



EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012





A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Welcome to Edinburgh Women's Aid Annual Report for 2011 – 2012. I am very pleased to introduce the Edinburgh Women's Aid Annual Report. The past year has been another exciting, challenging and rewarding year for Edinburgh Women's Aid.

Edinburgh Women's Aid has continued to offer a high quality service to women, children and young people affected by domestic violence across Edinburgh. The organisation continues to work collaboratively with other statutory and voluntary agencies in order to meet the specific and varied needs of individual service users and to address the need to eliminate all forms of violence against women and children. We would not adequately meet the needs of the women and children if we did not work in partnership. There are many organisations that we work in partnership with and their support is greatly appreciated.

We were successful this year in a funding application to the Big Lottery, which saw the introduction of Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court service. Whilst this has been hard work, all the indications are that it will be an extremely worthwhile effort. There are many other achievements detailed in the report that highlight our ongoing efforts to improve the prospects of women and children affected by violence.

The Board would like to thank the funders for their continued support, without which we would not be able to continue to offer this service. These are challenging times and the demands to produce results with less resource will be difficult. Despite this, Edinburgh Women's Aid is committed to identifying new opportunities for improvement over the coming years through collaboration and sharing resources so that we can continue to deliver better services for those who need them.

I would like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work and dedication in continuing to provide this essential women's service. Thanks in particular go to the commitment and dedication of all the staff and manager and Board Members.

It has been my privilege to be chairperson and to be part of an organisation that firmly believes in challenging the normalisation of violence against women and children. I would like to thank all the Board and Staff for their support and encouragement for me in my role as Chair.

Tamara Mulherin

Chair, EWA Board of Directors



MANAGERS REPORT

The struggle continues for all Third Sector organizations and Edinburgh Women's Aid is no exception. Changes, reviews and reducing budgets have become part of everyday life and uncertainty is now normal. Despite this, we do have a dedicated and hard working staff team who are committed to ensuring we continue to deliver a high quality service to women, children and young people. We also have a dedicated and hard working Board of Trustees who have difficult decisions to make and put meeting the service needs of women, children and young people at the heart of any decision making process. The financial climate can also bring opportunities and we have continued to review current provisions and develop services to

improve the provision and meet the changing needs of women and CYP who have experienced and/or at risk of domestic abuse. Through a successful Big Lottery bid, we have implemented the new advocacy service and are working closely with statutory agencies to improve and develop services. I would like to thank the Staff team and Board of trustees for their support over the last year and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure EWA continues to deliver diverse, innovative and quality services to meet the needs of women, children and young people.

Michele Corcoran

Manager





CHILDRENS SERVICES

Edinburgh Women's Aid Children and Young People Team, comprises of 1 Full Time Team Leader, 1 Full Time Family Support Worker and 3 Part Time Family Support Workers. We have had a busy and productive year supporting children and young people who have been affected by Domestic Abuse.

We have 3 areas within the service where we provide support, Refuge, Resettlement and Outreach.

REFUGE/RESETTLEMENT: We continue to provide practical, emotional and peer support to children and young people in refuge and those who have been rehoused, through one to one and group activities.

We have just finished our summer activities for the Children; they have had great fun despite the weather, going to a variety of different venues and activities. These included, Golf Range, Olympic Football (at Hampden), 5 Sister Zoo, Beach, Park, Fringe show, Gorgie Farm and Bowling.

We also took a small group of children on a residential holiday with the help of HOPSCOTCH, a charity that provides holidays for children who are in need, within Scotland.

OUTREACH: We continue to provide support to children and young who are living in the community; this support is mostly provided within the child or young person's school.

One of our Family Support workers has been involved with **MENTORS FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION (MPV)**. The programme focuses on the "bystander" as a powerful tool in the prevention of gender based violence and encourages young men and women to take leadership roles in their communities. In the context of Scotland, this is now being piloted in Portobello High School with a view to rolling it out nationally.

CEDAR (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recover): This is a 12 week group programme which provides support to children, young people and their mums, who have experienced Domestic Abuse. We have worked with CEDAR to facilitate the Mothers' Groups and the Children/Young People Groups as well as providing referrals.

TO CONTACT OR MAKE A REFERRAL TO THE CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE Tel 0131 315 8116



EDDACS Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Support

EDDACS is the advocacy and support service for **women after** a domestic abuse **incident and is initially** linked, **but not dependent on**, the specialised Domestic Abuse Court at Edinburgh Sheriff Court.

The Domestic Abuse Court is a pilot which will run for 1 year and began on 9th December 2011, dealing with all incidents of domestic abuse in the South and East of Edinburgh.

Funded through the Big Lottery 'Becoming A Survivor' fund, EDDACS has been set up by Edinburgh Women's Aid and works in partnership with Lothian & Borders Police, Sheriff Court, Crown Office and Procurator's Fiscal Office, and many other agencies. We aim to ensure that, **after a domestic abuse incident, women receive support at the earliest opportunity** and are safe, informed and supported throughout the court process and beyond. Each client is offered a Risk Assessment along with safety planning advice.

Part of the process allows for clients to inform the court of their position with regard to the incident and the relationship. This is done through a report which is sent to the PF office on the day of the custody hearings. Further reports are issued for every court appearance thereafter.

EDDACS use the CAADA's risk assessment tool to assess victims of their risk of future harm from the perpetrator. This is also used by ASSIST the advocacy service which supports Glasgow Domestic Abuse Court.

All cases where children are involved the advocacy worker will contact Social work to inform of our involvement. EDDACS is an information sharing agency in the best interests of the victim and her children. **EDDACS and EWA are actively working with VAWP in Edinburgh to establish Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences in Edinburgh.**

24 HOUR REFUGE

The 24/7 refuge has been operating since 2006 to provide a 24hour seven day a week accommodation offering intensive support for woman fleeing Domestic abuse with additional/complex needs.

Some of the additional needs presented are:

Drugs/alcohol dependency

Mental health issues

Eating disorders

Self harm / suicide

Learning disabilities

Parenting issues

Health issues



The accommodation is self contained furnished flats and has CCTV cameras to the back and front of the building for safety. The refuge has staff on the premise 24 hours a day. The overall aim is to provide emotional/practical support for women and any accompanying children staying at the refuge.

Women take part in a weekly meeting with their key

worker to identify issues/concerns to work through with individual support plans. In addition to the key meetings each flat has an allocated worker to support the woman and attend appointments, build their networks and other tasks. This allows continuity for the woman in refuge; however staff do not need to be the allocated worker to provide support to women. The sleep-in service continues to accommodate women's and any accompanying children's needs. Staffs develop and maintain networks with other agencies in accordance with woman's individual support plans.

Resident meetings/ group activities – All women have the opportunity to come along to a Resident's meeting held in the Community room. This can be an opportunity for women staying in refuge to participate in the development of the service we provide. Staff organise activities that can offer the opportunity for peer support for women in refuge and assist women to socialise in a safe environment.

RESETTLEMENT REPORT

Resettlement provides support for women who have moved into their own accommodation or are in temporary accommodation and are about to move into their own home. The service is for any woman who has left an abusive relationship and needs practical and/or emotional support to settle into their permanent home. The approach we use is person centred to enable the woman to feel she is in control of her life, and we also adapt the service according to

the needs of the woman dealing with the effects of domestic abuse.

The Resettlement service also run groups for women using the service to boost confidence and self esteem and help combat isolation. Resettlement also provide talks and awareness raising to other agencies and groups.



OUTREACH REPORT

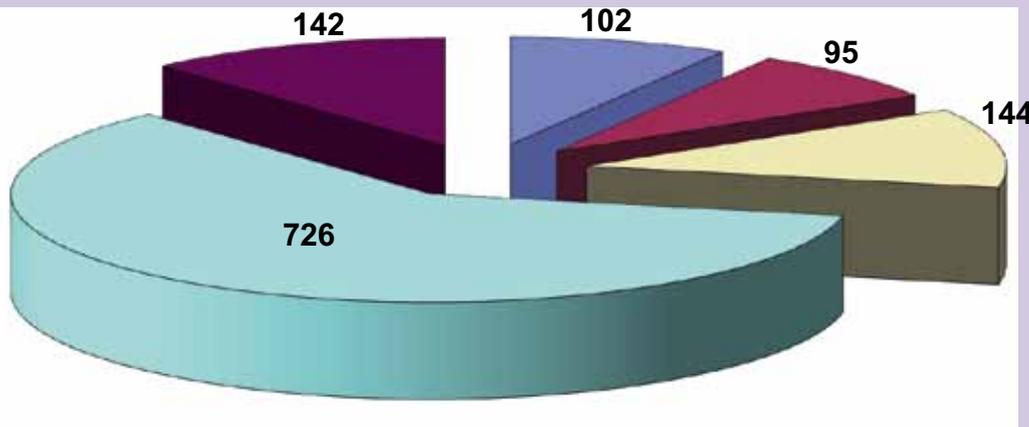
The Outreach service provides a service to women living in outlying areas of Edinburgh who find accessing the central Edinburgh Women's Aid (EWA) drop in service difficult. An Outreach Worker will arrange to meet a woman locally in a safe place therefore improving the accessibility of EWA support and information services. Outreach works in a person centred way providing women with support and information on the options and choices available.

Outreach also provides short term support to women in temporary accommodation providing practical and emotional support .

The Outreach service works to raise awareness of domestic abuse issues, inform of EWA services and improve responses from all agencies by working in partnership and providing talks and training within local areas.



NEW CONTACTS, ADMISSIONS & ONGOING WORK FROM APRIL 2011



SHARED REFUGE REPORT

Demand for safe, secure, shared refuge accommodation continues to be high. Referrals continue to come from Social Work, Lothian and Borders Police, NHS services, other voluntary organisations and also from women who self-refer. Edinburgh Women's Aid workers can support women with a variety of issues including applications to the UKBA in immigration cases, social work and child protection cases, child contact hearings in court, DWP appeals and legal

issues around separation and divorce. There is also continued support through the process of making a homelessness application with the housing options team in order for women to gain new tenancies.

Group art and craft sessions and poetry classes have been running which can offer an opportunity to express emotions through alternative outlets and all women in Refuge are invited to participate.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MAIN FUNDERS

CEC Supporting People, CEC Children and Families, Scottish Government Violence Against Women Fund, Scottish Government CYPEDA Fund, Streetsmart.

Thanks to Lifecare and all the social landlords from whom we rent our properties.

SUPPORTERS

South Leith Parish Church, The Women's Group (SLPC), R Low, FS Mackay, A Christianson, HMRC Charities, Worldwide Church of God, M Lourie, The Avenel Trust, HSBC matched giving, HMRC-SA, AGM Collection, Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists, M Forrester, Beverley Wood, St George's School for Girls, MR Dillon, OU Scotland, Canonmills Baptist Church, Catherine Elvin, Balerno Church of Scotland, H Olson, Erskine Stewart's Melville, Artemis Charitable Foundation, Neva Baglione, CAF, Balerno Parish Church, St Ninians Church, Colinton Mains Church, Corstorphine Old Parish Church, Fairmilehead Parish Church, Murrayfield Parish Church, St Andrews and St Georges Parish Church, M&S Donations Committee, Catherine Robertson, Lloyds Banking, The Royal College of GPs, Wight Chiropractic Clinic, PRG recruitment, DTTO, MRC McLean Hazel, Aulds Bakery, HBJ Gately Waring, Tesco Extra Corstorphine, Aegon, Rotary Club of Edinburgh, CEC Building Services, RBS HQ, Joyce Pringle.

Thanks to anyone who has been inadvertently left of this list or who has chosen to support us anonymously.

CURRENT STAFF MEMBERS

Michele Corcoran, Evelyn Jardine, Mariea Nairn, Susan Rae, Debbie Bell, Claire Philpot, Miku Healey, Ann Monaghan, Val Waugh, Wing Li, Karen Griffiths, Mary Sinclair, Lee McCormack, Rachel Gollan, Sherry Singh, Alison Roxburgh, Catriona Robertson, Rosie Smith, Margaret Gibson, Jasmine Clark, Mauline Zvaita, Cathy Todd, Allison Pupkis, Lisa Dowie, Katie Anderson.

Welcome to Linda Gray, Caroline Harley, Caroline Hall, Ruth Friskney and Sarah Paterson **Goodbye and Best wishes to**

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Tamara Mulherin, Helen Farmer, Lesley McFall, Christine Bennett. Vicki Di Ciacca, Maxine Cuffe, Rita Biermann Hello and welcome to Morven Maclean, Barbara Matheson, Joanna Patterson and Catriona Laing Goodbye and thanks to Dorothy Denholm, Morag Henderson, Naomi Healy-Cathcart and Elizabeth MacFarlane.

