WOMEN'S AID HISTORICAL TIMELINE

1975 - 2009

1975:
First Refuge in Northern Ireland opened in Belfast.

1976:
Refuge opened in Derry.

1977:
Women's Aid groups set up in Belfast, Foyle and Coleraine.

- House of Commons Select Committee recommends one refuge unit per 100,000 capita.

1978:
Belfast, Foyle and Coleraine Women's Aid groups formed the Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation.

- Larger refuge opened in Belfast.
- Refuge opened in Portrush.

1980:
Domestic Violence Proceedings (NI) Order Implemented.

- The Order put in place provisions which allowed victims of domestic violence to apply for personal protection orders and exclusion orders.

1981:
Derry Women's Advice Centre set up.

- Belfast Women's Aid opens a second refuge in the north of the city.

1982:
Omagh Women's Aid & North Down Women's Aid are established.

- Hidden Violence – Battered Women in Northern Ireland, Eileen Evason, Farset Co-op Press, published.

1983:
Newry Women's Aid established.

1985:
Omagh Women's Aid moves to Market Street premises.

- Belfast Women's Aid opens a third refuge.

1986:
Newry Women's Aid opens a refuge in the area.

- P. Montgomery and V. Bell, 'Police Response to Wife Assault', published by Women's Aid Federation NI.

1987:
Craigavon Women's Aid established.

- Omagh Women's Aid opens a refuge.
- Women's Resource Centre opened in Coleraine.

1992:
Fermanagh Women's Aid established.

- Belfast Women's Aid open Malone Road Centre.

1993:
Cookstown and Dungannon Women's Aid established.

- "Bringing It Out in the Open," Monica McWilliams and Joan McKiernan; HMSO 1993, published.
- Women's Aid Federation NI publish "The Foam Sprite," a book of poetry by the survivors of domestic violence in Northern Ireland and those involved with Women's Aid.

1995:
24 Hour Women's Aid Regional Telephone Helpline set up by Women's Aid Federation.

- First group of Helpline Volunteers trained.
- Ballymena Women's Aid established.
- Fermanagh Women's Aid opens a refuge in Enniskillen.
- Tackling Domestic Violence – A Policy for Northern Ireland, is issued by the NIO/DHSSPS.
- Regional Forum on Domestic Violence established representing Government departments and statutory and voluntary agencies in Northern Ireland.
- 'Children Under Stress Education and Training Programme' was launched by Women's Aid Federation NI. This was designed to support all those involved in the care and protection of children who may be affected by domestic violence.

1995/96:
North Down & Ards Women's Aid receives funding for a new centre in Bangor.

1996:
Taking Domestic Violence Seriously, Monica McWilliams and Lynda Spence, HMSO 1996 published.

- PBNI introduces programme with perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Inter-Agency groups established in each H&SST area.
- Coleraine Women's Aid opens new purpose built refuge in Coleraine
- Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid open Resource Centre in Cookstown.

1997:
Cookstown & Dungannon Women's Aid opens new purpose built refuge in Cookstown.

- Women's Aid Cross-border Conference 'Effective Interventions in Domestic Violence' held in Slieve Russell Hotel, Co Cavan organised by Women's Aid Federation NI.
- 'No Fear' – Heading for Healthy Relationships preventative education programme launched by Women's Aid Federation NI.
- The Protection from Harassment (NI) Order. Provides that a person must not pursue a course of conduct which amounts to harassment of another and which he knows or ought to know amounts to harassment of another.

1998:
Omagh bomb causes destruction and disruption to Omagh Women's Aid Market Street Centre.

- 'Violence on the Edge' Research and Training pack for working with ethnic minority communities officially launched by Women's Aid Federation NI.
- Paths to Prevention Conference organised by Regional Forum on Domestic Violence.
- Newry Women's Aid open Resource Centre in Newry.

1998/99:
Refuges in Ballymena, Lisburn and Craigavon opened.

1999:
North Down and Ards Women's Aid opens a Resource Centre in Newtownards.

- Family Homes and Domestic Violence (NI) Order passed and implemented. This Order allows victims of domestic violence to obtain protective orders from the court. The order created Non-Molestation and Occupation Orders.
- "Ending the Pain and Healing the Hurt - A Practical Guide for Faith Communities Responding to Domestic Violence," is published by Regional Forum on Domestic Violence.

2000:
Craigavon Women's Aid becomes Craigavon and Banbridge Women's Aid.

- Women's Aid Federation NI launches their website.
- Fermanagh Women's Aid opens Resource Centre in Enniskillen.
- New purpose built refuge opened by Omagh Women's Aid.

2001:
New purpose built refuge opened by Newry Women's Aid.

- Women's Aid Federation NI launch multi-lingual information leaflets.
- Women's Aid Federation NI release a new training video, "Hurting, Coping, Growing – Children and Domestic Violence."

2002:
Ballymena Women's Aid open two resource centres one located in Ballymena and the other in Antrim.

- Lisburn Women's Aid officially incorporated into the structure of Belfast Women's Aid, to become Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid.

2002/03:
Helping Hands Activity Pack launched by Women's Aid Federation NI.

2003:
NIHE Supporting People funding arrangements are introduced for refuge accommodation provision.

- Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid opens Adelaide Park Resource, Support and Outreach Centre.

2004:
Foyle Women's Aid open Rose House, seven self contained flats for Women and their families.

2005:
Government publishes joint NIO/DHSSPS strategy, "Tackling Violence at Home – A Strategy for Addressing Domestic Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland."

- The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order. The legislation gives added protection to victims of domestic violence, takes account of human rights issues and increases the criminal penalties for breaching the protective civil orders.
- Coleraine Women's Aid is renamed Causeway Women's Aid.
- Service Level Agreement established with Women's Aid Federation NI to manage the freephone 24 Hour Domestic Violence Helpline, which is funded by the Domestic & Sexual Violence Unit, DHSS&PS; Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Community Safety Unit, Northern Ireland Office.

2006:
Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid rebuild their South Belfast refuge.

- 'Crossing Borders: preliminary research on human trafficking in Northern Ireland' was launched by Women's Aid Federation NI.

2006/07:
"You and Me Mum" a ten week programme for mothers supporting children and young people who have lived with Domestic Violence, is developed by Women's Aid Federation NI and showcased at the Raising the Standards Conference in Guernsey.

2007:
'Women with no or limited resource to public funds', A report of findings was launched by Women's Aid Federation NI.

2008:
Women's Aid Federation receive a Volunteer Development Agency award at Stormont, for creating a 'Garden of Oasis' for Helpline volunteers.

- Women's Aid Antrim, Ballymena, Carrickfergus, Larne & Newtownabbey open their newly refurbished resource centre, called the "Naomi Centre".
- Craigavon and Banbridge move to a new Resource Centre.

2009:
Foyle Women's Aid open their new "Secret Garden," in the grounds of their refuge.

- Pilot project with Women's Aid established to support women victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking in Northern Ireland.

During the last 10 years Women's Aid across Northern Ireland gave refuge to 12,579 women and 12,748 children & young people

During the last 14 years Women's Aid Federation managed 212,215 calls to the 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline

AD-08-09 Timeline banner 2 (v2) 1

14/08/09 12:0