specialised services.

Needs are responded to at all points of service delivery. Group work, with children and young people, is a valuable element of support and a range of programmes have been developed to meet the needs of children and young people.

Prevention work in schools and youth settings presents an early intervention for those who may currently be experiencing domestic violence and also those who may be at risk. Women's Aid across Northern Ireland works with children and young people of primary and post primary school age, utilising creative education resources such as "Helping Hands" and "Heading for Healthy Relationships". This area of work has been developed in partnership with the Department of Education to ensure a close alignment with the education curriculum. As demand for this provision has increased, the need to focus upon capacity building within the education sector, to promote maximum impact across Northern Ireland, has been recognised.

The development of service provision is grounded upon a wealth of expertise and is driven by the voices and experiences, of families who have experienced domestic violence and accessed support. Strengths of current service provision include:

- recognition of the negative impact of domestic violence on children and young people and the need to respond in safe and creative ways
- a unique approach of working in partnership with mothers and supporting them to improve outcomes for their families
- working directly with children and young people to provide safety, support and to build resilience
- employment of qualified staff, with a specific remit for working directly with children and young people in refuge, community and school settings, including child workers, community child workers and preventative education workers
- delivery of quality child protection training to all staff and volunteers and adherence to best practice in relation to child protection
- development and production of successful creative preventative education resources such as, “Heading for Healthy Relationships” and “Helping Hands”, and
- involvement in key strategic partnerships at community and government level, to promote and further develop services for children and young people.

Women’s Aid is committed to the continuous improvement and development of services and has, as such, produced a five year strategy “Our Place - Safe Space” which sets out a strategic intention for the development of services for children and young people over a five year period (2012 – 2017).

2.2 Fundamental principles and values

All work is based upon five fundamental principles:

1. Domestic violence impacts negatively on children and young people as victims and witnesses.
2. Children and young people have a right to safety and support services, which enable them to thrive and reach their full potential.
3. By supporting mothers who have experienced domestic violence, children and young people are also supported.
4. Children and young people have in built resilience, and with appropriate support and early intervention, this resilience can be nurtured and developed.
5. Partnership working with other agencies is essential to ensure children and young people’s voices are heard and support is available.

Women’s Aid Values for working with children and young people



Figure 2
Women’s Aid Values Wheel

Women’s Aid also works at a practical level with other organisations to enable women and children to avail of other resources and to create support networks in the community. The “Whole Child” model¹² is accepted and endorsed by Women’s Aid as a process for understanding how society can impact upon children and how children can impact upon society. This model sees the child as an active participant in their world and demonstrates the inter-relationships between the child and the systems and structures surrounding them in both the immediate and wider environment.

Women’s Aid, through its work with families, is committed to the delivery of the six high level outcomes presented in the government’s ten year children’s strategy “ Our Children and Young People - Our Pledge”. A full overview of how this is achieved on a practical basis is provided in the Women’s Aid children and young people’s five year strategy, “Our Place – Safe Space”. These outcomes underpin the valuable services provided by Women’s Aid to families on a daily basis.

2.3 Levels of need and intervention

An extensive range of specialised services is provided by Women’s Aid groups across the four recognised levels of intervention and need, as identified in the Hardiker¹³ Model which has been adopted by the Children’s Services Planning Process. The model, developed by Pauline Hardiker and adapted into the Northern Ireland Family Support Model, is used to map and understand the different levels of need and to highlight and plan a range of family support services. It enables a ‘whole-system’ approach to service delivery and planning and illustrates the relationships between the different levels of provision.

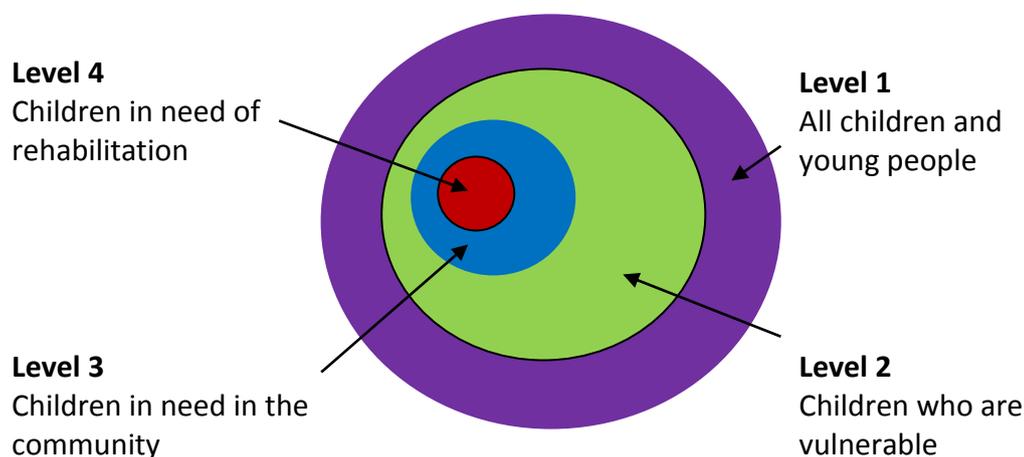


Figure 3 Hardiker Model

¹² Kopp, C, Krakow (1982) Child Development in the Social Context, Addison- Wesley Publishing.

¹³ Hardiker, Exton & Barker (1991) Policies and Practices in Preventative Childcare.

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Level 1

Represents services for the whole population to provide mainstream health care, education etc. It also includes services based upon universal rights for the whole population, and services designed to improve the situation of disadvantaged people through community development.

Level 2

Represents support for children who are vulnerable through an assessment of need. Services are targeted to individual children, with parental support, and are provided in statutory and voluntary settings. It incorporates services that must address rights such as Article 23, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the right of disabled children to special care, education and training.

Level 3

Represents support to families, or individual children and young people, where there are chronic or serious problems. It is provided through a complex mix of services, which need to work together well in order to provide the best support. These services must address United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, special measures of protection such as Article 39, on the duty to provide for recovery for victims of neglect, exploitation or abuse.

Level 4

Represents support to families, or individual children and young people, where the family has broken down temporarily or permanently, and the child or young person may be looked after by social services, in youth custody or prison or as an in-patient, for instance due to disability or mental health problems.

2.4 Women's Aid services

Women's Aid works to ensure service provision exists at all levels of need defined in the model. The Hardiker Model has been adapted and utilised by Women's Aid in this directory of services to demonstrate the extent of service provision for families across all levels of need.

The Women's Aid model for working with children and young people presented overleaf clearly presents all elements of service development and delivery employed by Women's Aid to achieve the vision outlined in the five year children and young people's strategy, "Our Place- Safe Space".



Figure 4
Women's Aid Model for working with children and young people

Women's Aid in Northern Ireland believes that meeting the needs of children and young people who are affected by domestic violence is a shared responsibility across society. Women's Aid in Northern Ireland works in partnership, on an ongoing basis, to ensure the needs of all children and young people, who experience or are at risk of experiencing domestic violence, are met. Women's Aid works in partnership with a range of professionals and agencies including, amongst others:

- Health Visitors
- General Practitioners
- Social workers
- Education (including Education Welfare Services)
- Mental Health Services
- Youth Justice

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Children’s Services Planning
- Child Protection Panels
- Domestic Violence Partnerships
- Contact Centres
- Court Services
- Midwifery and ante natal services
- PSNI
- Youth Services
- Other voluntary and community organisations

For the purposes of this directory each element of service delivery has been mapped against the Hardiker model to profile intervention and service provision available at each level of need.

Services provided by Women’s Aid	Level			
	1	2	3	4
Supporting children in refuge				
Supporting children through floating support/outreach				
Group work and one to one work with children and young people who have been affected by domestic violence				
Social and recreational activities				
Prevention work in schools and communities				
Working with mothers to support children				
Partnership working with other agencies				
Qualified and experienced staff and volunteers				

A detailed overview of services under each category is provided over the following pages. Availability of Women’s Aid Services may vary across Northern Ireland. For further details of children and young people’s services provided by Women’s Aid, please contact your local Women’s Aid group (contact details provided on page 31 and 32).

Supporting children in refuge		Level			
		1	2	3	4
Accommodation	Women's Aid provides safe, emergency accommodation for women and children experiencing domestic violence. Length of stay will depend upon needs.		●	●	●
Self contained accommodation	Same as above but designed to eliminate long stay in refuge and to provide an alternative to communal living.		●	●	●
Supporting, learning and achieving	A range of services which encourage and support mothers to ensure their children and young people participate fully in education, for example, liaising with schools, homework support and homework clubs.		●	●	●
Playroom	A safe and secure environment for children who are staying in refuge. The play room is equipped for all ages and stages of development. Children living in refuge are given the opportunity to use the play room, either with their mother or with a qualified member of staff. The play room is child led and provides a varied programme of activities to ensure all children and young people's development needs are met.		●	●	●
Outdoor play area and equipment	A safe, purpose designed area, equipped to develop children's physical abilities and skills. Outdoor play areas are available at both refuges and resource centres.		●	●	●
Resources	Women's Aid uses a variety of resources and materials to work with children and young people to build resilience. Programmes are developed and delivered by qualified staff, who have specialised knowledge on the issue of domestic violence and its impact upon children and young people.		●	●	●
Support and facilities for disabled people	Wheelchair access is available in refuge and resource centres. Needs are assessed on an individual basis and support services are put in place to address these.		●	●	●
Communication needs	A range of services including language line, access to interpreters, BSL workers and multi lingual services are available when necessary.		●	●	●

Supporting children through Floating Support/outreach		Level			
		1	2	3	4
Working in the community	Many children are identified through Women's Aid floating support /outreach service. There are also children whose mothers have moved on from refuge and are now living in the community. All these children and young people who experience domestic violence can avail of one to one and group support.		●	●	●
Community Resource Centres	Women's Aid provides a range of specialised services and programmes for children and young people affected by domestic violence throughout community resource centres. These programmes are also open to children and young people who have moved on from refuge, whose mothers attend the community resource centres or who have been referred by other specialised services.		●	●	●
Support and facilities for disabled people	Wheelchair access is available in refuge and resource centres. Needs are assessed on an individual basis and support services are put in place to address these.		●	●	●
Communication needs	A range of services including language line, access to interpreters, BSL workers and multi lingual services are available when necessary.		●	●	●
Supporting, learning and achieving	A range of services which encourage and support mothers to ensure their children and young people participate fully in education, for example, liaising with schools, homework support and homework clubs.		●	●	●

Group work and one to one work with children and young people who have been affected by domestic violence		Level			
		1	2	3	4
Individual work	Individual work is undertaken with children of all ages. This work is carried out by specially trained staff and can include a tailored programme which is child led, using free expression, through art, play and other creative means to unravel complex feelings. It can also include in-depth work focused around a particular issue, to meet specific needs, particularly in relation to adjustment, emotions and/or behaviours.				
Peer support	Peer support helps young people to share experiences and gain support in a safe and supportive environment, separate from refuge. This service encompasses young people in the community, including those identified through Floating Support. Peer support provides an opportunity for young people, who have experienced domestic violence, to meet others and to identify and address their thoughts, feelings and behaviours regarding their experience. It helps to reduce isolation, build self esteem and enable young people to develop a full understanding of differences between healthy and abusive relationships.				
Group work	Qualified and trained staff provide specialist group work programmes for children and young people in a variety of settings, including refuge and resource centres. Programmes are facilitated by two experienced and trained members of staff and are tailored to meet the needs of groups. Programmes focus upon the development of self esteem and confidence building.				
Transformers	This is a support group for children aged 8 – 12 years old who have experienced domestic violence. It is a ten week programme which encourages children to explore and express their feelings regarding domestic violence, as well as developing personal safety plans for the future. Stage Two Transformers follows on from stage one, also runs for ten weeks and covers other additional topics such as bullying. Teenage Transformers is specifically aimed at teenagers, runs for ten weeks and concentrates further on the differences between healthy and abusive relationships.				

Group work and one to one work with children and young people who have been affected by domestic violence (continued)		Level			
		1	2	3	4
Helping Hands	<p>While developed primarily for schools, “Helping Hands” is also used with groups of young people and on a one to one basis, in refuges and centres across Northern Ireland. This programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop children’s levels of self esteem and confidence. • Enable children to explore and express feelings. • Inform children of the right to feel safe at all times. • Increase children’s ability in safety planning. • Empower children to identify their own personal support network. • Explore how choice of behaviour can affect the feelings of others. • Identify healthy ways to manage conflict. <p>The programme is based upon 3 core themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We all have the right to feel safe all the time. • There is nothing so awful (or so small) that we can’t talk about it with someone. • Others have the right to feel safe with us. 		●	●	●
Heading for Healthy Relationships	<p>This is a preventative programme for post primary school age children to enable young people to explore the differences between healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships. It encourages young people to gain a greater understanding of rights within a relationship and to fully comprehend the issues of equality and respect. This programme is also delivered in group settings and on a one to one basis, in refuges and resource centres across Northern Ireland.</p>		●	●	●

Social and recreational activities		Level			
		1	2	3	4
Outings and trips	<p>Social activities are essential when responding to the emotional needs of children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.</p> <p>A fun packed and varied programme of trips and outings are planned as an ongoing element of the support package available for families accessing Women’s Aid services.</p> <p>These can range from sea side visits to art and craft days and all serve to help children, young people and their mothers relax, increase bonding, make friends and have fun.</p>		●	●	●

Prevention work in schools and communities		Level			
		1	2	3	4
Training for teachers and staff	<p>Women’s Aid provides specialist training for staff in schools, to enable them to build capacity for delivering preventative education programmes in schools. The training “Developing Social Guardians” explores the key issues contained in the programmes and encourages schools to consider creative approaches to ensure promotion of key safety messages across the whole school.</p> <p>The training aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist teachers to deliver the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) aspect of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. • Increase teachers’ understanding, of the context and impact of domestic violence on the lives of children and families. • Enable teachers to deliver “Helping Hands” and “Heading for Healthy Relationships” programmes linked to the Northern Ireland Curriculum. • Assist teachers to develop preventative and early intervention strategies in relation to all children who do not feel safe, specifically children affected by domestic violence. • Create a shared language and tools for teachers and pupils to discuss feelings, safety and to promote healthy relationships. 				
Helping Hands	This is a preventative programme for primary school aged children at key stage two and three. Aims and objectives of this preventative education programme have been previously outlined (page 21).				
Heading for Healthy Relationships	This is a preventative programme for post primary schools to enable young people to explore the differences between healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships. It encourages young people to gain a greater understanding of rights within a relationship and to fully comprehend the issues of equality and respect.				
Community Resources	Women’s Aid also delivers preventative education programmes in community and youth settings throughout Northern Ireland. This may include community centres, youth clubs, church groups etc.				

Working with mothers to support children		Level			
		1	2	3	4
Additional child support	Women's Aid offers additional services to children and young people, to support and accommodate mothers to attend appointments such as court appointments, visits and attendance at Women's Aid training and personal development programmes.		●	●	●
Indirect support	Women's Aid provides a range of services to mothers e.g. court support, education and training programmes as well as outreach support (floating support). By offering this direct support to mothers, this service also supports children.		●	●	●
You and Me, Mum	<p>This is a ten week programme for mothers, including teenage mothers, which seeks to empower, support and enrich understanding of the role of a mother in addressing the needs of children who have experienced domestic violence.</p> <p>Topics covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How domestic violence influences me as a mother. • How domestic violence can influence my child or young person. • Survival strategies of children and young people. • How to deal with a child or young person's challenging behaviour. • How to support my child/young person with protective behaviours. • How to communicate effectively with my child/young person. 		●	●	●

Working with mothers to support children (continued)		Level			
		1	2	3	4
Journey to Freedom	<p>The overall aim of the “Journey to Freedom” programme is to provide a safe and supportive group process to enable women to explore their experiences of domestic violence and to empower them to move on.</p> <p>Objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help women explore types of domestic violence and the possible impact upon themselves and their children. • Enable women to examine processes and patterns of abuse. • Provide knowledge to enable women to build self confidence, make informed choices and create positive change. • Encourage women to stop blaming themselves for the abuse they have suffered. • Empower women to look to the future with positivity and hope. • Assist women to examine differences between healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships. • Promote safety planning and self help by encouraging women to explore safety strategies and options. 		●	●	●
Crèche	Some Women’s Aid groups provide sessional care for children whose mothers are using Women’s Aid services. This service is registered and inspected in accordance with local Health and Social Care Trust guidelines.		●	●	●

Partnership working with other agencies		Level			
		1	2	3	4
	<p>Women’s Aid in Northern Ireland believes that meeting the needs of children and young people who are affected by domestic violence is a shared responsibility across society. Women’s Aid in Northern Ireland works in partnership, on an ongoing basis, to ensure the needs of all children and young people, who experience or are at risk of experiencing domestic violence, are met. Women’s Aid works in partnership with a range of professionals, agencies, and in partnerships including amongst others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitors • General Practitioners • Social workers • Education (including Education Welfare Services) • Mental Health Services • Youth Justice • Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) • Children’s Services Planning • Child Protection Panels • Domestic Violence Partnerships • Contact Centres • Court Services • Midwifery and ante natal services • PSNI • Youth Services • Other voluntary and community organisations 	●	●	●	●

MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)	Women's Aid is a key organisation represented at MARACs across Northern Ireland. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is part of a coordinated safety response for high risk victims of domestic violence, incorporating representatives from statutory, community and voluntary agencies.				
IDAP	Women's Aid in Northern Ireland provides the role of the Women's Safety Worker, linked to the PBNi IDAP (Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme) perpetrator programme. This service is for partners/ex-partners (and their children) of men undertaking the IDAP programme and offers safety, planning, risk assessment and management and referral to other agencies for support.				
Local Domestic Violence Partnerships	Women's Aid actively participates in each of the five local Domestic Violence partnerships across Northern Ireland helping to deliver on local action plans linked to the regional Action Plan for the Tackling Violence at Home strategy.				
Tackling Violence at Home Regional Strategic Group	Women's Aid is a member of the Tackling Violence at Home Regional Strategic Group and participates in all of the related sub-groups, including the Children & Young People's sub-group, Protection & Justice sub-group, Prevention & Support sub-group, Training sub-group and others, which are tasked with driving forward the strategy and implementing the associated regional Action Plan.				
Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse – Regional Strategy	Women's Aid participates in the key sub-groups of this strategy, including the Prevention & Support sub-group and Protection & Justice sub-group.				

Qualified and experienced staff and volunteers		Level			
		1	2	3	4
<p>Qualified Children and Young People's Workers</p> <p>All work with children and young people is carried out by qualified, trained and experienced staff and volunteers, with specialised skills and knowledge related to the impact of domestic violence on children and young people. All staff receive a comprehensive induction programme, which is co-ordinated regionally and is on-going throughout the year. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping Safe and Child Protection • Understanding Domestic Violence (Level 3 Open College Network) • Developing Social Guardians (Helping Hands) • Developing Social Guardians (Heading for Healthy Relationships). <p>Training in the delivery of programmes aimed at working with mothers, mothers and their children and preventative programmes is also ongoing. Children and Young People's Workers also facilitate the participation of young people, in focus groups, youth fora, peer support groups as well as in the delivery of preventative education programmes.</p>	●	●	●	●	
<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Women's Aid offers a wide range of opportunities for volunteers and student placements. Places are available in a range of areas including work with children and young people. All volunteers are appropriately vetted and supported by a comprehensive training and induction programme.</p>	●	●	●	●	

Section Three

Conclusion



Conclusion

This directory of services sets out the current service provision for children and young people in Women's Aid across Northern Ireland. Women's Aid remains committed to the continuous improvement and development of services in all areas.

The growth of services in recent years combined with increasing statistics for women and children accessing services, has led to the need for a strategic approach to sustain, maintain and further develop equitable services across Northern Ireland.

A vision and strategic intention for the future, in relation to service development for children and young people, is set out in Women's Aid five year strategy for children and young people "Our Place – Safe Space" which represents an innovative approach to this area of work, and clearly outlines direction over a five year period (2012 - 2017). This strategy identifies six strategic themes for the next five years, one of the most crucial being "**Sustainability and Capacity Building**".

Women's Aid in Northern Ireland looks forward to harnessing the opportunities presented in the five year strategy, to drive forward and to create real social and strategic change, at a policy and legislative level and to achieve the ultimate outcome of a safe space for all children and young people.

Women's Aid: local groups contact details

There are 10 local Women's Aid groups throughout Northern Ireland. These groups are autonomous and are affiliated to Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland. Local Women's Aid groups can be contacted directly or through the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline.

24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 917 1414

Open to anyone affected by domestic violence

Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey

Naomi Centre, 2 Cullybackey Road

Ballymena BT43 5DF

T: 028 2563 2136

E: womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com

W: www.womens-aid.org.uk

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid

30 Adelaide Park

Belfast BT9 6FY

T: 028 9066 6049

E: admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk

W: www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk

Causeway Women's Aid

23 Abbey Street

Coleraine BT52 1DU

T: 028 7035 6573

E: womensaidcoleraine@btinternet.com

Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid

27 Old Coagh Road

Cookstown BT80 8QG

T: 028 8676 9300

E: womensaidcookstown@hotmail.com

W: www.cookstownwomensaid.org.uk

Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid

Office 1, Floor 1, Legahory Centre, Brownlow, Craigavon BT65 5BE

T: 028 3834 3256

E: info@craigavonbanbridgewomensaid.org.uk

W: craigavonandbanbridgewomensaid.co.uk

Fermanagh Women's Aid

27a High Street
Enniskillen BT74 7DQ
T: 028 6632 8898 F: 028 6632 8859
E: womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com

Foyle Women's Aid

Pathways, 24 Pump Street
L'Derry BT48 6JG
T: 028 7128 0060 F: 028 7128 0061
E: admin@foylewomensaid.org
W: www.foylewomensaid.org

Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down and South Armagh

7 Downshire Place, Belfast Road
Newry BT34 1DZ
T: 028 3025 0765 F: 028 3026 9606
E: newrywomensaid@btconnect.com
W: www.womensaidnewry.co.uk

North Down & Ards Women's Aid

18 Bingham Street
Bangor BT20 5DW
T: 028 9127 3196 F: 028 9145 5245
E: ndawomensaid@hotmail.com
W: www.ndawa.org

Omagh Women's Aid

27 Market Street
Omagh BT78 1EL
T: 028 8224 1414 F: 028 8224 1414
E: info@omaghwomensaid.org

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

129 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HP
T: 028 9024 9041
F: 028 9023 9246
E: info@womensaid.org
W: www.womensaidni.org

24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 917 1414

Open to anyone affected by domestic violence