

women's aid

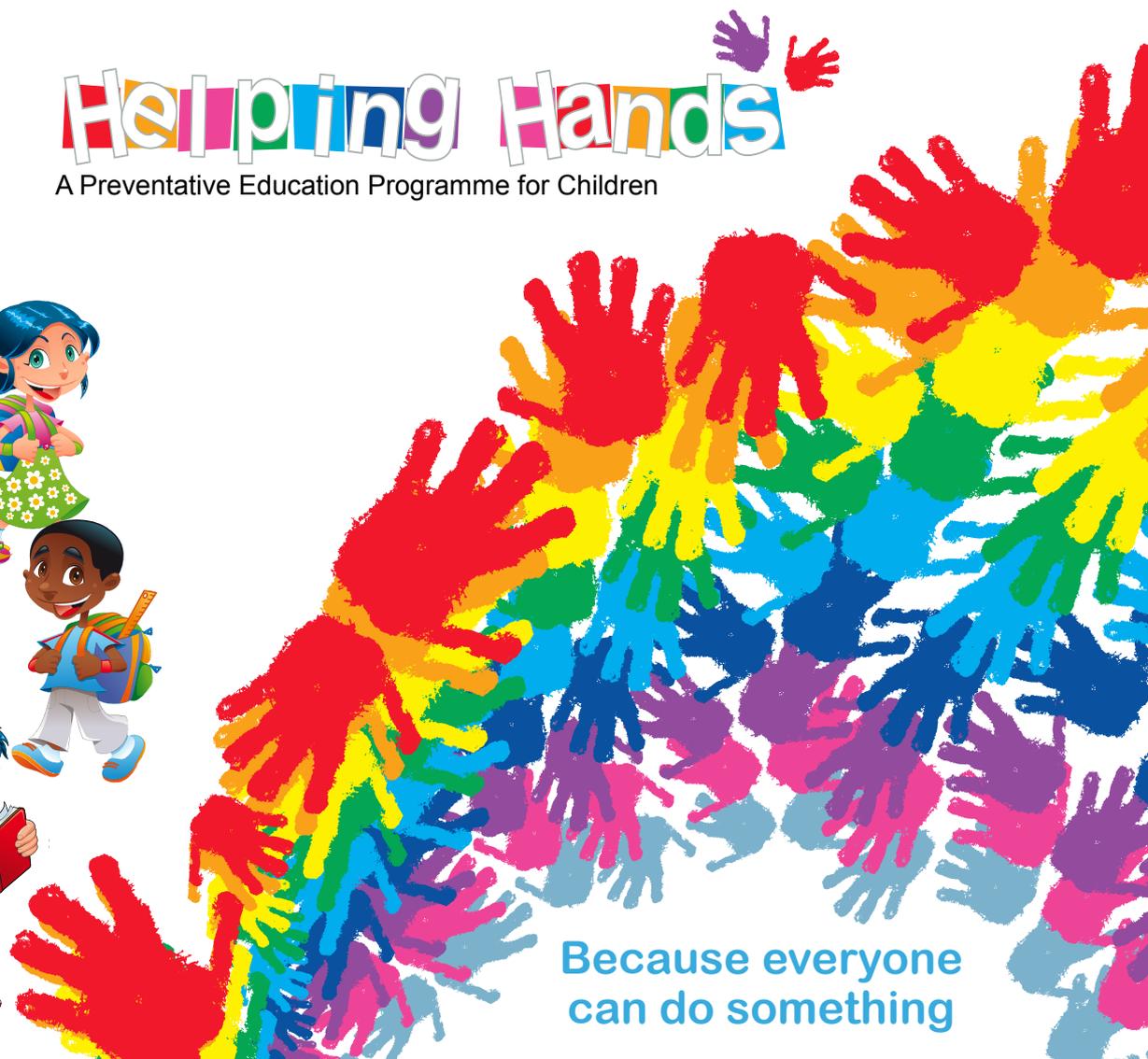
Federation Northern Ireland

ANNUAL REPORT  
2010-2011



Helping Hands

A Preventative Education Programme for Children



Because everyone  
can do something

Published by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

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**24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline: 0800 917 1414**  
**Open to anyone affected by domestic violence**

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**Annual report 2010–2011**

**Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland**  
**2011**



## **Our Vision**

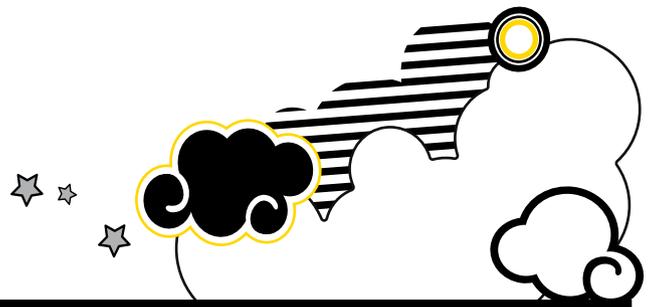
Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland's vision for the 21st century is the elimination of domestic violence.

## **Our Mission**

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs which perpetuate domestic violence. We seek through our work to promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

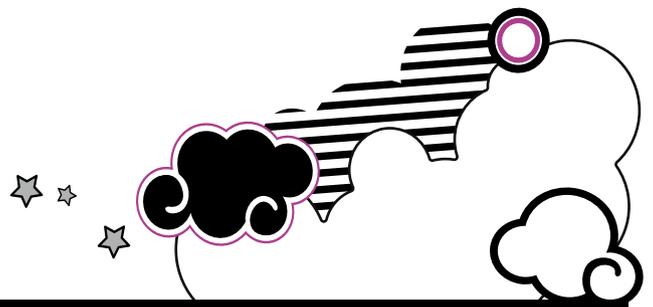
## **Our Goal**

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland strives to welcome and support all women, children and young people, including those with disabilities and those without, women from minority communities, different cultures, races, languages and sexual orientations and from a wide age range.



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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Helping Hands, our ground-breaking preventative education programme for primary school pupils, updated with support from the Department of Education and DHSS&PS, was piloted in 43 schools during this year, reaching 1820 pupils. The fresh strategic approach of building the capacity of teachers as Social Guardians to deliver Helping Hands directly in schools has proved an immense success and we remain determined to ensure that all primary school pupils benefit from this protective programme.

We believe that 'everyone can do something' and look forward to bringing this Social Guardian training to every sector of society, with its challenge to become part of the protective early warning network for victims of domestic violence.

This year the Tackling Violence at Home government strategy completed its first five years and underwent a review of its effectiveness. We were delighted that key named successes included the work of the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline, which Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland manage under a Service Level Agreement jointly funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, DHSS&PS, and the Community Safety Unit, Department of Justice.

During this year 38,296 calls were managed by the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline, an increase of 18% on last year, providing a lifeline for all victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Preventative education was also a key success in the Tackling Violence at Home strategy with the redesign and pilot of Helping Hands in primary schools warmly welcomed by the multi-agency strategy partners.

We remain fully committed to build on these partnerships to ensure that the work of protecting and supporting all victims of domestic violence continues in the straitened financial times ahead.

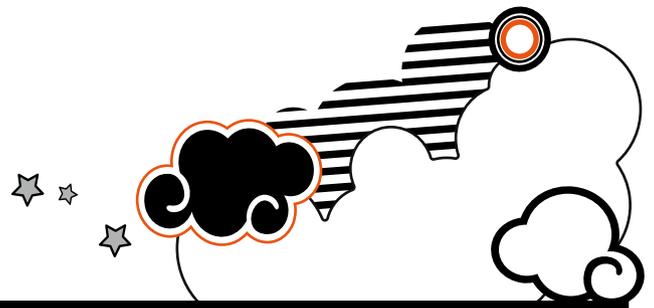
In June 2010 we were also proud to be honoured with a special 2020 Vision celebration of the work of Women's Aid at Stormont, which was hosted by Basil McCrea, MLA and supported by politicians across all the political parties.

Thanks are due to all our funders who have supported our work throughout the year; a full list of funders appears on page 65.

Finally warm thanks are due to the committed members of the Federation Management Board and to the skilful leadership of the Director, Annie Campbell and all the enthusiastic and hard-working Federation staff and volunteer team.

**Christine Whiteman**  
Chair

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland



## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This year was the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day which we were proud to celebrate with friends and supporters. Women's Aid recognises Violence Against Women as a world-wide epidemic, including 'honour killings', human trafficking and domestic and sexual violence. This spread of gender specific violence is rooted in the unequal position of women and girls across the globe. In Northern Ireland, as in the rest of the UK and Ireland, the majority of victims of domestic and sexual violence are women and children. We believe it is important to recognise the gendered nature of domestic and sexual violence in order to understand its roots, to provide tailored support for all its victims and to work for its total elimination.

Women's Aid continues to provide direct support to women, children and young people through our refuge and floating support services and to support all victims of domestic and sexual violence, women, men and children through the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline.

This year we raised concerns at the cost of access to justice for victims of domestic violence. Obtaining a Non-Molestation Order was prohibitive for many women, with a single mother working part-time often just over the threshold for Legal Aid. We were delighted when the Minister of Justice David Ford MLA

announced the decision to amend the Legal Aid Rule in December 2010 hence ensuring that many more women were able to obtain protective orders.

The need for our support is as clear as ever. This year Women's Aid local groups provided refuge to 1,058 women and 754 children. Our Floating Support / outreach services gave support to 3,450 women and 3,739 children.

These outreach numbers are increasing each year as our message reaches further out into the community.

This year I would like to thank all the Senior Managers and the staff and volunteers of the ten local Women's Aid groups for their hard work and expertise.

Thanks are due for the support and commitment of the Federation Senior Management team of Deirdre Teague and Sarah Mason, together with all the lively and dedicated team of Federation staff and volunteers.

And finally many thanks to the inspiring volunteers who make up our Management Board; led by the Chair Christine Whiteman with great patience and dedication.

**Annie Campbell**

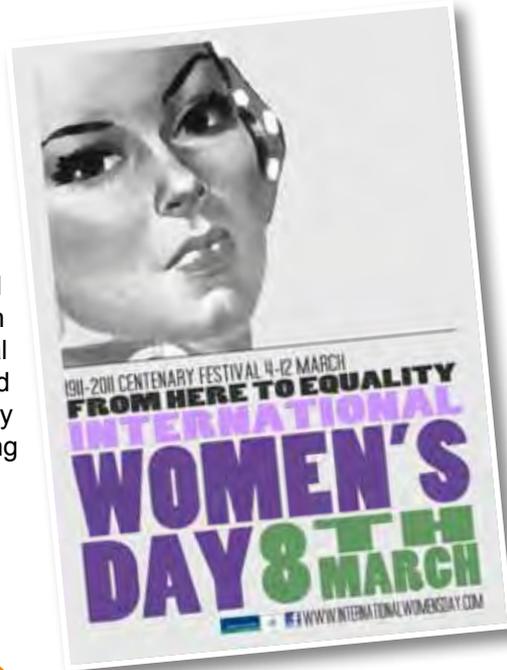
Director

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

# 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day

International Women's Day reached a milestone in 2011 as it marked its 100th anniversary. For 100 years International Women's Day has celebrated the political, economic, cultural and social achievement of women around the world. Not only is IWD a celebration, it also serves as a reminder of the continuing struggle for equality that so many women face across the world.

Women's Aid staff, volunteers and friends were delighted to participate in a march and rally in Belfast on 8th March 2011 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day. Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland also proudly unveiled a beautiful new banner, specially designed for the event by our Finance & Fund-raising Assistant, Alison Stevenson.



**'Always remember you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.' Harriet Tubman**

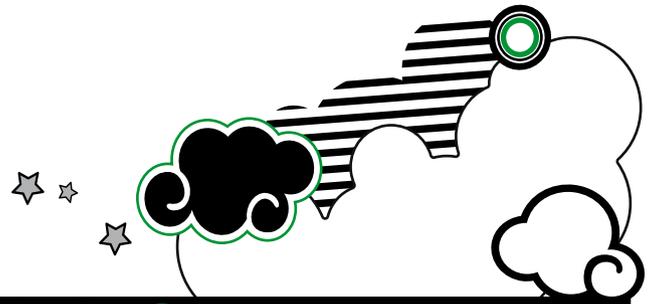
## PSNI statistics 2010 – 2011

- 22,685 incidents with a domestic motivation were reported to the PSNI in 10/11.
- The PSNI responded to a domestic incident every 23 minutes of every day of the year in Northern Ireland.
- The total number of recorded offences of murder was 20. Those classified as having a domestic motivation totalled 7. Therefore 35% of all murders in Northern Ireland in 10/11 had a domestic motivation.
- Where the gender and age of the victim was known, 76% of female domestic abuse victims aged 18+ were victims of violence against the person offences.\*
- Of the total 105,040 crimes recorded by the PSNI in 10/11, 9,546 were crimes with a domestic motivation. This equates to 9.1% of all crimes in 10/11.
- There are almost 3 times as many domestic related crimes as drug offences.
- There were more than 3 times as many domestic related crimes as there were car thefts.

*All data is taken from PSNI reports. These figures cover the period April 2010 – March 2011.*

*(N.B “Adult” is defined as persons aged 18 and over.)*

*(\*Based on findings from the PSNI Annual Recorded Crime Statistics Report 2010/11 and on the PSNI Report, “Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes in Northern Ireland 2004/05 – 2010/11)*



# REGIONAL POLICY & LOBBYING

Policy and lobbying work forms an essential part of Women's Aid Federation's work to challenge the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence by lobbying, campaigning and influencing the policy agenda.

Gillian Clifford is the Federation's Regional Policy & Information Co-ordinator, who works in consultation with the ten local Women's Aid groups in the development of policy positions. The overall policy & lobbying work is led by Annie Campbell, Director with lead roles on different issues assigned to Sarah Mason, Finance & Training Manager, Deirdre Teague, Helpline Manager and Gillian Clifford, Regional Policy & Information Co-ordinator.

## **Tackling Violence @ Home**

Women's Aid believes strongly that it is only through effective partnership work that we can achieve our vision of the elimination of domestic violence.

During this period we continued as active participants in the inter-agency Tackling Violence at Home Regional Strategic partnership, chaired by DHSS&PS and Department of Justice and answerable to the Inter-Ministerial Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence at Stormont. Women's Aid has places on the Regional Strategic

Group (RSG), the Protection & Justice sub-group (Annie Campbell, Director chairs this sub-group), the Prevention & Support sub-group, and the Children & Young People's sub-group. We also play an active role in a range of working groups linked to the RSG, including the MARAC Project Management group and the Perpetrators Programmes sub-group. In addition all of our local groups are active in their local Domestic Violence Partnerships which link into the work of the RSG of Tackling Violence at Home.

A review of the 5-year Tackling Violence at Home strategy was completed in March 2011 to which we contributed.



**A great deal has been accomplished in the 5 years of Tackling Violence at Home , including the ongoing success of the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline, the introduction of MARAC's and the partnership work between Women's Aid Federation NI and the Department of Education on preventative education.**

We remain committed to contributing positively to strategic partnership work to take forward all that still remains to be done.

**On an ongoing basis we continue to provide information to politicians / councillors and key policy makers on the effects of domestic violence and the work of Women's Aid across Northern Ireland.**

**Partnership in action:**

**MARAC**

Women's Aid welcome the operation across Northern Ireland of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC's) which we regard as essential to protect high risk victims of domestic violence. We sat on the MARAC Project Management group and pressed for the establishment of a Regional MARAC Operational group to ensure that a high standard of practice and a consistent approach is adopted and delivered in MARAC's across Northern Ireland. We remain committed to ensuring that MARAC is fully implemented.

**IDAP**

We worked in partnership with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland on the introduction of a new court mandated programme, IDAP (Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme) in January 2010. This involves Women's Aid providing Women's Safety Workers to the four PBNI areas in Northern Ireland that run the programme. The aim of Women's Aid involvement is to increase the protection and

safety of women, partners and ex-partners, and children of perpetrators on the IDAP programme. This is a pilot programme which both PBNI and Women's Aid will be working closely together on to monitor and evaluate.

**Human Trafficking**

In February 2011 Women's Aid secured a tender from the Department of Justice, in partnership with Migrant Help, to continue to provide support for women victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Women's Aid Federation NI work with two of our local Women's Aid groups to provide this support.

.....  
**We remain committed to ensuring that the vital support needs of women who are victims of this modern day slavery are met.**

**Keeping Domestic Violence on the Political & Policy Agenda**

**Evidence to Assembly Committees**

**Committee of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister**

Women's Aid gave evidence on the 10th November 2010, alongside representatives from the Disability and LGBT sectors, on the OFMDFM Cohesion, Sharing and Integration Strategy. Gillian Clifford, Regional Policy and Information Co-ordinator highlighted the absence of any consideration of women in the document.

## Justice Committee

Women's Aid gave evidence on the issue of access to legal aid for those applying for non-molestation orders, to the Justice Committee on the 2nd December 2010. Gillian Clifford, Regional Policy & Information Co-ordinator, Patricia Lyness, Management Co-ordinator, Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid, Sonya Lutton, Deputy Helpline Manager and Noelle Collins, Team Leader, Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid gave evidence to the Committee and took questions from MLAs.

## Stormont Budget Concerns

Women's Aid Federation NI responded to the DFP draft budget proposals in February 2011. We also responded to the draft departmental budget plans from OFMDFM, DSD, Department of Education and DHSS&PS.

In our response to DFP we highlighted the fact that domestic violence and its consequences are cross-cutting issues and noted the imperative of having an integrated cross-departmental approach to combat it.

We also highlighted our deep concern at the abolition of the Children's Fund from March 2011.

## Housing Benefit

Women's Aid Federation NI lobbied extensively in respect of the Coalition Government at Westminster's proposal to incrementally cut Housing Benefit for those on Job Seekers Allowance, which would have a very detrimental effect on women and children who are forced to flee their home because of domestic violence. This concern was conveyed to Alex Attwood MLA, then

Minister for Social Development who raised this issue at Westminster.

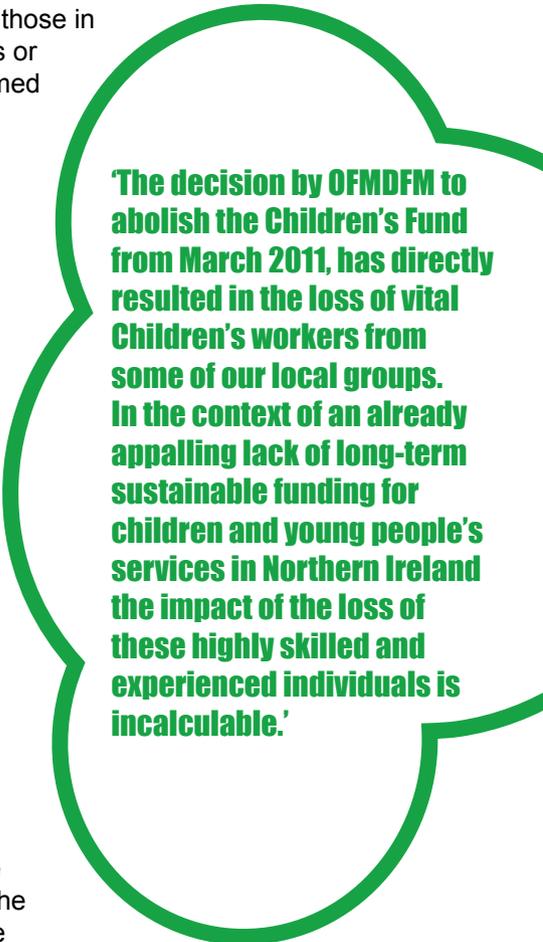
We also raised this issue with a range of different political representatives.

## Outcome:

On 17th February 2011, the Coalition Government announced they had decided not to proceed with proposals to cut Housing Benefit by 10% for those in receipt of JSA for 12 months or longer. Women's Aid welcomed this announcement.

## What's Next?

The proposed budget cuts remain a major cause of concern and as such will be a priority for our lobbying strategy going forward. For example, cuts to the Department of Education's budget for Capacity Building could have a significant impact on our preventative education and Social Guardian work. Whilst funding for Supporting People, the key funding stream for our local groups, was protected in the draft DSD budget, the lack of an inflationary increase since 2007, means that our local groups are doing more with less. The decision by the DHSS&PS not to protect the Social Care element of their budget is also deeply worrying.



**'The decision by OFMDFM to abolish the Children's Fund from March 2011, has directly resulted in the loss of vital Children's workers from some of our local groups. In the context of an already appalling lack of long-term sustainable funding for children and young people's services in Northern Ireland the impact of the loss of these highly skilled and experienced individuals is incalculable.'**

## Connecting

We continue to develop and sustain our relationships with key partners across all sectors and participate actively on a number of policy fora. These include:

### **Tackling Violence at Home strategy (TV@H) - DHSS&PS and DOJ**

TV@H Regional Strategic Group

TV@H Protection & Justice sub-group

TV@H Prevention and Support sub-group

TV@H Children & Young People's sub-group

TV@H Training sub-group

TV@H MARAC Project Management Steering Group

TV@H Perpetrators Programme working group

### **Tackling Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy - DHSS&PS**

- Sexual Violence Public Information Campaign sub-group
- Sexual Violence Support sub-group

### **Other key Fora**

- Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI) Policy Forum

- Child Maintenance & Enforcement Division Stakeholder Forum (CMED)
- Disability Action (Research)
- End Violence Against Women (NI) Working Group
- End Violence Against Women UK Expert Advisory group
- Human Trafficking Social Care Group, Department of Justice (with Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid & Foyle Women's Aid)
- NICVA Women's Policy Forum
- NI Human Rights Consortium
- NI Women's European Platform
- OFM/DFM Gender Advisory Panel
- OFM/DFM Immigration Sub Group
- PBNI/IDAP Regional Steering Group
- Queens University DV Research Special Interest Group
- Rural Women's Policy Forum
- Skills For Justice Steering Group
- Stranmillis College Safeguarding Forum
- UK/ROL (Refuge Online) London
- Women's Ad Hoc Policy Group
- Women's Aid Federations across the UK and the Republic of Ireland

The effect of these cuts and budget reductions is already being felt by our front line services and will continue to be monitored by the Federation on behalf of our local groups. They will be met with a rigorous, unified regional response monitored by the Federation.

### **Women's Sector Manifesto**

Women's Aid Federation NI contributed to the Women's Sector Manifesto for the 2011 Assembly Elections, facilitated by the Women's Ad Hoc Policy Group and attended subsequent lobby meetings with

representatives from the main political parties, during the autumn/winter of 2010 and spring of 2011.

### **Engagement with Trade Unions**

As part of our ongoing engagement with Trade Unions in Northern Ireland, who have been enormously supportive of our work, Gillian Clifford with Patricia Lyness and Noelle Collins from Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid, addressed the NIPSA Equality of Opportunity Committee in February 2011, on the issues of Welfare Reform and its impact on the work of Women's Aid and on the plight of women with no recourse to public funds. Gillian also gave a presentation on this issue and that of barriers to justice to UNISON in March 2011.

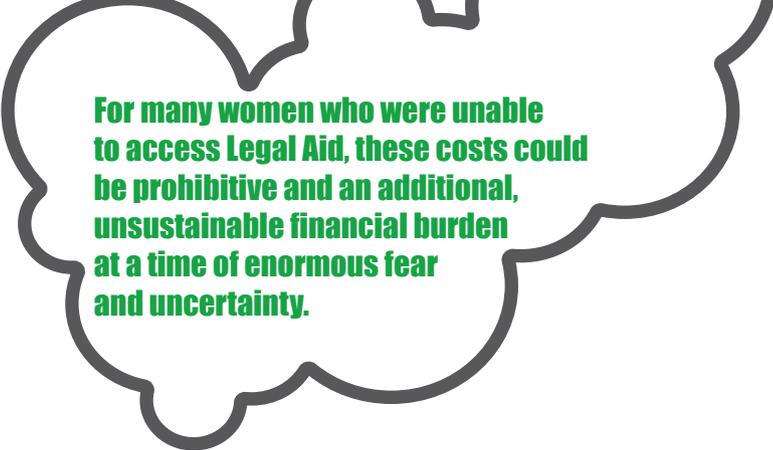
### **Public Affairs Strategy**

Women's Aid Federation NI, in consultation with our ten local Women's Aid groups continues to implement a regional public affairs strategy which identifies key public policy issues facing our organisation and directly impacting the women and children who use our services across Northern Ireland.

### **Barriers to Justice: Changes to the Legal Aid Rules**

Women's Aid believes it is a fundamental human right for women and children to live free from the threat of domestic violence. Where this violence is being perpetrated we believe that it is society's responsibility to take action to protect the victim and bring the perpetrator to justice.

Women's Aid has long been concerned at the cost of access to justice for women who experience domestic violence in Northern Ireland. Addressing the cost of obtaining a



**For many women who were unable to access Legal Aid, these costs could be prohibitive and an additional, unsustainable financial burden at a time of enormous fear and uncertainty.**

Non-Molestation Order in Northern Ireland was a particular priority in the context of our on-going public affairs strategy. Non-Molestation orders come under Legal Aid Advice and assistance legislation, the financial threshold for which is extremely low.

In 2010, a woman required a disposable income of no more than £234 per week to receive Legal Aid for non-molestation order proceedings. A single mother working part-time is often brought just over the threshold for Legal Aid.

In seeking a non-molestation order the initial ex-parte order could cost up to £400. It was not uncommon for a full order to cost in excess of £2,000.

Women's Aid had lobbied the Assembly, as well as key Agencies and Departmental officials, on this issue and had been supported in our endeavours by valued partners including representatives from a number of Trade Unions in particular ICTU, NIPSA, UNISON and Unite, as well as colleagues from the wider Women's Sector. Women's Aid was invited to give evidence on the issue to the NI Assembly Justice Committee on 2nd December 2010.

### **Outcome:**

On 30th December 2010 the Minister of Justice David Ford MLA announced the decision to **amend the Legal Aid Rule effective immediately**, to remove the upper earnings and capital limit for those seeking Legal Aid for Non-Molestation Order proceedings in Northern Ireland. The result is that women will now automatically receive Legal Aid for these proceedings but may be required to make a one off contribution to the fees which will be based on legal aid fee rates rather than on private solicitor's rates.

This brings Northern Ireland in line with England and Wales and represents a significant improvement on the intolerable financial burden which had been placed upon those who had experienced domestic violence and were seeking legal protection for themselves and their families.

### **What's Next?**

Women's Aid welcomes the decisive action taken by the Minister with the support of the Justice Committee and the NI Courts & Tribunals Service, who listened to our concerns and acted to protect the women

**"This is to ensure that no victim of domestic violence need worry about the financial implications of seeking a Non-Molestation Order."**

**Minister of Justice David Ford  
MLA announcing changes to  
the Legal Aid Rules for victims  
of Domestic Violence 30th  
December 2010.**

and children victims of domestic violence in Northern Ireland. We will continue to monitor the implementation of this important pilot scheme.

.....

**Women's Aid remains committed to the view that no victims of domestic violence should be required to pay for the legal protection they need.**

Removing the barriers to justice which continue to exist for women and children who have experienced domestic violence, remains a policy priority for Women's Aid.

### **Access to Benefits/Entitlements: The Impact of the Welfare Reform Programme**

We are concerned that women who have experienced domestic violence are reporting significant difficulties in accessing benefits/entitlements in Northern Ireland.

Problems include:

- Lengthy delays for women making their first claim
- Eligibility for crisis loans
- Difficulties in obtaining Child Benefit payments
- Problems with the assessment of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Community Care Grants

Women accessing Women's Aid services often have no money or income, indeed they are often denied access to their own money by violent partners. Without financial and

practical help to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children they are left destitute at a very vulnerable time.

Women's Aid is also deeply concerned that the changes to the welfare system are already having a negative impact both on the work of our organisation and on many of the women who use our services, particularly in respect of changes to the rules around Housing Benefit and the introduction of Universal Credit.

### **Women with No Recourse to Public Funds**

Women with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) are being denied access to safe refuge accommodation because refuges are dependent on government funding. These women are not eligible for benefits, such as housing benefit whilst in refuge, and prohibited from employment. As such, non-UK national victims of domestic and sexual violence are essentially trapped, faced with an impossible and inhumane choice between destitution and a life of violence and abuse.

In these cases women who have experienced domestic and sexual violence are left financially dependent for their survival on their abusers whether they are their partner, family member/s, employer or trafficker.

Women's Aid is willing and committed to providing support, emergency accommodation and assistance for all women and children who are

victims of domestic violence, however they are severely limited in their capacity to do so due to a lack of funding and resources.

A pilot scheme called Sojourner was introduced to address this however it has proven inadequate as it is only applicable to those entering the UK on a spousal visa. The extreme situation that the majority of women with NRPF find themselves in has not been addressed.

### **What's Next?**

Women's Aid Federation NI will continue to lobby on the issue of women with no recourse to public funds who have experienced domestic violence, to ensure that these extremely vulnerable individuals are afforded the vital support they need. We will also continue to work with trade unions, which have been very supportive on this issue.

**Women's Aid calls for an emergency fund to be set up by government to ensure that there is adequate financial support for all women who are victims of domestic violence, and who have no or limited access to public funds, to enable them to take refuge from their abusers.**

**Women's Aid calls on the Assembly to ensure that women and children who are victims of domestic violence are protected from any negative impact of changes to the welfare benefit system.**

**Women's Aid calls on the Social Security Agency to address urgently their policies and procedures on the processing and payment of benefits in respect of women who have experienced domestic violence.**

## Children and Young People

Women's Aid believe that every child living in a household where domestic violence is happening is a victim of abuse and is in need of protection and support services.

At present there continues to be a patchwork quilt of funding available to Women's Aid and other organisations across Northern Ireland for essential support work with children and young people who have experienced domestic violence, with key areas of work under threat of closure due to lack of funding.

### Current Position:

The decision by OFMDFM to end the Children's Fund has had a direct impact on Women's Aid in respect of service provision and loss of experienced staff. There is currently no indication as to what will replace the fund.

### What's Next?

This remains a key issue for our lobbying strategy going forward. We have begun work on the development of a Women's Aid Children and Young People's strategy, which is due for completion later in 2011. We will present this to government and key agencies to press for the rights of children and young people who are victims of domestic and sexual violence to the services they need.

### Access to Justice Review

Representatives from our local groups met with Jim Daniell from the Access to Justice Review Team on 20th January 2011. Issues raised included Women's Aid concern with

the mandatory use of mediation in family proceedings.

### Criminal Justice Inspection NI

Women's Aid also fed into the Criminal Justice Inspection Report on the handling of domestic violence and abuse cases by the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland.

### Research: Domestic Violence & Disability

Women's Aid Federation is currently working with Disability Action NI and Queen's University Belfast, on a valuable study of domestic violence and the experiences of disabled women in Northern Ireland. It is hoped that the data collection stage of the project will begin in autumn 2011. We are particularly grateful to Michelle Millar from Disability Action NI and to Dr Anne Lazenbatt, Dr John Devaney and Dr Stephen Coulter from Queen's University School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work for their on-going support and commitment to this work.

Gillian Clifford is also a member of Queen's University's Domestic Violence Research Special Interest Group, which brings together stakeholders and interested parties to update on existing research, identify gaps in knowledge and to explore potential research opportunities.



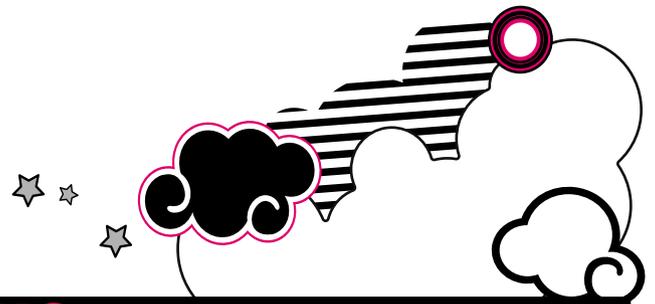
**Women's Aid calls for a strategy to ensure that the essential support work with children and young people who are victims of domestic or sexual violence is properly resourced with sustainable funding streams dedicated to these areas.**

**The consequences of exposure to domestic violence can be enormous and far-reaching for children and young people.**

## POLICY RESPONSES

During the period 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011, we responded to 28 policy consultations drawing on the expertise of Women's Aid across Northern Ireland:

- DSD: Supporting People Guidance Consultation
- DHSSPS: Service Framework for Mental Health & Wellbeing
- DSD: Joint Government/Voluntary Sector Forum Concordat for Relationships with the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Human Rights Commission: Draft Strategic Plan 2011- 2013
- NI Law Commission: Consultation on Bail in Criminal Proceedings
- Department of Finance & Personnel: Draft Budget 2010 – Individual Departmental responses were also submitted to OFMDFM, DSD, the Department of Education & DHSSPS
- OFMDFM: Child Poverty Strategy 2010
- Department of Justice: Review of Access to Justice in Northern Ireland
- Department of Justice: Code of Practice for Victims of Crime
- PSNI: PSNI Service Procedures – Shielding National Insurance Numbers: Victims of Domestic Abuse & Honour Based Violence
- Department of Justice: Consultation on a Sentencing Guidelines Mechanism
- Committee for Justice: Justice Bill – Written Submission
- NI Law Commission: Second Programme of Law Reform 2011
- PSNI: Draft Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Harassment (DASH) Service Procedures
- OFMDFM: Programme for Cohesion, Sharing & Integration
- NI Policing Board: Community Engagement with Young People
- DSD: Regional Infrastructure Programme Review
- NI Law Commission: Consultation on Vulnerable Witnesses in Civil Proceedings
- NI Legal Services Commission: proposals to Amend Exemptions to the Statutory Charge as Defined in the Legal Aid (General) Regulations (NI) 1965 and Other Miscellaneous Amendments
- Department of Justice: Local Partnership Working on Policing & Community Safety
- NI Courts & Tribunals Service: Provision to Allow the Public Prosecution Service to Commence Proceedings without Recourse to a Lay Magistrate
- NI Courts & Tribunals Service: A Proposal to Revise the Means Test for Criminal Legal Aid in Northern Ireland
- NI Courts & Tribunals Service: "Redrawing the Map" – A Consultation on Court Boundaries in Northern Ireland
- Department of Justice: Arrangements for Notification of Sex Offenders from Jurisdictions outside the UK



# REGIONAL TRAINING

## Training Team

- Sarah Mason - Finance and Training Manager
- Joanne Kelly - Regional Trainer (Job Share)
- Debbie Mehaffy - Regional Trainer (Job Share)

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• Women’s Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic violence. The aim of the work of Women’s Aid Federation is to develop effective local support and prevention strategies for women, children and young people affected by domestic violence.

.....

• Training is a vital part of the work of Women’s Aid Federation NI. It aims to develop highly skilled and qualified staff across Northern Ireland and to educate, inform and challenge the public, media, police and other agencies of the impact and effects of domestic violence.

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**Accredited Training Provided**

- OCN level 3 Understanding Domestic Violence
- OCN level 3 Court Support Training
- OCN level 3 Group Work & Facilitation Skills
- Protective Behaviours – accredited by Protective Behaviours UK
- Keeping Safe Child Protection- endorsed by Volunteer Now

## Accredited Training

Women’s Aid Federation Northern Ireland is an accredited centre with Open College Network (OCN) and continues to deliver effectively accredited courses at level 3. Quality procedures include regular standardisation meetings and on-going recruitment of new assessors and verifiers.

## Quotes from staff who have recently completed Understanding Domestic Violence Training:

“I hope the women and children see me as someone who is empathic and impartial and can signpost them to obtain support.”

“Gained more knowledge and understanding of women’s situation.”

“I am more confident working with women.”

“I am more professional working with women and children.”

# Internal Training Delivered

# April 2010 – March 2011

Training	Accreditation	Duration	Content	Numbers Attended
Understanding Domestic Violence	OCN Level 3	6 Days	Core training for all staff, including impact of domestic violence on children and young people	55
Court Support Training	OCN Level 3	6 Days	Development of relevant skills to competently support women through the court process	11
Developing Social Guardians to deliver Helping Hands	ILM	2 Days	A two day train the trainers programme for Women's Aid staff to deliver Developing Social Guardians to deliver Helping Hands to teachers	13
Protective Behaviours	Protective Behaviours UK - Certificate	2 Days	A proactive and empowering programme to promote a practical approach to personal safety	25
Keeping Safe Child Protection	Youthnet	1.5 Days	This programme embeds Women's Aid Child Protection policy and procedures	89
You and Me, Mum- Train the Trainers	ILM	2 Days	Develop skills to facilitate delivery of You and Me, Mum to mothers accessing the 10 week self help programme.	13
Why Does He Do That?		½ Day	An interactive course exploring 'Why perpetrators abuse', including film footage from "Take my eyes".	80
Energizing Unsung Heroes		1 Day	Discovering and reclaiming stress strategies to explore a better work – life balance	32
Helpline Volunteer Training (Induction & Shadowing)		Lasts for 6 Months	Develop skills, ability and knowledge to work effectively on the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline	17
Effective Powerpoint		1 day	With B&L WA– exploring how to use powerpoint effectively	8
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>343</b>

66

Number of staff and volunteers who accessed OCN accredited training

## External Training Delivered April 2010 – March 2011

Training Provided	Agency	Duration	Numbers Attended
Awareness of the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children and Young People	Eastern Childcare Partnership	1 Day (4 events)	57
Awareness of the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children and Young People	Stranmillis College - Regional Training Unit	1 Day	17
Awareness of the Impact of Domestic Violence on Children and Young People	Keeping Safe Child Protection Trainers (Early Years practitioners)	1 ½ Day	11
Awareness of the Impact of Domestic Violence	Probation Board Northern Ireland (PBNI)	1 Day (2 events)	33
Awareness of the Impact of Domestic Violence	Child Maintenance Enforcement Agency	1 Day	15
Developing Social Guardians to deliver Helping Hands	Teachers from Omagh Primary Schools	2 Days	15
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>148</b>

.....

### Quotes from external staff who took part

“Excellent course- very useful information.”

“Brilliant course would recommend it to others.”

“In the future I’m going to say to a mum, I’m worried about you.”

“A very enjoyable day, has made me more aware of what signs to look out for.”

## Comic Relief

This joint initiative has created an excellent opportunity for networking with other UK Women's Aid Federations in Scotland, England and Wales as part of a Comic Relief funded project. There are three agreed outcomes for the project which aims to produce a core curriculum for domestic violence training which takes account of the different roles and needs within the sector.

### Outcome One

A core curriculum for domestic and sexual violence training will be agreed across the UK, ensuring a consistent approach to meeting the training needs of staff in all relevant sectors.

### Outcome Two

Women's Aid staff will be supported through continuing professional development (CPD) to offer the best possible services to women, children and young people with experience of domestic abuse.

### Outcome Three

A network of qualified and accredited trainers will be resourced to deliver training to meet the needs of staff in all relevant sectors.

### Working Together

Women's Aid Federation NI has positively collaborated with Women's Aid Federations from Scotland, England and Wales to meet the three project outcomes above. The four core areas that were agreed across the 4 Women's Aid Federations were:

- An awareness/understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse/violence.
- Providing sensitive and appropriate services to survivors of domestic abuse/violence.
- Domestic abuse/violence and children and young people.
- Domestic abuse/violence and risk assessment and management.

### Examples of the work completed this year include:

- Development of domestic violence training qualifications for the QCF (Qualifications & Credit Framework).
- Continuing professional development of staff supported through the completion of accredited training.
- The National Occupational Standards (NOS) for preventing and tackling domestic and sexual abuse/violence have been mapped to five agreed core job descriptions for the following roles:
  1. Support Worker – Refuge
  2. Support Worker – Outreach
  3. Support Worker – Children & Young People
  4. Support Worker – Helpline
  5. Support Worker – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor



### **Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM)**

Women's Aid Federation NI is in the process of becoming an Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) Recognised Provider.

This will enable the Federation to quality assure various programmes, such as Developing Social Guardians to Deliver Helping Hands.

### **PSNI Training**

We continue to successfully co-ordinate and deliver domestic violence awareness training to PSNI (Police Service Northern Ireland) recruits. A pool of qualified Women's Aid Trainers delivers this valuable training which has a direct impact on police response to domestic violence.



### **Regional Training Initiatives with Local Women's Aid Groups**

- Training of PSNI Recruits
- Eastern Child Care Partnership- Supporting those working in Early Years in understanding The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children & Young People

- Teacher Training (Pilot Initiative) - Developing Social Guardians to deliver Helping Hands, a Women's Aid prevention programme
- Awareness of the Impact of Domestic Violence - Probation Board Northern Ireland (PBNI)
- Journey to Freedom – Women's Aid Federation facilitated the sharing of programme materials and the development of a Facilitator's Manual and resources to be used across the local groups. Thanks to all who took part in these very productive workshops.

### **Supporting Women's Aid local groups with direct delivery of programmes**

- Omagh Women's Aid - direct delivery to mothers of You and Me, Mum Programme.

### **Development of DVD**



Reach Out, Speak Out DVD was successfully developed by Women's Aid Federation NI as an effective domestic violence awareness raising and training tool. It was launched at our AGM September 2010 and further copies are available from Women's Aid Federation NI.



# Preventative Education Project

.....  
**Women's Aid believes that preventative education work with all children and young people in schools and community settings is essential to ensure that attitudes within society are changed to the point where domestic violence is unacceptable and no child or young person is left without information or support.**  
.....

This is year three of a jointly funded project by the Domestic and Sexual Violence Unit, DHSS&PS and the Department of Education.

Women's Aid has been facilitating preventative education programmes at primary and post primary levels for over ten years; the two programmes delivered are:

- Helping Hands – Primary School
- No Fear (Heading for Healthy Relationships) - Post Primary

This work has been carried out at different levels by local groups and in most instances no secure funding supported this direct work in schools. Therefore the main object of this three year project was to map the current situation, address the gaps, review the material and develop a strategic way forward to ensure all children and young people in Northern Ireland have access to these programmes.

The project was broken down into three stages:

**Stage One:** Mapping the Project - complete

**Stage Two:** Review, design of packs and training programmes – complete

**Stage Three:** Direct School Work

## Stage Three: Direct School Work

The Social Guardian training was developed with our ten local groups and completed this year.



In the last year, Women's Aid has developed an innovative programme to build capacity for primary school teachers to deliver Helping Hands called 'Developing Social Guardians to Deliver Helping Hands.'

### Social Guardian Outcomes

- To assist teachers to understand the context and impact of domestic violence in the lives of children and their families.
- To assist teachers to develop preventative and early intervention strategies in relation to children who do not feel safe, specifically children affected by domestic violence.
- To enable teachers to deliver the Helping Hands programme linked to the curriculum.

Developing Social Guardians to deliver Helping Hands (primary school programme) was successfully piloted and evaluated with teachers from January to March 2011.

Number of Women's Aid Staff who accessed Train the Trainers on Developing Social Guardians	Number of Local Women's Aid group's involved in the pilot	Numbers of Primary Schools involved	Number of teachers who accessed the two day training programme	Number of primary school pupils who received the Helping Hands programme
13	5	43	85	1820

The evaluation report of the pilot is to be completed by August 2011.

## Quotes from teachers who took part

**“The two day training programme was very informative and gave teachers an insight into the extent of domestic violence occurring in Northern Ireland. It was very important for teachers to learn about the types of negative experiences that children are subjected to at home and how this can impact upon their behaviour and learning at school.”**

**“Most definitely the most clear and meaningful course/ programme I have attended in quite a while. It is paramount that WA are recognised/supported in this worthwhile and life changing work.”**

**“Very easy to implement and integrate into the curriculum. A good resource for both pupils and teachers. Very enthusiastically and professionally delivered. One of the best programmes I have been involved with.”**

**“This course was highly informative and gave me excellent insight into the effects of domestic violence. I will deliver PDMU with more knowledge, insight and sensitivity aiming to strongly deliver the message of the right to feel safe and the importance of talking to someone.”**

**“There is nothing so awful  
(or so small) that we can’t  
talk about it with someone”**

**“We all have the  
right to feel safe all  
the time”**



“Others have the  
right to feel safe  
with us”





# You and Me, Mum



This was the final year of a three year project funded by DHSS&PS Domestic & Sexual Violence unit.

The aim of this programme is to empower, support and develop further understanding of the role of mothers in addressing the needs of their children and young people who have lived with domestic violence.

Women's Aid believes through it's ethos that building the resilience of children and young people is essential. During Year three we continued to deliver a successful roll out of the programme throughout Women's Aid in Northern Ireland and to address the project outcomes.



## Project Target One

To develop and implement a roll out to ten Women's Aid groups in Northern Ireland through the You and Me, Mum Train the Trainers Programme.

### Project Outcome - Completed

Women's Aid Group	Total Number of Facilitators
Antrim, Ballymena Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey	6
Belfast & Lisburn	26
Causeway	7
Cookstown & Dungannon	5
Craigavon & Banbridge	4
Fermanagh	10
Foyle	11
Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh	14
North Down & Ards	4
Omagh	3
Helpline Staff	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>

Since the commencement of Train the Trainers for You and Me, Mum we have **trained 93 Women's Aid Facilitators throughout Northern Ireland** to deliver the You and Me, Mum programme to mothers. We continue to monitor and evaluate the programme and offer facilitator training to Women's Aid staff on an on-going basis.

Thoughts from Women's Aid Staff who completed the facilitator training:

**“Loved It! Vitally important to share this with as many women as possible.”**

.....

**“It gave me a better understanding on how to gently deliver the programme to mums without sounding critical.”**

.....

**“This is a fantastic, fabulous programme. I feel it will benefit any woman who has children and suffered domestic violence.”**

.....

**“It is a brilliant programme.”**

## Project Target Two

Access to the You and Me, Mum programme throughout Women’s Aid Groups in Northern Ireland through a ten week programme for mothers.

### Project Outcome - Completed

**You and Me, Mum – Direct Delivery**

**April 2010 – March 2011**

Outcome Three Years	Groups for Mothers	Mothers Who Attended	Children & Young People Indirectly Supported
Year 1 2008/09	13	87	180
Year 2 2009/10	14	102	232
Year 3 2010/11	15	135	264
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>676</b>

The above statistics show a rise in numbers of mothers accessing the programme in the last year. Our hope for the future is that this trend continues.

**“I now realise my kids were behaving the way they were, not, as I had been told, because I was a bad mother, but because of the unstable environment they had been living in. I myself have strengthened since the programme began.”**

### Thoughts from mothers who have attended the programme

*“It has meant a great deal as it has given me coping skills in how to deal with different situations. We all get on better and are looking forward to new things.”*

.....

*“It has made me more confident and my kids have noticed that I am more relaxed... in turn my kids have got more relaxed and we are talking and laughing again.”*

.....

*“I know I am making a better connection with their feelings and confusion. Before I didn’t fully realise that their feelings were, so often, similar to my own.”*

### **Project Target Three**

**Develop Good Practice Guidelines on the delivery of You and Me, Mum.**

#### **Progress towards Target Three**

The Good Practice Guidelines will be developed upon completion of the evaluation.

### **Project Target Four**

**To have the programme externally evaluated.**

#### **Progress towards Target Four**

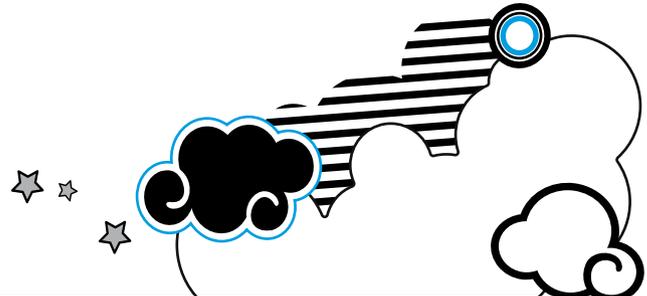
Within the last year analysis of data has been collected from Local Women's Aid Groups to tell us their experience of delivering the programme to date. This information will inform the external evaluation and strategic way forward for 2011-2012 and support the development of the good practice guidelines.

### **Project Target Five**

**To develop partnership working and protocols with other voluntary and statutory agencies to roll out the programme.**

#### **Progress towards Target Five**

As part of the UK wide partnership working with National Women's Aid Federations we have agreed with Women's Aid Federation England to deliver Train the Trainers on You and Me, Mum to their staff later this year. This will support the roll out of the programme to Women's Aid services across England.



# 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline

## Helpline Team

Helpline Manager - Deirdre Teague  
Deputy Helpline Manager - Sonya Lutton  
One full-time staff and nine part-time staff

The Helpline also has a pool of Bank staff who provide occasional cover and a committed volunteer team.

The 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline is managed by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland and is open to anyone affected by domestic violence. This Freephone service is available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

This report covers the sixth successful year of the Service Level Agreement with Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland to manage the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline which is funded by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, the Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, DHSSP&S, and the

Community Safety Unit, Department of Justice. The Helpline works closely with the PSNI, Social Services, all of our ten local Women's Aid groups and a variety of other statutory and voluntary agencies.

As more and more people become aware of the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline so our statistics rise, with substantial increases in the number of calls from last year.

The 24 Hour Domestic Violence is very much led by its callers and that is its strength. Close attention is paid to emerging issues from callers with appropriate training put in place so that all staff and volunteers are able to deal with those issues in calls effectively. This is central to the work of the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline and is then reflected in best practice in operation.



## Helpline calls: April 2010 - March 2011

**38,296**  
calls managed

**35,783**  
calls answered

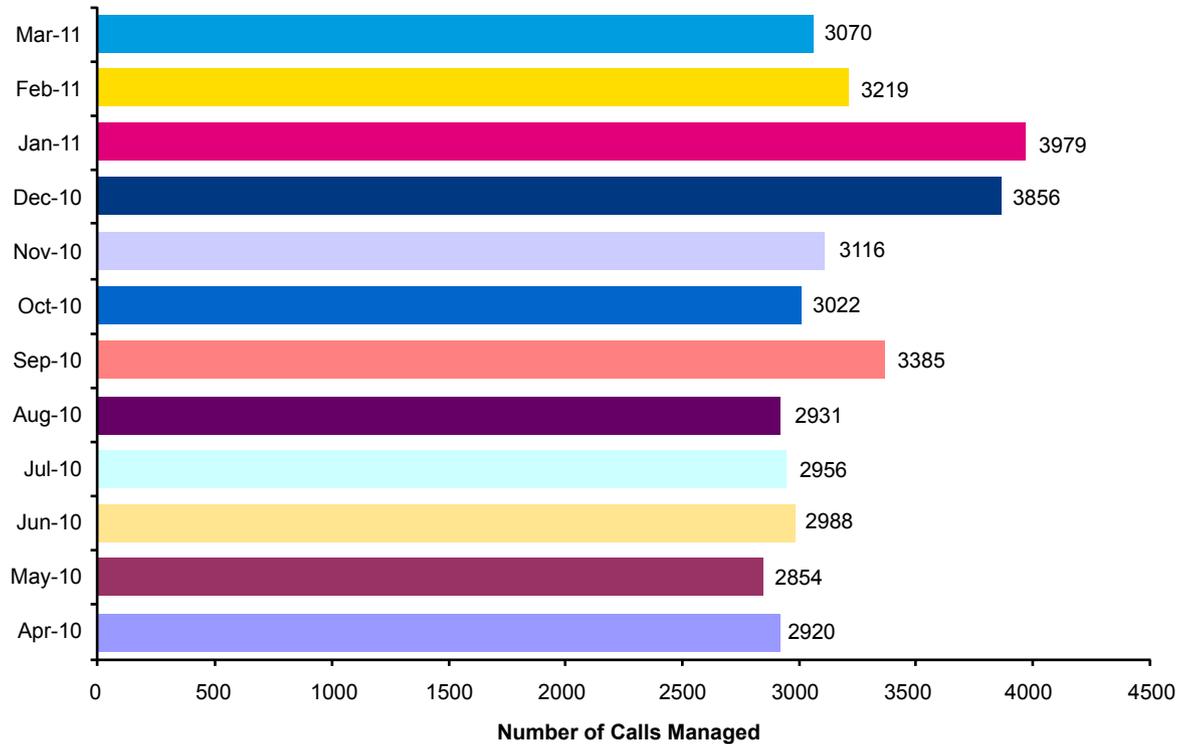
## Sexual Violence

Sexual violence and abuse have always been part of domestic violence however more people ringing the Helpline now seem to be disclosing sexual abuse by an intimate family member, stranger rape, or historical childhood abuse. This year 35% of calls from women disclosed sexual abuse. 30% of these involved sexual abuse by an intimate partner, sometimes combined with historical sexual abuse. The remainder dealt with stranger or date rape. Given the established fact that sexual violence is under-reported and the difficulties people face in disclosing we know that this figure will be an under-estimation of the extent of sexual violence for our callers.

Helpline workers are aware it can be extremely difficult and takes courage to make contact for the first time; calls are dealt with sensitively with the worker actively listening to what the priority is for the caller and to assess the caller's current safety. One caller said it was the first time anyone had ever made room for her feelings and the first time she had ever talked about them in any depth.

**35% of calls  
from women  
disclosed  
sexual abuse**

## Number of calls managed by Helpline: 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011



A total number of 38,296 calls were managed during the year.

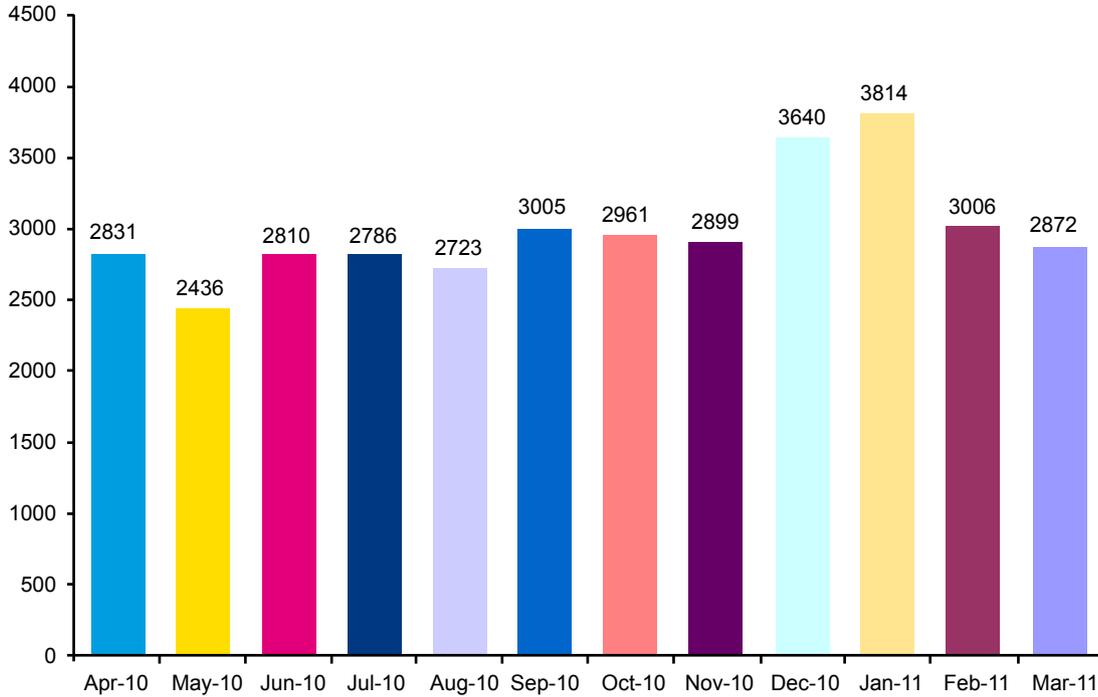
In the previous year, April 2009 – March 2010, the total was 32,349 calls managed.

This is an increase of 18% in calls managed by the 24 Hour Domestic Violence

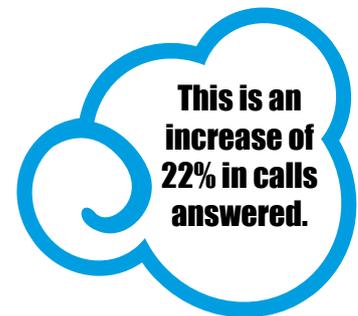
(Calls managed include all calls answered and all calls made by Helpline staff to follow up specific support and advice. For example, arranging refuge accommodation for a woman may involve Helpline workers making a number of calls out.)

**This is an  
increase of  
18% in calls  
managed.**

## Number of calls answered by Helpline: 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011

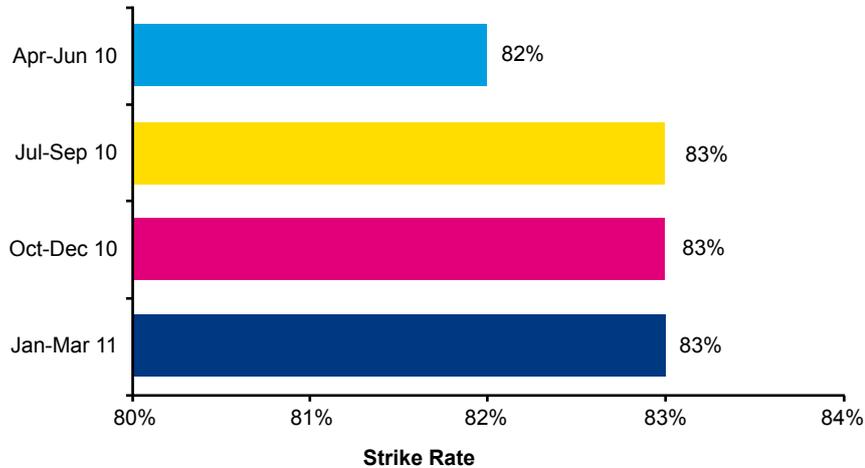


A total number of 35,783 calls were answered during this year. In the previous year the total number of calls answered was 29,402.



**282,860** ..... Total calls managed from 1995-2011

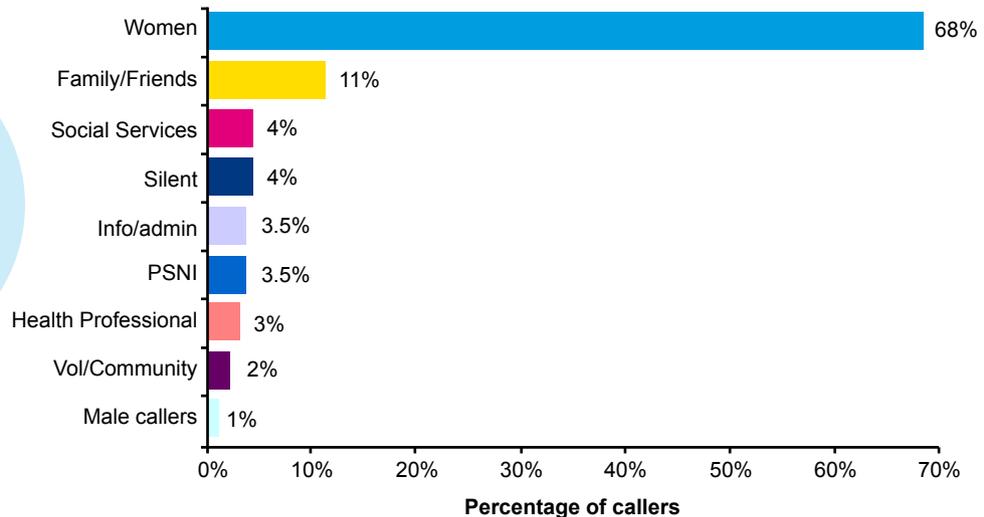
## Strike Rate: 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011



The strike rate is the percentage of incoming calls answered compared to the remaining percentage of incoming callers who find the line engaged. The Helpline increased its strike rate throughout the year from 81% at the beginning of the year to 83%, which exceeds by 8% the Telephone Helplines Association recommended strike rate of 75%.



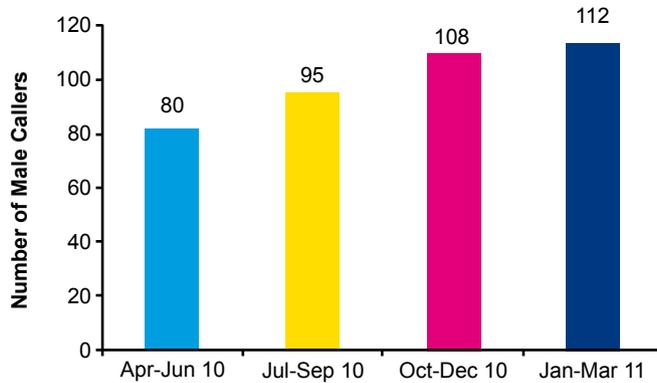
## Breakdown of callers: 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011



This table outlines the categories of callers to the Helpline.

The majority of callers to the service are from women, which reflects the levels of domestic violence experienced by women.

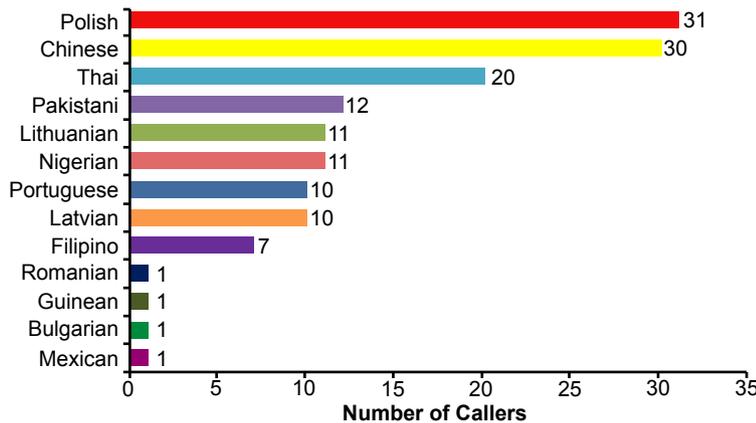
## Male callers: 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011



A total of 395 male callers were signposted to Men’s Advisory Project, Men’s Action Network, Tara Centre, Aisling Centre and a variety of statutory and support services. This equates to 1% of calls answered. The total of male callers for the previous year was 265, an increase of 130 callers.



## Calls from foreign nationals and black and minority ethnic women: 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011



A total of 146 calls to the service were from foreign nationals and black and minority ethnic women; the total for last year was 133. This equates to 0.4% of calls answered.

The Helpline uses the Language Line translation and interpretation service.

## Reaching Out

As part of our commitment to truly be a service for anyone experiencing domestic violence the Helpline runs an outreach programme, its main aim being to raise awareness of the service among hard to reach groups. This year the service strengthened its links with groups representing older women, young people, men, and mental health awareness, by running stalls at various events. A conference was run in March, hosted by trade union UNISON and organised in partnership with the Helpline, LASI, and Rainbow called "Opening the closet door", to promote awareness, discussion and improve services for those in same sex relationships.

The Helpline reached out through:

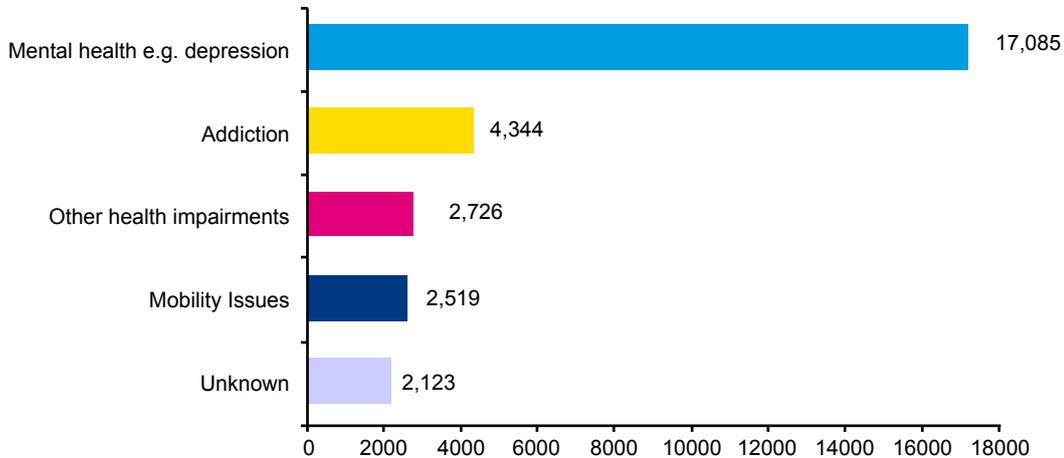
- Senior Citizen Forums
- Gay Pride Festival
- Include Youth Awareness Roadshow
- Grove Well-being Health Fair
- Sure Start
- Open Your Mind (Queen's Mental Health Week)
- Community Partnerships (Strabane, Limavady, Derry)
- Fresher's Fair, QUB



**Helpline staff at the Gay Pride Festival in Belfast  
31 July 2010**

The next planned development for the Helpline service will be the introduction of an emailing and texting service, to ensure that the Helpline is using all of the possibilities available through modern technology to increase access for a range of callers to the service.

## Health and well-being issues raised by women callers: 1st April 2010 – 31st March 2011

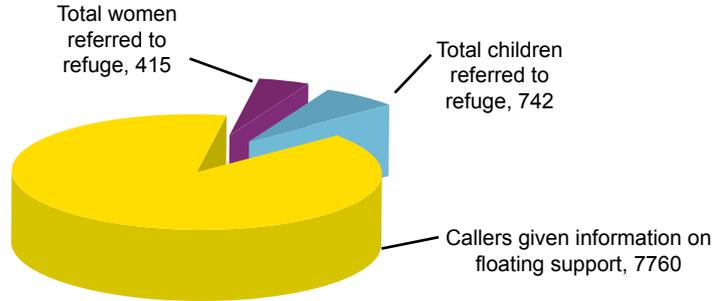


- Mental health: anxiety, suicidal thoughts, panic attacks. A minority of callers have a diagnosed mental illness. (70% of callers)
- Addiction: alcohol, illegal drugs, prescribed medication. (18% of callers)
- Other health impairments: epilepsy, diabetes. (11% of callers)
- Mobility issues: difficulty walking, wheelchair user. (10% of callers)
- Unknown: did not disclose. (9% of callers)

The majority of women callers to the Helpline have experienced a negative impact on their emotional well-being as a result of domestic violence.

These categories may overlap e.g. mental health and addiction.

## Referrals to other Women's Aid services: 1st April 2010 - 31st March 2011

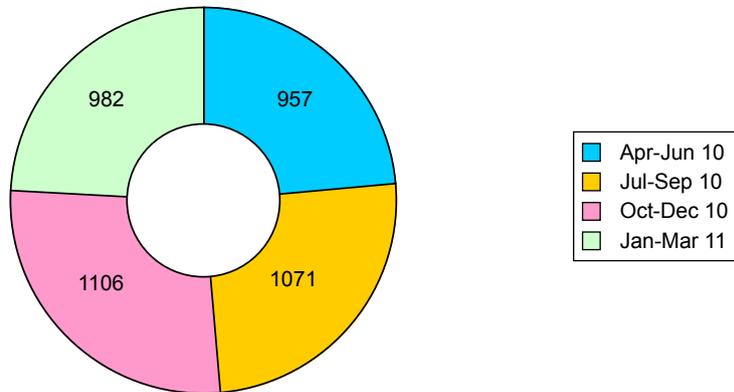


Floating Support is an outreach service to provide support to women victims of domestic violence to enable them to remain in their own homes.

During this period 7760 callers were given information on Women's Aid floating support services, an increase from the total of 6,088 of the previous year, which is a rise of 27%.



## Helpline Volunteers



Volunteers are a core part of the Helpline team: throughout the year they contributed a total of 4,116 hours to the service, an average of 11 hours per day, 365 days of the year.

Volunteers receive training in domestic violence awareness raising, listening skills, child protection, housing issues, legal options, signposting and the impact of domestic violence on children. The Helpline provides new volunteer training bi-annually, in January and September. Volunteering on the Helpline can be demanding but the reward is in knowing that they are part of a team which delivers an essential service.

Helpline calls have increased, with three lines open during busy periods, which would not be possible without the valuable contribution made by our volunteers.

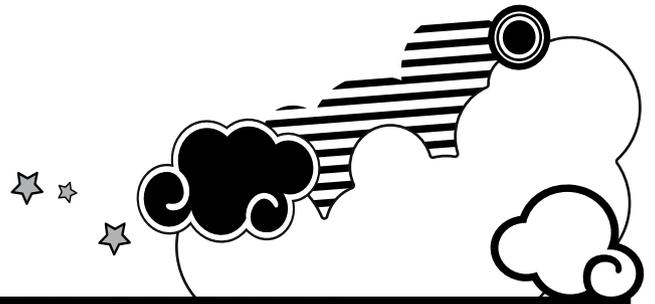
The value of this contribution in kind is £39,513 which represents the hourly bank staff rate of £9.60 per hour, multiplied by 4,116 hours. This is a major contribution to the operating costs and reflects 18% of the overall staff costs.

## Ongoing training and supervision

Staff and volunteers are highly trained, including dealing with the impact of rape and sexual abuse, mental health training, suicidal callers, counselling and trauma training. They also receive ongoing training in the Women's Aid programmes, for example You and Me Mum, Social Guardians training, information sessions on MARAC. One to one and external group supervision is provided for all staff and volunteers to ensure their well-being and proficiency in dealing with the variety of calls coming into the Helpline.



**Volunteers  
contributed  
4,116 hours  
which reflects  
18% of staff  
costs**



# WOMEN'S AID LOCAL GROUPS

.....  
Statistical data can never give the full picture of the impact on women and children of living with the devastating effects of domestic violence. Statistics do however evidence the extent of need for support and give a brief snapshot of the work carried out by the ten local Women's Aid groups in Northern Ireland, who are members of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland.  
.....

## Refuge

A total of 1,058 women and 754 children stayed in Women's Aid refuges during this year. These figures have showed slight annual variations over the last few years. What remains constant is that on average every day in Northern Ireland another 5 women and children come to stay in refuge because they are not safe in their own homes.

### Number of Women and Children Staying in Refuge: April 2010 – March 2011

1,058 .....  
women stayed in refuges

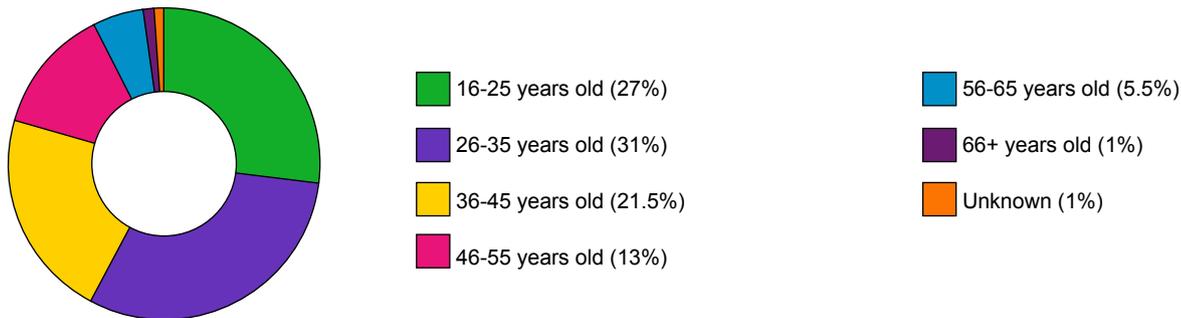
754 .....  
children stayed in refuges

## Age Range

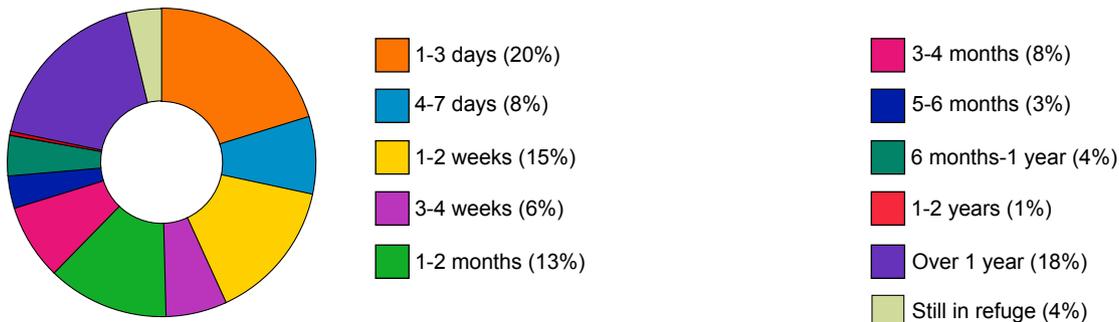
Domestic violence affects women of all ages. It is important to remember that many women suffer for years before reaching out for support.

The age range of women staying in Women's Aid refuges in 2010/11 is illustrated below. The most predominant age group this year is the 26-35 year olds who represent 31% of all women staying in refuge this year. The second highest group are the 16-25 year olds who made up 27% of those staying in refuge. Overall 79.5% of women in refuge this year were aged between 16 and 45 years old. 1% of women in refuge in 2010/11 were aged 66 and over.

### Age range of women staying in Women's Aid refuges: 1st April 2010 - 31st March 2011



### Length of stay of women & children in Women's Aid refuges: 1st April 2010 - 31st March 2011



# Floating Support

The number of women accessing floating support and outreach work across Northern Ireland has continued to increase significantly. A total of 3,450 women accessed floating support services during 2010/11 which represents a 17% increase on 2009/10. 3,739 children were indirectly supported through this service. This is an increase of 3% from the previous year. This growing area of support enables women and their children to access support whilst remaining in their own homes and communities. Referrals to floating support can come from a variety of sources including the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline. Among the agencies contacting Women's Aid to refer women to our services are:

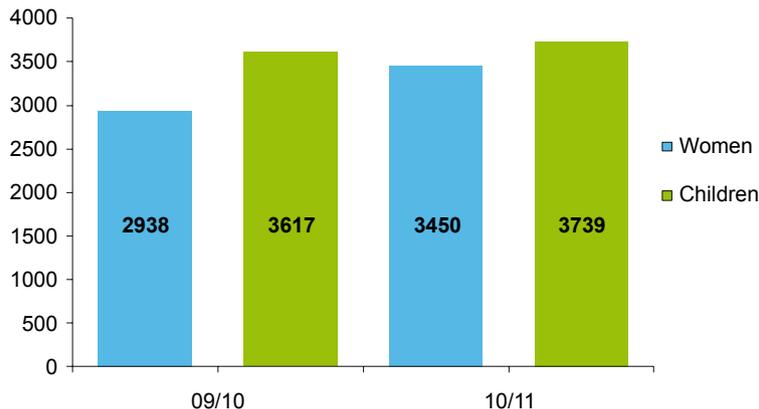
- Youth Justice Agency
- Probation Board Northern Ireland
- PSNI
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Citizens Advice Bureaux
- Samaritans
- St Vincent de Paul
- Health Visitors
- Mental Health Services
- Community Practice Nurse
- Social Workers
- Solicitors
- Other Voluntary Organisations

**Floating support /Outreach  
April 2010- March 2011**

**3,450** .....  
**women were supported  
through Floating Support**

**3,739** .....  
**children were indirectly supported  
through Floating Support**

**Numbers of women and children supported through Floating Support 09/10 and 10/11**

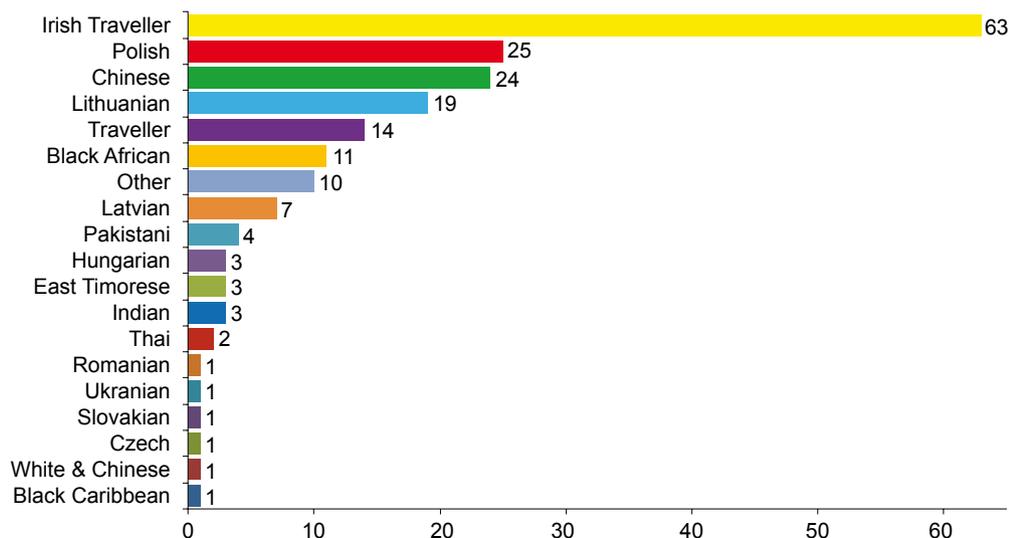


## Black & Minority Ethnic Women

As Northern Ireland continues to become an increasingly diverse society, so Women's Aid works to rise to this challenge and ensure that our services are inclusive for all women and children. Women's Aid has published information leaflets in 8 different languages. In addition our 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline uses the Language Line translation and interpretation service which all of our ten local Women's Aid groups can access. In 2010/11 194 women from black, minority and ethnic communities, including the travelling community, were accommodated in our local refuges. This is a decrease from 220 women in 2009-10. 189 women from BME communities accessed floating support services. This figure is an increase from 160 women in 2009/10. Women's Aid is actively seeking ways to reach out to women and children from all communities who need our services.



### Women from black, minority and ethnic communities accommodated in Women's Aid Refuges: 1st April 2010 - 31st March 2011



194

women from black, minority and ethnic communities,  
including the travelling community, stayed in refuge

189

women from black, minority and ethnic communities  
accessed our floating support services

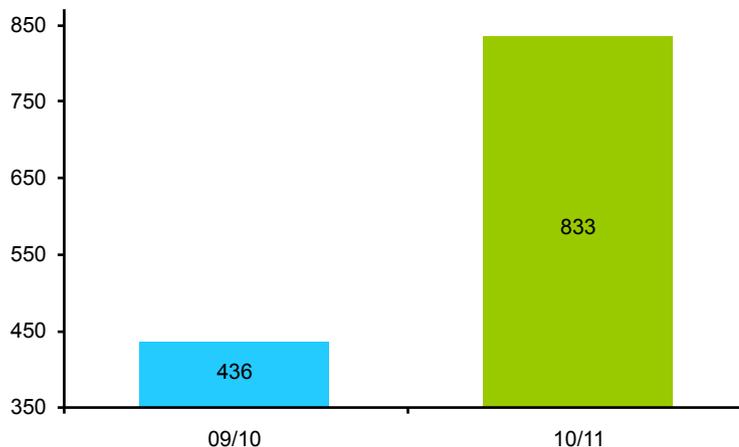
**72 women with no recourse to public funds stayed in our refuges**

The number of women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds in Northern Ireland is increasing each year. Women's Aid strive to help as many women in this harrowing situation as possible, however without dedicated emergency funds to provide for their basic needs many of these women are left with no choice but to stay in an abusive relationship.

### **Disability**

The number of women coming into our local refuges, who disclosed having a disability, including addictions, was 191. This represents a decrease of 11 from 2009/10. A further 833 women with a disability were helped through Floating Support. This represents a substantial increase of 91% from the figure of 436 in 2009/10.

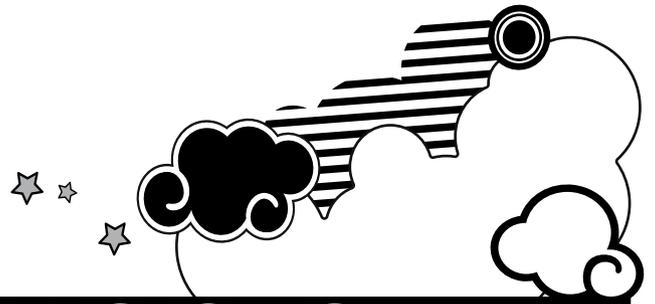
**Numbers of disabled women using Floating Support 09/10 and 10/11**



**191 disabled women stayed in our refuges**

### **Support for women and children: April 2010 – March 2011**

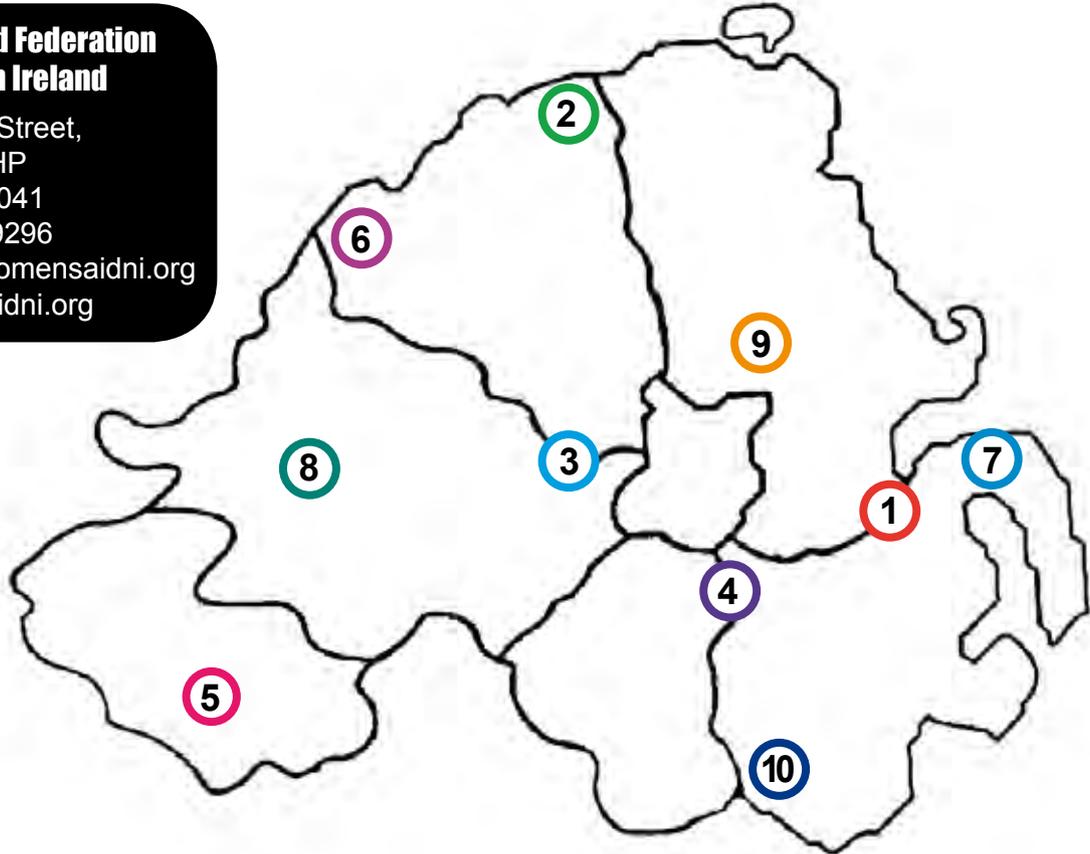
- **74 women supported during their pregnancies**
- **12 babies born to women staying in refuges**
- **1,322 children used Women's Aid crèche facilities**



# WOMEN'S AID LOCAL GROUPS

## Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

129 University Street,  
Belfast, BT7 1HP  
tel: 028 9024 9041  
fax: 028 9023 9296  
email: [info@womensaidni.org](mailto:info@womensaidni.org)  
[www.womensaidni.org](http://www.womensaidni.org)



**24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 917 1414**

open to anyone affected by domestic violence

### **1. Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid**

30 Adelaide Park, Belfast, BT9 6FY  
tel: 028 9066 6049, fax: 028 9068 2874  
email: [admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk)  
web: [www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk)

### **2. Causeway Women's Aid**

23 Abbey Street, Coleraine, BT52 1DU  
tel: 028 7035 6573, fax: 028 7032 6949  
email: [womensaidcoleraine@btinternet.com](mailto:womensaidcoleraine@btinternet.com)

### **3. Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid**

27 Old Coagh Road, Cookstown, BT80 8QG  
tel: 028 8676 9300, fax: 028 8676 9300  
email: [womensaidcookstown@hotmail.com](mailto:womensaidcookstown@hotmail.com)  
web: [www.cookstownwomensaid.org.uk](http://www.cookstownwomensaid.org.uk)

### **4. Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid**

Office 1, Floor 1, Legahory Centre, Craigavon BT65 5BE  
tel: 028 3834 3256, fax: 028 3832 2277  
email: [info@craigavonbanbridgewomensaid.org.uk](mailto:info@craigavonbanbridgewomensaid.org.uk)  
web: [craigavonandbanbridgewomensaid.co.uk](http://craigavonandbanbridgewomensaid.co.uk)

### **5. Fermanagh Women's Aid**

27a High Street, Enniskillen, BT74 7DQ  
tel: 028 6632 8898, fax: 028 6632 8859  
email: [womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com](mailto:womensaidfermanagh@btopenworld.com)

### **6. Foyle Women's Aid**

Pathways, 24 Pump Street, Derry, BT48 6JG  
tel: 028 7128 0060, fax: 028 7128 0061  
email: [admin@foylewomensaid.org](mailto:admin@foylewomensaid.org)  
web: [www.foylewomensaid.org](http://www.foylewomensaid.org)

### **7. North Down & Ards Women's Aid**

18 Bingham Street, Bangor, BT20 5DW  
tel: 028 9127 3196, fax: 028 9145 5245  
email: [ndawomensaid@hotmail.com](mailto:ndawomensaid@hotmail.com)  
web: [www.ndawa.org](http://www.ndawa.org)

### **8. Omagh Women's Aid**

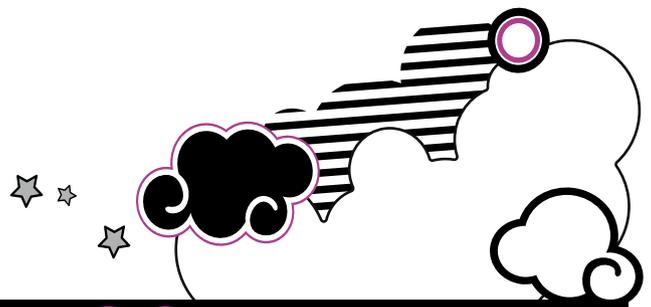
27 Market Street, Omagh, BT78 1EL  
tel: 028 8224 1414, fax: 028 8224 1414  
email: [info@omaghwomensaid.org](mailto:info@omaghwomensaid.org)

### **9. Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey**

2 Cullybackey Road, Ballymena, BT43 5DF  
tel: 028 2563 2136, fax: 028 2565 3304  
email: [womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:womensaidareaoffice@btconnect.com)  
web: [www.womens-aid.org.uk](http://www.womens-aid.org.uk)

### **10. Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh**

7 Downshire Place, Belfast Road, Newry BT34 1DZ  
tel: 028 3025 0765, fax: 028 3026 9606  
email: [newrywomensaid@btconnect.com](mailto:newrywomensaid@btconnect.com)  
web: [www.womensaidnewry.co.uk](http://www.womensaidnewry.co.uk)



# LOCAL GROUPS: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

## **Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid**

### **Services**

The new purpose built refuge in South Belfast has now been open for 5 years. This year has seen a high demand for refuges, outreach and children and young people's services.

A successful application to Comic Relief enabled us to employ a Children and Young People's worker to develop services for children aged 13-25 in the Downpatrick area.

Continued funding from Youthnet enabled us to provide a dedicated service for young women aged 16-25 that meets their specific need for group and one to one support.

### **Partnership Working**

Partnerships was a strong theme this year and working in specialised programmes with the Probation Service, Prison Service, PSNI, and Department of Justice Trafficking Project helped to ensure the needs of women and children were met.

We played a vital role in the Belfast and South Eastern Domestic Violence Partnerships and sub groups. Work included a strategic and operational action plan to reflect local need and objectives outlined in the Tackling Violence at Home Action Plan.

We have played an active role in the four MARAC's operating within our area - identifying women at high risk of serious injury, making referrals and responding to actions as part of a safety plan.

### **Work with WAFNI**

We played an active role in identifying and contributing to the Women's Aid Public Affairs Strategy and highlighted the needs of women and children and the barriers that they face when seeking help.

### **Collaboration and Merger**

We continued to work with North Down and Ards Women's Aid colleagues and through facilitated discussions made significant progress in bringing the two groups closer to consideration of a merger.

### **Children and Young People's Award**

The Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid Young Person's Project (Respect Youth) received a gold award in the Community Safety Young People's Awards (Youth Forum Category), for their work in the community contributing towards making Belfast a safer place. The group, having previously received a grant for OCN training completed with Opportunity Youth, chose to use the money to help other young people. The funding was used to create a family room in a family hostel in Belfast.

## Causeway Women's Aid

### Services

2010-2011 has been another busy year for Causeway Women's Aid with refuge demand increasing and increased referrals for other services too.

Our services include:

- Refuge and Floating Support provision
- In-house independent Advice provision
- Children and Young People's Project
- Sure Start Outreach team
- One-Stop shop
- DV POST project

### Big Lottery

Our DV POST (Domestic Violence Peripatetic Outreach Support and Training) project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, began in July with two Outreach staff, one Training Worker and two Crèche staff. This project gives us additional direct support to women and children in the Ballymoney, Coleraine and Moyle District Council areas and has allowed us to deliver a full training calendar covering, Domestic Violence, Parenting issues, Self Development and Essential Skills training. This project has been very busy from day one and the next phase is to train volunteers and engage with local community groups to increase awareness and understanding of Domestic Violence.

### PSNI protocol

The development of a Joint Protocol between Causeway Women's Aid, ABCL&N Women's Aid and PSNI H District was completed this year with the launch planned for early April. This protocol further develops our work with H District PSNI and is a very positive step for all concerned.

### Children's Fund

The loss of the Children's Fund has been a real concern for all and the year end sees us fully aware that our Children and Young People's Project is likely to be reduced significantly as we await decisions on whether replacement funding can be agreed. Sadly our colleague Debbie Agnew, who worked in this project, passed away unexpectedly this year. Debbie worked in Causeway Women's Aid for more than a decade and she is very much missed by colleagues and the women and children she supported over the years.

## Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid

### White Ribbon Gala Ball

136 people attended Cookstown and Dungannon Women's Aid White Ribbon Ball held on 22 May 2010. Entertainment from the live band was excellent and comedian Gene Fitzpatrick did a great job as compere on the night. In total £3,805 was raised, which included £1,925 from a fantastic range of raffle and auction prizes. This will enable the organisation to continue to support women and children who are or have been affected by domestic violence.

### International Women's Day

The Dungannon Soroptimists, who are regular and long-time supporters of Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid, joined us for an evening meal to celebrate International Women's Day. The organisation used the advantage of the many cultures within refuge to cook dishes from the residents' countries of origin. The children played their part by helping make place mats and flags to represent the different countries and a display was erected providing information on International Women's Day.

## **Sixteen Days of Action**

Cookstown and Dungannon Women's Aid invited local Councillors, representatives from referring agencies and other community and voluntary groups to a series of coffee mornings held over the 16 Days of Action. Before signing the White Ribbon pledge, guests were treated to a selection of home baking and a tour of the Refuge accommodation.

## **Resource Centre Play Area**

Thanks to Children in Need, we completed our outdoor play area and installed an outside access door to our crèche at the Resource Centre. The play area is completely fenced in with fully fitted rubber safety surfacing. The play equipment consists of a stamina building climbing structure as well as a coordination developing rope walk and slide for children who are living in our refuge and for children using the crèche. Pre-school children, whose mothers are attending the confidence and self-esteem classes can now play safely outside as well as in.

## **Craigavon and Banbridge Women's Aid, Incorporating Armagh City and District**

### **Launch of Outreach Service**

Our Big Lottery funded Outreach Service commenced in July 2010 and was officially launched in December at the 'No Excuse for Abuse' Conference. This service has proven to be in high demand offering advice and support on a range of domestic abuse issues to 232 women with 292 children within year one of the project. Through the Outreach Project domestic abuse Drop In services were launched, in partnership with Citizens Advice Bureau, in the Portadown, Banbridge and Armagh areas, and the Court Support service, which offers

support to women attending the Family Courts and Domestic Courts, was launched in the Craigavon, Armagh and Banbridge areas.

## **Awareness Raising Campaign**

We ran an awareness raising campaign from August to December with our new poster and leaflets being distributed throughout our geographical area to professionals, and awareness raising presentations being delivered to a wide range of community and statutory groups.

## **Training and Support Programmes**

Three 12 week support programmes (Journey to Freedom and You and Me Mum) have been delivered this year with a total of 29 women attending.

## **Schools Prevention Programme**

Staff co-facilitated, in partnership with the PSNI, CSP and NSPCC, seven 'Beat It' schools drama workshops which were attended by over 700 students, across the Craigavon, Banbridge and Armagh area. The 'Beat It' workshops aimed to increase the awareness, of 14-16 year old school children, of domestic abuse and healthy relationships.

## **No Excuse for Domestic Abuse Conference**

The 'No Excuse for Domestic Abuse' conference was held in December 2010 with key speakers including the PSNI Domestic Violence and Rape Crime Units, and John Devaney from Queens University Belfast.

## **Website**

The website was launched in December 2010 which provides information on the local service, domestic abuse and safety planning, and information for those who are supporting the victims of domestic abuse.

## **Refuge Refurbishment**

The refuge has been painted and fitted with new blinds, curtains and soft furnishings and the living room has been redecorated and refurbished with new settees.

## **Fermanagh Women's Aid**

### **New chair**

We were fortunate this year with the election of our new chairperson Blanaid McKinney, who with her strategic vision and experience has moved Fermanagh Women's Aid forward in many ways.

### **Support from MLA's**

The support of local MLAs from all political parties, and Assembly Ministers Arlene Foster, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and Michelle Gildernew, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development during this period, has given tremendous recognition to the work we are doing for women and children victims of domestic violence in Fermanagh.

### **Children's Services**

Our children's services worked with 210 children on a one-to-one basis, while also working in 25 schools and 3 youth clubs. We actively participated in the Women's Aid regional pilot of Social Guardian Training to build the capacity of teachers to deliver Helping Hands, our preventative education programme, in schools. Staff covered approximately 8,502 miles this year in delivering this service. John Doherty, Tom Cassidy and Deirdre Mahon from the Western Trust spent a day with us looking at the work we do with children, and have endorsed the "high quality service" delivery within Fermanagh Women's Aid.

## **Floating Support**

Floating support worked with 289 women covering approximately 10,495 miles in delivering this service across Fermanagh. The floating support team have worked together for seven years and the level of expertise and knowledge is again reflected in the community support.

### **MBE**

Our long time committed volunteer Lorna Beacom received an MBE for her services to victims of domestic violence. This was a wonderful occasion for us all.

### **New Refuge**

After many years working with inappropriate refuge facilities, we see a light at the end of the tunnel and with the support of the community, MLAs from all parties, Assembly Ministers and the Western Health and Social Care Trust, we look forward to obtaining in the coming year new refuge premises.

## **Foyle Women's Aid**

### **Independent family units**

This year we worked on the development of our new housing project on the Ashleywood site for 12 independent family units within a gated area, for families suffering domestic violence. Construction has now begun on this project at Ashleywood House, and we anticipate opening the new project in November 2012.

### **Sustainability**

We continued the development of a restructuring plan for Foyle Women's Aid services which will be fully implemented in November 2012. This plan has been devised as a result of research with our service users and consultation with our stakeholders. We are currently in the early stages of change

management and we look forward to launching a more sustainable and effective service that will best address the changing and diverse needs of our service users. We have worked closely with Causeway Women's Aid with whom we have agreed to work in closer partnership and we look forward to further collaboration of both services, to share resources and work jointly to address the changing needs and challenges that are presenting themselves across the Foyle and Causeway areas.

### **Special DV court**

We are very pleased that the Criminal Justice partnership target to set up a special domestic violence court has been agreed for Foyle. This process is currently being agreed and it will begin with listings all in the one day. We look forward to working with the relevant criminal justice agencies so that we can expand this process and begin to really address the barriers for victims of domestic violence within the criminal justice process.

### **Criminal Justice workers**

Foyle Women's Aid have been successful in securing funding for the appointment of two further Criminal Justice Workers so that we now have three workers one for each area Derry, Limavady and Strabane. We are already seeing the progress that we made with one full and one part time worker so we anticipate further success with the new post. PSNI are already describing these posts as essential to the delivery of quality services within the domestic violence unit in Foyle.

## **North Down & Ards Women's Aid**

### **Management Co-ordinator**

This year we were sorry to lose Sandra McNamee who resigned as Management Coordinator and thanked her for the energy and skill she had brought to the post. We were also glad to welcome Beth Scott, with her wealth of experience, who was appointed to the post.

### **Restructuring**

We were in discussions and working collaboratively with Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid to develop a strategic process for a comprehensive evaluation of options for restructuring/merging.

### **Increase in demand for services**

During this year North Down and Ards Women's Aid has seen a rise in the number of women requesting services. Refuge occupancy rates increased significantly, and additionally, there was an increase in women accessing Floating Support services and Journey to Freedom Support Groups.

Our Children's Services programmes; Transformers, Teenage Transformers, Helping Hands, Heading for Healthy Relationships, continue to provide a service which is always at full capacity.

### **Fundraising**

The "No Where To Run" fun run was held during August 2010 in Newtownards. This event was well attended and supported by local community and agencies. The success of this event was due to the partnership working between Newtownards PSNI and D.P.P., and Newtownards and Bangor Soroptomists. As well as raising significant funds, there was also the added benefit of an increase in the profile of North Down and Ards Women's Aid locally.

### **One Stop Shop**

This year we introduced our new One Stop Shop. Presently the One Stop Shop occurs on the third Friday of every month in a central location in Bangor. Our One Stop Shop is currently supported by PSNI and Solicitors providing valuable information and support directly to women.

## **Omagh Women's Aid**

### **Celebrations**

Staff and volunteers were delighted to receive an invitation to a garden party at Hillsborough and a ballot was held to allocate the tickets. The wet and cold weather of the day itself did little to dampen the enthusiasm for people-spotting and soaking up the atmosphere. That event was swiftly followed by the 2020 celebration at Stormont hosted by Basil Mc Crea MLA to recognise the work of Women's Aid across the region, so the posh frocks were quickly turned around for another outing!

### **Comic Relief**

We were delighted to secure funding from Comic Relief to work with young people over the next three years. Staff travelled to London to meet with the Comic Relief team and discuss project outcomes with them.

### **Helping Hands**

We participated in the Women's Aid Federation pilot project to train up local primary school teachers to deliver the preventative education programme - "Helping Hands" - to their pupils. The training was extremely well-received, so we hope to build on this to ensure that local school children can avail of this invaluable programme.

### **UNSCR 1325**

Omagh Women's Aid team leader continued work with other NGO's, statutory agencies and the Irish government to help them shape their National Action Plan to meet the aspirations of UNSCR 1325. The completed plan, if adopted by the new administration will see a better focus to the work with women affected by violence in post-conflict societies, including Northern Ireland.

### **Cross-Border**

We also participated in a cross –border programme with police, gardai and community representatives to explore attitudes to violence, including domestic violence, post-conflict. This will culminate in a study visit to Kosovo in the near future.

### **MARAC**

Omagh Women's Aid was active in the roll-out of MARAC, the police initiative to better support high risk victims of domestic violence. Staff were trained in the various MARAC processes and the benefits to women in terms of better co-ordinated support quickly became apparent.

### **Awareness raising**

Domestic violence training was given to the Public Prosecution Service, Omagh District Policing Partnership and its invited guests and to local teachers.

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

### **Young Voices group**

The Young Voices Group wrote and performed a play on young people's experiences of domestic violence entitled " Family Portrait: Voice of a Victim". It was performed, and received a warm welcome, before a multi-agency, cross community audience in Ballymena on 29th November 2010 and in Antrim on 31st January 2011.

### **Safe Place**

Launch of Safe Place initiative and resources in the Long Gallery at Stormont on 22nd February 2011. PSNI received their Gold Charter Award for their workplace policy on domestic violence.

## **Quality Assurance Framework**

During this period we had our Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) 2 validation visits by the NI Housing Executive on 29th and 30th September 2010. We were pleased to achieve a Level B.

## **New resource centre**

We held the official opening of Grace House Resource Centre in Antrim on 6th October 2010, which now gives the local community in Antrim better access to our services.

## **Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh**

### **Rape crisis training**

All support staff and managers in Women's Aid Newry, Mourne, South Down & South Armagh received specialised Rape Crisis training from the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. Newry & Mourne Women's Aid also arranged a specialised meeting with the PSNI Sexual Assault Unit for all staff and management in order to progress the work of both agencies in their response to women victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

### **High demand**

Demand for services continues to remain very high with 36 women and 44 children not able to access refuge accommodation due to the refuge being full, with an additional 7 women with No Recourse to Public Funds also unable to access refuge provision. Lack of resources to respond to the needs of women with NRPF is an area of extreme concern for us and across Women's Aid in Northern Ireland.

## **Floating Support**

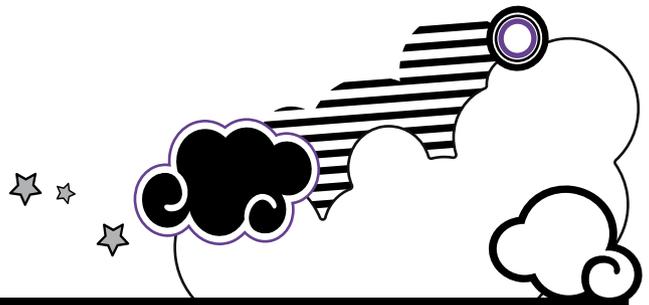
The demand for Floating support also continues to remain extremely high with an average of 40 women per month on the waiting list at any given time. We are continuing to lobby on this issue as we believe all women who are victims of domestic violence should be able to access support when they need it and that lengthy delays are unacceptable.

### **Challenging role**

Floating support staff have had significant success in regards to challenging and addressing the issue of women who are being put under significant pressure to enter mediation with the abuser with regard to child contact.

### **Complex needs**

During this period there was also a rise in the number of women with complex needs which has resulted in an increase in more intensive interagency intervention.



# FINANCE

*Please note that the accounts that follow are an extract from the original document. A copy of the full accounts is available upon request by calling 028 9024 9041 or emailing [info@womensaidni.org](mailto:info@womensaidni.org)*

**NORTHERN IRELAND WOMEN'S AID FEDERATION LTD  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011**

### Company Information

<b>Management Board</b>	Christine Whiteman (Chair) Lorna McAlpine (Vice-Chair) Anne McMahon (Secretary) Margaret McMahon (Treasurer) Iris Elliot Adeline Frew Elsie Jordan Margaret Kennedy Tara Maguire Ursula Marshall Bronagh McKee	<b>Bankers</b>	First Trust Bank Donegall Square North Belfast
		<b>Solicitors</b>	Flynn & McGettrick 9 Clarence Street Belfast BT2 8DY
		<b>Registered Office</b>	129 University Street Belfast BT7 1HP
<b>Secretary</b>	Anne McMahon		
<b>Auditors</b>	Lynn, Drake & Co Ltd Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 40 Main Street Moirá BT67 0LQ	<b>Charity Number</b>	XN 45049
		<b>Registration Number</b>	NI 021741
		<b>Governing Document</b>	Memorandum and Articles of Association
		<b>Legal Status</b>	Company Limited by Guarantee

The Management Board (Board of Directors) presents their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011.

### **Objects of the Charity**

The aims of the Charity (which has ten member groups throughout Northern Ireland) have been encapsulated in the following mission statement:

*Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence. We seek, through our work, to promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.*

### **The following are key aims of the Organisation:**

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic violence and providing services for women and children. We recognise domestic violence as one form of violence against women. Women's Aid seeks to challenge attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence and, through our work, promote healthy and non-abusive relationships.

To oversee the delivery of a strategic and operational plan and development of a new strategic plan post 2012.

The core work of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland is structured under the four key aims:-

#### **1. Challenge attitudes and beliefs / policy**

##### **Challenge the attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence by lobbying, campaigning and influencing the policy agenda**

- To educate and inform the public, media, police, courts, social services and other

agencies of the impact of domestic violence.

- To advise and support all relevant agencies in the development of domestic violence policies, protocols and service delivery.
- To work in partnership with all relevant agencies to ensure a joined up response to domestic violence.

#### **2. Prevent Domestic Violence**

##### **Promote healthy and non-abusive relationships through research, education and training**

- To 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.
- To provide a range of support services to children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.
- To run preventative education programmes in schools and other settings.

#### **3. Support grassroots work**

##### **Support the work of local Women's Aid groups**

- As the umbrella body tackling domestic violence in Northern Ireland we co-ordinate and lead local Women's Aid groups on all regional initiatives and developments.
- Develop and support local Women's Aid groups to provide refuge accommodation to women and their children suffering mental, physical or sexual abuse within the home.

- To manage the 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline which provides the key co-ordination role for women accessing refuge and other services. (Funded under a separate Service Level Agreement)
- Develop and deliver a range of child protection training through Regional Children's Planning meetings with Women's Aid local groups. This supports the provision of services to children and young people who have experienced domestic violence.
- Work with local Women's Aid groups to develop and sustain a regional fundraising strategy.

#### **4. Manage and Develop Resources**

##### **Manage and develop resources – personnel, financial resources, estate – to meet the challenges of a changing political, economic and social policy environment**

- To ensure effective leadership and management through good governance and support to our Board of Trustees.
- To manage, supervise and train all staff and volunteers on a continuing basis.
- To maintain rigorous financial auditing and accounting systems.
- To consider the impact of the Review of Administration on the Federation and local Women's Aid groups. A change process is currently being facilitated by the Federation.
- To identify and secure funding for new premises for Women's Aid Federation NI offering disabled access, safety of

night workers access, secure parking and adequate space for training and development.

- To oversee the delivery of the current strategic and operational plan and development of a new strategic plan post 2012.

#### **Decision Making Structures**

The governing body of Women's Aid Federation, the Management Board, is drawn from membership of our affiliated groups and expertise from external co-options. The Management Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and oversees the management of the organisation. The day-to-day management and operation of the activities are carried out by a staff team, lead by the Director and Management Team, who also report regularly to the Board.

#### **Identified Risks**

Uncertain and short term funding continues to make future planning extremely difficult. We will continue to negotiate with government departments to extend their commitment to ensure that our core work can effectively continue and secure the sustainability of all our projects. Some projects continue to be at risk with short-term funding.

#### **Volunteers**

Volunteers play a key role in all the services of Women's Aid. We are able to sustain our 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline with the vital support of our volunteers. The Management Board members (Directors) also volunteer their time freely to attend regular monthly Board meetings, sub groups and offer ongoing support to the organisation.

## **Review of the transactions and financial position of Women's Aid Federation**

Women's Aid Federation's funds have mainly been applied to the objects specified by each project's funders. It is policy to meet all restricted fund deficits by transfers from the accumulated unrestricted funds.

The Statement of Financial Activities indicates that the Organisation had incoming resources of £944,114 in the year which exceeded resources expended of £859,041 by £85,073 and this amount has been transferred to the Organisation's accumulated funds.

The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2011 shows a net Accumulated Funds balance at that date of £500,299.

No significant events have occurred since that date of the Balance Sheet which affect the Organisation or which materially affect these financial statements.

### **Fixed Assets**

Additions to fixed assets are per note 11 of the Accounts.

The following persons were members of the Management Board at some time during the year to 31 March 2011: -

- Christine Whiteman
- Elsie Jordan
- Lorna McAlpine
- Margaret Kennedy
- Anne McMahan
- Ursula Marshall
- Margaret McMahan
- Laura McMahan
- Iris Elliot
- Tara Maguire
- Adeline Frew

- Bronagh McKee
- Stephanie Fox

The Management Board in each year shall consist of one member nominated by each affiliated group. If a Group has no-one able to serve, its committee may ask a second member of another group to act on their behalf. In the event that there are insufficient nominations and/or an identified skills deficit, the Management Board will seek co-options.

### **Reserves Policy**

The charity's policy is to retain a level of free reserves, which matches the needs of the organisation, both at the current time and in the foreseeable future. The reserves required should be sufficient to meet committed grant expenditure and the running costs for a period equivalent to six months annual expenditure. The charity will continue to monitor compliance with this policy on a regular basis and the Board will review the appropriateness of the policy annually.

### **Charitable Status**

Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd enjoys charitable status by the authority of the Inland Revenue under reference XN 45049.

### **Members**

The members of the company at 31 March 2011 were as follows: -

- Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
- Fermanagh Women's Aid
- Causeway Women's Aid
- Foyle Women's Aid
- Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid
- North Down & Ards Women's Aid
- Craigavon & Banbridge Women's Aid

- Omagh Women's Aid
- Newry & Mourne, South Down & South Armagh Women's Aid
- Women's Aid in Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey

### **Statement of directors' responsibilities**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure

that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors**

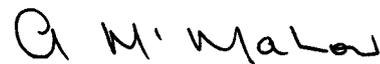
So far as the Board of Directors are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

### **Auditors**

The auditors, Lynn, Drake & Co Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By Order of the Management Board




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**Anne McMahon**  
**Secretary**

**11 June 2011**

## **Independent Auditors' Report to the members of Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd.**

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Ltd for the Year Ended 31 March 2011 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

This report is made solely to the charity's Members, as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's Members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of the management board and auditors**

The management boards' responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Northern Ireland law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the statement of directors' responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair

view, are properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you whether, in our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition, we report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if certain disclosures of directors remuneration specified by law are not made.

We read the report of the management board and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

### **Basis of Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the management board in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order

to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularities or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the financial statements.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2011 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to smaller entities;

- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements.



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**Alistair Wells (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
**11 June 2011**

**For and on behalf of Lynn, Drake & Co Ltd**  
**Chartered Accountants and Registered**  
**Auditors**  
**40 Main Street**  
**Moira**  
**BT67 0LQ**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2011 £	Total Funds 2010 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>					
<b>Activities in furtherance of the Charity's objectives:</b>					
Grants Receivable	-	-	908,984	908,984	845,088
Income from charitable activities	34,369	-	-	34,369	44,898
Activities for generating funds:					
Interest receivable	761	-	-	761	659
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>35,130</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>908,984</b>	<b>944,114</b>	<b>890,645</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>					
<b>Costs of generating funds:</b>	-	-	19,701	19,701	17,123
<b>Charitable Expenditure:</b>					
Costs in furtherance of charitable objectives	-	-	815,412	815,412	815,466
Management and Administration of the Charity	-	-	23,928	23,928	18,705
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>859,041</b>	<b>859,041</b>	<b>851,294</b>
<b>Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources</b>					
Before Transfers	35,130	-	49,943	85,073	39,351
Transfer between Funds	(43,102)	43,102	-	-	-
<b>Net Incoming Resources for the Year</b>	<b>(7,972)</b>	<b>43,102</b>	<b>49,943</b>	<b>85,073</b>	<b>39,351</b>
<b>Funds Balance brought forward at 1 April 2010</b>	141,326	89,398	184,502	415,226	375,875
<b>Net Movement in Funds in Year to 31 March 2011</b>	(7,972)	43,102	49,943	85,073	39,351
<b>Fund Balance carried forward at 31 March 2011</b>	<b>133,354</b>	<b>132,500</b>	<b>234,445</b>	<b>500,299</b>	<b>415,226</b>

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the statement of financial activities above.

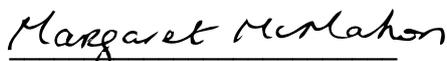
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011

	£	2011 £	£	2010 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Fixed Assets		53,000		53,000
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors & Prepayments	52,230		271,720	
Bank Accounts	417,016		140,812	
Cash in Hand	301		107	
		469,547		412,639
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year		(22,248)		(50,413)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>447,299</b>		<b>362,226</b>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>		500,299		415,226
<b>Liabilities</b> – Amounts falling due after more than one year		-		-
		500,299		415,226
<b>Provisions and Charges</b>				
Deferred Capital Grant Reserve		-		-
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>500,299</b>		<b>415,226</b>
<b>Represented By: Accumulated Funds</b>				
Unrestricted – General		133,354		141,326
Unrestricted – Designated		132,500		89,398
Restricted		234,445		184,502
<b>Balance at 31 March 2011</b>		<b>500,299</b>		<b>415,226</b>

Approved by the Management Board on 11 June 2011 and signed on its behalf by;



Christine Whiteman



Margaret McMahon



# THANK YOU

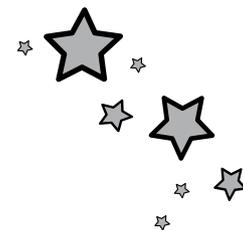
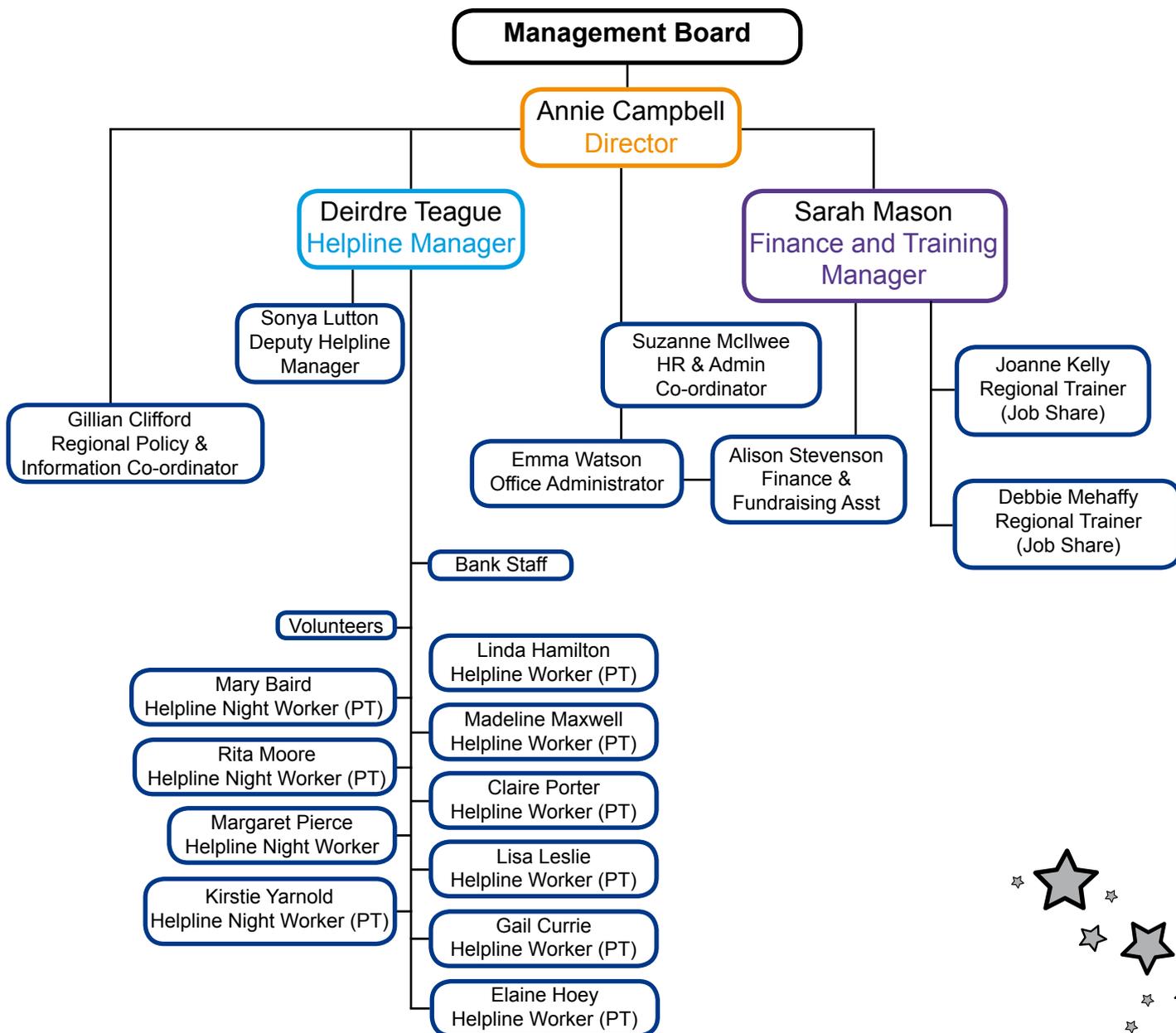
Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland would like to thank all our donors for their on-going support and acknowledgement of our work and for enabling the continuation of so many vital projects.

- Charities Aid Foundation
- Comic Relief
- Department of Education
- Community Safety Unit, Department of Justice
- Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
- Health and Social Care Board
- Individual Donors
- Migrant Help
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Probation Board Northern Ireland
- Volunteers



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# WOMEN'S AID FEDERATION NI ORGANISATIONAL CHART





Reach out. **Help is at hand.**

**24 Hour  
Domestic Violence Helpline**

**0800 917 1414**

Freephone number. Language line and minicom available.

Open to **anyone** affected by domestic violence.  
Managed by Women's Aid.

women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland