



ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

TRUSTEES' REPORT

AS CHAIRPERSON OF EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID, I AM HONOURED TO PRESENT THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON BEHALF OF OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES WHICH IS CURRENTLY COMPRISED OF TEN WOMEN, WHO CONTRIBUTE DIVERSE SKILLS AND EXPERTISE TO THE ORGANISATION.

This year, we bade farewell to Alva Traebert, our former Chairperson, and to Jo Birch. We thank them both for their contribution to the board and wish them well in their future endeavours. We were fortunate to recruit and elect Alison Morton-Nichols as our new treasurer and I am honoured to have been elected Chairperson. I look forward to serving the organisation, supported by my esteemed Vice Chair Deborah Benson and other fellow trustees.

In the period 2016-17, we have been working to strengthen our organisation in a number of ways. Firstly, to improve communication between staff and management, we undertook a staff satisfaction survey, which provided useful and positive feedback. Additionally we established an Annual Board Strategy day to examine our performance against our 2015-20 strategy. We also took part in piloting the Feminist Governance Audit, developed between Scottish Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland, and delivered sessions at both this and at Scottish Women's Aid's conference.

We have continued to invest in our communications and training capacity to enable us to raise the profile of our work and to develop other organisations' understanding of domestic abuse. This year we also achieved the LGBT Charter Mark Bronze award as part of our drive to provide inclusive, accessible services.

Edinburgh Women's Aid's services provide critical support to women, children and young people (WCYP) affected by domestic abuse. To meet these needs our services include:

DROP IN AND HELPLINE

Providing information, support and crisis counselling with no appointment necessary.

(contact details and hours are on page 22)

754

WOMEN
CONTACTED EWA

IN 2016/17, THROUGH
THE HELPLINE AND
DROP IN SERVICE.

537

OF THESE WERE
NEW CLIENTS

OUTREACH

As our main office is in the centre of Edinburgh and not easily accessible by public transport, the outreach service offers one-to-one support in local communities.

225

**WOMEN
RECEIVED
SUPPORT**

IN THE COMMUNITY
IN 2016/17
EITHER THROUGH
ONGOING SUPPORT
OR THROUGH
ADVOCACY WORK
FOR APPOINTMENTS
OR MEETINGS.

CYP OUTREACH

We also recognise that children and young people have the right to access support, even if their mother is not being supported by EWA. Through funding from Scottish Government, we provide an outreach service which works with CYP in schools. This funding is in place until June 2017.

149

CHILDREN RECEIVED SUPPORT
from the various elements of our children's service in 2016/17.

16

of these
**ACCESSED MORE THAN ONE
TYPE OF SERVICE**
within the year.

REFUGE ACCOMMODATION

Where appropriate, Edinburgh Women's Aid offers safe temporary accommodation to women and any accompanying CYP who are homeless due to domestic abuse. There are two types of accommodation, shared and individual flats. Refuge offers women access to both staff support and peer support. We have twenty one shared spaces, including one accessible space and two bedsit spaces.

58

WOMEN STAYED IN SHARED REFUGE

AND THE AVERAGE OCCUPANCY FOR 2016/17 WAS 95%.

In addition to shared accommodation, we have a property with eight individual flats with twenty four hour staff support. These are for women who may have additional needs such as physical/mental health, dependency and/or parenting issues.

22

WOMEN STAYED IN 24-HR REFUGE

AND THE AVERAGE OCCUPANCY FOR 2016/17 WAS 97%.

CEDAR

The CEDAR project supports mothers and their children to rebuild their relationship after abuse. Our CEDAR project is funded by The Robertson Trust, RS Macdonald Trust and City of Edinburgh Council Children and Families Grants Programme to March 2019.

18

**CHILDREN AND 12 MOTHERS
OR CARERS COMPLETED**

CEDAR programmes in 2016/17.

CHILDREN'S COURT ADVOCACY SERVICE

Our Children's Court Advocacy Service works with children and young people who are affected by court interventions in their lives due to domestic abuse. This project is funded to March 2019 by the Esmee Fairbairn Trust.

**OUR COURT ADVOCACY
WORKER SUPPORTED**

28

children and young people in 2016/17.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

CYP provides specialist support in refuge and when moving to permanent accommodation to help them deal with difficult changes within their family environment.

25

**CHILDREN STAYED IN
REFUGE**

in 2016/17 and received support and 11 of these received support when settling onwards into permanent accommodation.

EDDACS

The EDDACS service provides support to women after a police call out where the perpetrator has been taken into custody or has been given an undertaking and enters the court process. This service supports Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court with funding provided through the Scottish Government to June 2017.

1,310

**WOMEN USED THE
EDDACS COURT
SUPPORT SERVICE**

in 2016/17 of whom 694 were new referrals.

CEO REPORT

I HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN PRESENTING EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID'S 2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT, WHICH ILLUSTRATES HOW EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID CONTINUES TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN USING OUR SERVICES IN A CLIMATE OF SHRINKING PUBLIC FUNDS AND AUSTERITY. WE DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF SPECIALIST SERVICES THAT TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE PARTICULAR DYNAMICS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE WELL BEYOND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND THE LONG LASTING AND TRAUMATIC EFFECTS OF COERCIVE CONTROL.

This year we were delighted that the Scottish Parliament debated the creation of a new crime of coercive control, which reflects our understanding of the dynamic of domestic abuse. We were particularly thrilled that the Justice Secretary Michael Matheson took time to visit Edinburgh Women's Aid and to speak to staff and service users ahead of the debate. Highlighting the cross-party commitment to tackling violence against women in the Scottish Parliament, this year we also welcomed visits from Alison Johnston, MSP and the leader of the Labour Party in Scotland Kezia Dugdale, MSP.

Locally, Councillor Melanie Main met with us to discuss the particular issues for women with no recourse to public funds, and Councillors and MSPs from all elected parties joined us at our AGM.

Partners from the community provided much needed assistance through fundraising and support this year. Kezia Dugdale, MSP and Shelter Edinburgh both organised collections of sanitary products for women using our services. Fundraisers included: Karma Yoga in Edinburgh who set up their first Pay it Forward Yoga Festival during the 2016 Edinburgh Festival; the Stand Club kindly hosted a fundraiser for us in November 2016; and a group of Edinburgh University Students and their friends organised a fantastic Vagina Monologues in February 2017. All community and individual funds raised for us are spent directly on women, children and young people using our services. This year we were able to maintain our stock of fire proof letter boxes, personal alarms, and also to maintain a stock of supermarket and clothing vouchers readily available for anyone using our services.

Key issues for Edinburgh Women's Aid this year have included the City of Edinburgh Council's (CEC) decision to move to a competitive procurement process for domestic abuse services in Edinburgh. At the financial year end, we submitted an application to enable Edinburgh Women's Aid to continue to provide crucial specialist domestic abuse services to women, children and young people (WCYP) in Edinburgh once our current CEC contract comes to an end in November 2017. At the time of writing this report, we can confirm that Edinburgh Women's Aid CEC commissioned services will be retained and that a two-year contract, working in collaboration with CEC and the other commissioned services, to develop provision in line with domestic abuse improvement plan will be in place from 9 November 2017.

In order to support WCYP's access to specialist services, we were also involved in the development of good practice guidance for the commissioning of specialist services along with COSLA and Scottish Women's Aid.

This annual report focusses on the importance of effective partnership working. We firmly believe that the issues around domestic abuse and intimate partner violence cannot be tackled effectively unless all agencies involved take the impact and dynamics of domestic abuse on board and critically engage with them. Edinburgh Women's Aid understands that it is not possible for us to tackle the multitude of complex issues which WCYP affected by domestic abuse have to deal with alone. We are committed to working with any agency interacting with WCYP affected by domestic abuse to better serve their needs.



“WORKING TOGETHER,
STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND
BOARD MADE 2016/17
THE SUCCESSFUL YEAR
THAT IT WAS”

Key elements of our work this year are set out in this report, highlighting the importance of partnership working in supporting WCYP and in influencing policy and practice.

We continue to work closely with our local Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit, particularly through our court advocacy service (EDDACS) and are grateful for their continued commitment to this partnership which supports women whose partners or ex-partners have been taken into custody or given an undertaking following a domestic incident.

We have continued in our leadership role as vice chair of the Edinburgh Violence against Women Partnership. This year, we created the EVAWP Reference Group, a vehicle through which direct service providers in the violence against women field work together, share learning, co-ordinate resources and support a strategic response in the city.

City of Edinburgh Council continued to review its approach to domestic abuse. Edinburgh Women's Aid fully participated in this process, and between September and December 2016 supported WCYP participation in

the consultative review of service provision. Staff and service users responded to the consultation and took part in various fora which fed into the CEC Domestic Abuse Strategy and Improvement Plan, to take forward the recommendations and priorities identified by the consultation.

Some other highlights this year have included successfully gaining funding for CEDAR in Edinburgh as well as for 'Building Equality' an employability project delivered in partnership with Shakti Women's Aid.

None of this would have been possible without our team of dedicated staff and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to their commitment, hard work, and the high level of service that they provide to the WCYP using our services. Women are also supported by our volunteer counsellors, who give up their time to provide essential counselling support every week. We are also very ably supported by our voluntary board of trustees who give their time to oversee and guide the strategic direction of Edinburgh Women's Aid. Working together, staff, volunteers and board made 2016/17 the successful year that it was.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICE

EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICE (EWA WSS) IS A SPECIALIST SERVICE SUPPORTING WOMEN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE. IT IS COMPRISED OF 22 MEMBERS OF STAFF: 1 FULL TIME TEAM LEADER, 3.8 FTE SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS, 12.5 FTE SUPPORT WORKERS, AND , 1.6 FTE POLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT WORKERS. THE WSS PROVIDES SUPPORT TO WOMEN IN REFUGE AND THROUGHOUT THE CITY, AS PART OF OUR OUTREACH PROJECT, AS WELL AS PROVIDING TELEPHONE SUPPORT AND A DROP-IN SERVICE. THESE SERVICES ARE RESOURCED THROUGH TWO MAIN FUNDING STREAMS, CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL HOUSING AND THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FUND.

This year we received

537

**NEW REFERRALS AND A
TOTAL OF**

852

**WOMEN USED THE
SERVICE, OF WHOM**

46

**WERE ADMITTED TO
REFUGE AND**

139

**RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM
OUR OUTREACH SERVICE**

Due to the large numbers of women using our services, EWA WSS understands that we cannot be a stand-alone service for women affected by domestic abuse. Women's housing, finances, legal situation and health are all negatively impacted by domestic abuse and the WSS recognises that a positive approach to partnerships brings many benefits to the women using our services. We find that developing relationships of trust and understanding between agencies enables us to better serve the women that we work with and that time spent on these relationships can speed things up for women in the long run. EWA WSS has been working hard to develop our partnership working and can report that a number of positives have come out of the various coalitions with other agencies. Such as an increase in our partner's understanding of the dynamics, impact and effects of domestic abuse. This also impacts positively on the work they do with women who are not engaged with our services.



PARTNERSHIPS

EWA has worked closely in the last year with the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) on the redesign for Domestic Abuse services within the city. EWA staff, alongside CEC officers, have facilitated women's focus groups from both within EWA services and from the wider community, to gain their views on domestic abuse provision in the city. In focus groups and through questionnaires women expressed their need for specialist domestic abuse services and their desire for improvements in mainstream services. EWA sees partnerships between specialist and universal or mainstream services as a crucial way for services for women, children and young people to improve and learn from each other.

In the WSS team we regularly work together with social workers from children and families teams where there has been domestic abuse and there are children in the household. We work with a common aim to safeguard children where there has been domestic abuse. CEC promotes "Safe and Together" as a model for child welfare. "Safe and Together" requires statutory child welfare services to:

- Keep the child safe and together with the non-offending parent
- Partner with the non-offending parent as a default position
- Intervene with the perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to the child

Senior staff at EWA have been trained in the Safe and Together model to support statutory services to co-ordinate and collaborate with specialist agencies. WSS workers have been championing this model of working, however it requires a change of approach and our partnerships have sometimes been tested as we struggle to promote consistent best practice.

CASE STUDY

EWA has been supporting A and her three children for some time and this has included advocating for the family with a number of statutory agencies. One example of this is the close work conducted between EWA CYP team and EWA WSS team, Social Work Children and Families and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA).

Through this partnership, A's support worker is able to advocate for and represent the views of A and her son L (aged 10) at Children's Panel Hearings regarding the risk to L from his father, the perpetrator of abuse towards A and her three children. Both A and L suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of the abuse they experienced and attending panel hearings causes them both an incredible amount of anxiety and stress.

One way in which A and L identified that their stress and anxiety could be reduced was by their EWA support worker attending pre-hearing panels on their behalf. A and L's support workers were able to advocate for this and organise for A and L's attendance to be dismissed and for their support worker to attend on their behalf. L's support worker worked with him on a GIRFEC 'All about Me' form and this was submitted to the panel, providing them with L's views and feelings.

A's stress was further reduced through organising with the Children's Reporter to communicate with EWA prior to contacting A. So that A and L could be notified in advance that they would be receiving communication from the panel. The impact of contact and attending meetings was causing A to be physically unwell for several days and the alleviation of this stress has had enormous benefit to her health.

The work of A and L's support workers in meeting with A and L, visiting them after a hearing and explaining the outcomes also alleviates their stress as they have a better understanding of the decisions and the outcomes.

A and L both fed back to EWA that the support they had received in navigating the different agencies, hearings and meetings in their lives had impacted positively on their ability to engage with statutory agencies while protecting their emotional wellbeing.

CASE STUDY

V fled an abusive situation from England and was told before she left that she could claim Income Support as she had a child under five. On arrival in Edinburgh her "live" claim was rejected as the Benefits Agency had said she had failed the HRT (habitual residency test). The implications of this decision meant she was without funds for her or her child. The WSS Duty Senior immediately got in touch with CPAG who provided expert advice. EWA was then able to appeal and challenge the decision on behalf of the woman and she was subsequently awarded Income Support. This has made a huge difference to her and her daughter both financially and emotionally.

CASE STUDY

One benefit of EWA's longevity in the provision of specialist domestic abuse services is that a number of our relationships with partners have extended over many years. For example a Solicitor with whom we have worked for over ten years is now supporting us with pro bono advice on an ad hoc basis. The relationship between the WSS Duty Senior and the solicitor means that if a keyworker needs legal information quickly the Duty Senior worker is able to email him and he will respond. This is made possible through the good working relationship the Duty Senior has built up on behalf of her team over the years.

To give an example, C came to use the duty service in a situation where she was unable to afford legal advice as a result of financial abuse. C lives in the family home and the perpetrator now resides in another property. C had been trying, without success, to find a solicitor who would 'do the legal work' first and then be paid. As a result of our established relationship, the solicitor took her on as a client under an agreement that suited the service user and C is now in the process of selling the house so she can access funds to set up a new home and move on with her life free from abuse.

Workers who are supporting women with children where there is social work involvement have at times linked in with the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration. A Children's Panel is convened to look at the overall support requirements for the family in order to keep the children safe. Where support has been required at this stage it has sometimes meant that there has been a conflict in the direction of support between Social Work and the Children's Panel. We deal with the challenges of partnership working with a variety of agencies by maintaining a consistent and transparent approach for the family with a clear gendered understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse and the rights of the child.

Support workers who have been key working with women have reported that the support issues raised are more complex due to a number of different factors. Welfare reform has placed intolerable challenges on women from EU communities and UK residents alike, and workers have identified they have to uncover multiple layers of complicated issues before the women can start to work on their recovery. Workers have continued to develop trusting relationships with women, through trauma based approaches, expert understanding of domestic abuse issues and a consistent and persistent approach to achieving the best outcomes for women. Our support has been tailored to each woman's specific needs through information gathered from the empowerment star and risk assessment tools used in support planning

The duty senior support worker and the team have been required to have a wide knowledge of issues which women present with. These have included issues around housing, welfare reforms, legal issues, both criminal and civil, and immigration issues. Through this work the duty team have made good relationships with a number of agencies, one of our key relationships is with CPAG (Child Poverty Action Group). The WSS team often calls upon them for advice with complex cases and always find the team extremely knowledgeable and supportive.

EWA continues to provide temporary accommodation services (refuge) in partnership with **registered social landlords** and the **local authority**. Excellent communication between the partners and positive relationships, which understand each other's priorities and needs, enable us to maintain a high standard of accommodation which is vital for the health, safety and well-being of service users.



“THIS YEAR, THE WSS
TEAM REFERRED 25
WOMEN TO MARAC.”

This year, EWA WSS has again worked closely with **Social Work Immigration and Asylum** teams in order to mutually support those women who are restricted by having No Recourse to Public Funds (NRTPF). Working with women in this situation is extremely challenging in terms of finances as public funds cannot be used to support them. We have continued to raise the issue with national and local government partners on a policy level, while continuing to provide refuge accommodation. If the woman has children, we can liaise with **Social Work Immigration and Asylum** teams who can provide funds to support the woman and her children. The alternative for women in this situation is a risk of extreme vulnerability, living in the UK with no access to funds, or returning to the perpetrator.

EWA WSS is represented on the **MARAC (Multi Agency Risk assessment Conference)** and towards the end of this year we allocated a specialist senior support worker to oversee the internal and multi-agency support provided to women accessing EWA services who are at high risk of harm or murder from the perpetrator. All WSS workers use the Safelives risk assessment and safety planning tools to support increased safety and ensure appropriate referrals to MARAC. This year, the WSS team referred 25 women to MARAC.

This year the WSS has seen the following positive impacts of partnership working:

- Bringing the service user's needs to the centre in their interaction with all agencies involved.
- Developing common aims for agencies to work towards.
- Developing and sharing a similar ethos in dealing with the dynamics of domestic abuse.
- Improvement in relationships between staff in various agencies and a developing consistency of service.
- Developing mutual agreements for working together, reducing duplication and increasing effectiveness.
- Shared recognition of the longer term efficiencies that come from partnership working and a commitment from agencies to commit resources to partnerships despite the resource constraints.
- Developing mutual respect and understanding value of each partner's contribution.



“EWA RECRUITED 2
PART-TIME BUILDING
EQUALITY WORKERS”

BUILDING EQUALITY PROJECT

In October 2016 Edinburgh Women's Aid (EWA), in partnership with Shakti Women's Aid (Edinburgh's BME domestic abuse organisation), were awarded 2 years' funding from Building Equality. Building Equality is a joint employability project between Scottish Women's Aid, Close the Gap, Engender, local Women's Aid groups Edinburgh & Shakti, Ross-shire, and WASLER, to challenge economic discrimination and develop effective models

to improve and protect the economic independence of women experiencing domestic abuse.

In January 2017 EWA recruited 2 part-time Building Equality Workers to develop group work in EWA and Shakti to identify and propose solutions to the structural barriers that impact on their employment and learning opportunities. Groups began to meet in Shakti and Edinburgh Women's Aid in March 2017 and will continue through 2017 and 2018.

EDINBURGH DOMESTIC ABUSE COURT ADVOCACY SERVICE (EDDACS)

EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID DOMESTIC ABUSE COURT ADVOCACY SERVICE (EDDACS) IS A SPECIALIST COURT SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY SERVICE SUPPORTING WOMEN WHOSE PARTNERS OR EX-PARTNERS ARE IN THE COURT SYSTEM DUE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE. IT COMPRISES OF 8 MEMBERS OF STAFF: 1 FULL TIME TEAM LEADER, 1 FULL TIME ADMINISTRATOR AND 5.2 FTE COURT ADVOCACY WORKERS. THE COURT ADVOCACY WORKERS PROVIDE SUPPORT TO WOMEN IN THE EDINBURGH DOMESTIC ABUSE COURT THROUGH RISK ASSESSMENT, SAFETY PLANNING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIALIST COURT REPORT. THIS SERVICE IS FULLY RESOURCED THROUGH THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT, PARTLY VIA THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN FUND AND PARTLY THROUGH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

The EDDACS service, now in its 6th year, was conceived as part of the multi-agency approach to supporting victims of domestic abuse, between Edinburgh Women's Aid, Police Scotland and the Scottish Courts, when the Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court was set up.

1,310

**WOMEN USED THE
EDDACS SERVICE**

in 2016/17 of which

349

cases referred were

REPEAT INCIDENTS

Daily, EDDACS works closely with the Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU) in Edinburgh and in Mid/East Lothian, receiving direct referrals from police officers who attend a domestic crime. Female victims of domestic crimes in these areas are offered a referral to EDDACS.

This year, in response to a drop in referral rates, EDDACS produced publicity postcards and piloted EDDACS briefings in the North West of Edinburgh at the start of Police shifts, to inform frontline officers of the service EDDACS provides and the benefits for the victims. These activities resulted in an increase in referrals received from this area. EDDACS

and Police Scotland hope to roll out the briefings across the city.

Our other major partner in our service provision is Victim Information and Advice (VIA), with whom we have daily contact. VIA advise us each morning of the domestic custodies and ensure that the specialist court reports that we have developed are passed to the Fiscal Deputes in the Domestic Abuse court. This assists the EDDACS Court Advocacy worker to engage with the Fiscal Depute to highlight any concerns for the victim's safety.

EDDACS and Criminal Justice Social Work are in regular communication with regard to the risks to victims where offenders are being considered for the Caledonian programme and other disposals. The EDDACS team are known by criminal justice services and when necessary to support client safety we liaise and share appropriate information.

This year, through our close relationship with the Scottish Courts Service and our membership of the Domestic Abuse Court Monitoring Group we were offered and set up an EDDACS office within the Sheriff Court. Access to an office, telephone and computer within the court supports improved communication between colleagues and partner agencies, and with service users. We continue to liaise with the Courts Service and are looking forward to working together in 2017/18.

The nature of our work and our partnerships is such that security of personal information is a key issue for everyone involved in the provision of the domestic abuse court

service. The involvement in information sharing of a third sector agency such as Edinburgh Women's Aid with statutory providers – Police Scotland and the Sheriff Court – is complex. EDDACS and our partners in Police Scotland and the Courts have worked hard this year to ensure that services are available to women who need them, when they need them and are effective, while ensuring that information is shared in a proportionate way within legal constraints. This has been a challenging area for all involved and it is a testimony to the desire for this project to succeed that we continue to strive to find solutions to the complexities of partnership working.

EDDACS continues to represent Edinburgh Women's Aid on the Edinburgh Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-

ordinating (MATAC), a Police Scotland forum where high risk perpetrators are discussed, and on the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) decision making panel. These multi-agency forums provide crucial protection for victims of domestic abuse.

Finally, EDDACS continues to co-ordinate and administer the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) in Edinburgh and provide a specialist representative to the East and Midlothian MARACs. 287 women were referred to MARAC in 2016/17 and 77 of these women were referred to MARAC more than once. EDDACS remains the main referring agency into MARAC and over 90% of referrals into the Edinburgh MARAC came through EDDACS.

CASE STUDY

V dialled 999 during an incident in her home but did not speak. The police heard an incident and proceeded to the property. On arriving at the house V had obvious signs of injury, she told the police she had gone upstairs to get away from the accused as he was drunk however he had followed her. She had not expected her call to connect to the police and had made the call to scare him.

When being interviewed V disclosed that the abuse had been going on for years. The accused also admitted to the police grabbing and trying to restrain V. He was arrested and charged with assault.

Police Scotland made the referral to EDDACS advising of their concern for her due to her disclosing historic abuse.

When EDDACS made contact with V she disclosed that she had been in a relationship with her partner for over 20 years. She spoke of him being a good man however on further exploration, it was clear that her life had been affected in many ways by her partner's abusive behaviours.

EDDACS completed a risk assessment and support and safety plan with the client. The risks included violent assault, suicide threats, resentment, daily verbal abuse, heavy alcohol use and his financial dependency on V.

EDDACS prepared a report for the court passing on V's comments that she would like some space from the accused, and EDDACS assessment of her situation that we had concerns for her physical safety and emotional wellbeing, and requested special bail conditions for the accused not to contact or approach V or enter her street. The accused pled guilty and sentencing was deferred for 1 month and special bail conditions put in place to support V.

During our conversation it became clear that in addition to court advocacy, V would benefit from emotional support and the opportunity to speak to a specialist about the abuse she had experienced over many years. With V's consent we referred her to her local specialist support service and, so that V did not have to tell her story again, with her permission we sent them a copy of her risk assessment and safety plan documents.

Throughout our engagement with V, EDDACS liaised with her keyworker from the support service. Together we provided a joint approach to help and encourage her to explore her options and how she would like her life to move forward. V had never considered a life without her partner and had expected to just put up with it.

With the support from her keyworker, V made the decision that she did not want to see the accused and was valuing her space and safety. Jointly EDDACS, the support service and V agreed that she was not safe if the accused was able to return to the house and EDDACS indicated this in their court report.

The accused was sentenced one month later and received an 18 month non-harassment order not to contact or approach V alongside an 18 month community payback order with supervision.

V gave feedback that the joint working between EDDACS and the specialist support service was particularly helpful for her. She said that she had not realised until she received support that she had been living in fear and that her life had now improved immensely.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S (CYP) SERVICE

EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE (EWA CYP) IS A SPECIALIST SERVICE SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE, IT COMPRISES OF 9 MEMBERS OF STAFF: 1 FULL TIME TEAM LEADER, 2 FULL TIME FAMILY SUPPORT WORKERS, 3 PART-TIME FAMILY SUPPORT WORKERS, 2 PART-TIME CEDAR COORDINATORS AND 1 FULL-TIME CYP COURT ADVOCACY WORKER. THIS SERVICE IS RESOURCED THROUGH TWO MAIN FUNDING STREAMS, CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CHILDREN'S SERVICE FUND. WE ARE ADDITIONALLY FUNDED FOR OUR CHILDREN'S COURT ADVOCACY SERVICE BY ESMÉE FAIRBAIRN CHARITABLE TRUST AND FOR THE CEDAR PROJECT BY RSMACDONALD TRUST AND ROBERTSON TRUST.

This year 149 CYP affected by domestic abuse were supported through Family Support Workers either in refuge, resettlement, outreach, CEDAR Group work programme and/or Court Advocacy Support. 16 of these CYP used more than one of our services during the year.

EWA CYP service works within national legislation and guidance frameworks including the Children and Young People Act Scotland 2014, Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and National Pre-Birth to Three Guidance. A common theme in all of these areas of legislation and guidance is effective partnership working.

Good partnership working is founded on cooperation and collaboration between agencies in the 3rd sector and statutory sector. In addition to supporting more effective safeguarding, it also allows for a joined up approach to supporting CYP, enabling a wider range of their needs to be met through an increased pool of resources, skills, knowledge and specialisms.

This year we have worked with statutory services - Social Work, Education, NHS and Police and the key local 3rd sector agencies. These include Home Link, Home Start, Circle, SAMH, Fairbridge, Penumbra, Barnardos and Children 1st. In partnership working there is always a risk of a break down in the relationship due to the differing

structures, processes and priorities. In the EWA CYP service we prioritise cooperation and collaboration as we know that this supports consistent and coordinated support for CYP. Partnership working enables us to focus on the effects of domestic abuse, alongside services that are supporting other elements of the child or young person's life and allows children and young people to be seen as a "whole person". With regular communication between partners around shared aims and goals CYP tell us that they are supported to develop confidence and self-esteem through feeling heard and having a voice, and services together placing them at the centre of their own support.

The following case study illustrates how CYP who come to our service have diverse needs and how Family Support Workers use partnership working to build confidence and self-esteem in children and young people.

CYP COURT ADVOCACY SERVICE

EWA has been funded by Esmee Fairbairn Foundation since January 2016 to provide specialist court advocacy for CYP. The initial funding application was to provide support to CYP and families going through the criminal justice courts. Over the last 12 months 28 CYP have been

supported by our Advocacy Worker, of which only 4 were criminal cases. The other 24 were Family Court cases where there were issues and concerns around contact with the perpetrator.

The aims for this service are:

- Increased understanding by the children involved in this project of their rights within their family, in society and in the court system.
- Increased emotional intelligence around domestic abuse and healthy relationships for the children involved and a language with which to express themselves.
- Increased attention to children's needs in the courts and related criminal/civil justice processes.
- Increased understanding of these children's individual needs by other agencies involved in their lives – for example the courts, police, social work and education.
- Improved links between EWA and other public and charitable agencies to provide the best support for the CYP involved in court processes.

The CYP Court Advocacy worker has been working to support the voice of the child and the non-abusing parent to be heard in Court Reporter and Social Work reports in the Civil Courts. These partnerships have often been difficult, as perpetrators can and will use civil processes to appear reasonable yet continue to abuse. This project continues to highlight importance of a specialist CYP advocate to support **United Nations Convention Rights of the Child Article 12 for children to have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them and have their opinions taken into account** in an arena where all too often their views are not taken seriously.

CHILDREN EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE RECOVERY (CEDAR)

Domestic Abuse damages the primary relationship between children and the non-abusing parent and impacts significantly on self-esteem and resilience. This can create difficulty in identifying, managing and expressing emotions and actions around violence, separation, shame, loss and guilt. CEDAR

CASE STUDY

P was referred to the CYP Service by her allocated Social Worker, who had concerns about P's emotional wellbeing after witnessing significant emotional and physical abuse to her mother. P was also getting ongoing support from Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) due to mental health issues, including self-harm. P's CYP keyworker spoke frequently with P's CAMHS worker, who felt that a lot of her issues were triggered from seeing her dad. P has a difficult relationship with her Dad. He is controlling and she feels anxious around him as she never knows what sort of mood he is going to be in. He displays aggressive behaviour and language in front of P and her younger sibling. P's mum has been separated from him for years, however he is keen to be back together and is constantly in touch with mum and P.

P's keyworker met with P once a week, building up a trusting relationship and working together on P's anger and trust issues. P felt that talking about her feelings helped her a lot. P often spoke to the family support worker about things that she wanted her mum to know but felt she couldn't tell her. The worker worked alongside P to build her confidence and supported P to speak to her mum. P often disclosed information to the worker that needed to be passed onto social work. EWA's CYP worker ensured P had a clear understanding why the information needed to be passed on. The worker also kept in contact with P's guidance teacher, discussing the best ways to support P within school. The combination of service involvement led to the partners organising regular child planning meetings between P, mum, EWA CYP team, the allocated social worker, CAMHS and the school.

The Family Support Worker also supported P's mum by referring her to EWA's Outreach Service, where she obtained support with her emotional wellbeing and financial difficulties. P's younger sibling (M) attends nursery and the EWA keyworkers organised meetings with nursery staff, mum, social worker and health visitor to look at strategies to support mum around M's challenging behaviour.

Due to the co-ordinated support given to P, she started to feel more confident and her self-harming stopped. When P began to feel more empowered and in control of her relationship with her dad support from EWA was reduced to every two weeks.



“ I FEEL MORE
CONFIDENT TALKING
TO MY MUM ”

is a multi-agency project that works across Edinburgh providing a 12-week programme which works with non-abusing parents and their children to repair the damage that domestic abuse has done to their relationship. It is a sustainable multi-agency programme that works on the basis of supporting the non-abusing parent to develop and use their parenting skills to continue after the programme to support their child to continue to grow and move on from abuse.

In 2016/17 2 women's and 2 children's programmes were delivered. Feedback from the programmes included:

CHILDREN'S FEEDBACK:

“You could feel scared at the start but it will go away after a bit”

“It's not my fault”

“I feel more confident talking to my mum”

“It was good to be with other children”

MOTHER'S FEEDBACK:

“I have been able to reflect and react more positively”

“It's helped me see how to change things”

“My parenting confidence has been boosted”

“It's opened lines of communication between us”

“My child is more able to talk to me about things”

The CEDAR Local Action Group (LAG) is composed of 6 members from both voluntary and statutory groups; their main function is to provide strategic support to CEDAR. In 2016/17 the group identified that it was time to grow in size and new members were sought. Five new members joined the group representing Safer Families (CEC Social Work Perpetrator Programme), plus three head teachers from Edinburgh Schools.

The CEDAR project has promoted the project in Edinburgh with attendance at 'Team around the Child Cluster' meeting, EVOC Children and Young People Network Meetings and organising a CEDAR networking event.

The CEDAR team delivered a 2 day facilitator training for professionals. Edinburgh CEDAR currently holds a list of 37 trained facilitators from a variety of statutory and voluntary organisations. The range and number of facilitators available to the project enhances our ability to deliver groups and ensures that no single organisation bears the burden of providing facilitators. It also supports EWA's aim of extending understanding of domestic abuse and its impact, across multiple agencies.

SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS

EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID LIMITED: (a company limited by guarantee)

Summarised Financial Statements: Year ended 31 March 2017

Charity No: SCO28301 Company No: SC237521

The following are extracts from the audited financial statements for Edinburgh Women's Aid for the year ended 31 March 2017. The full audited statements dated 25 July 2017, which have an unqualified audit report, are available from the Secretary at the Registered Office at 4 Cheyne Street, Edinburgh EH4 1JB. These financial statements will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies after approval at the AGM.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

I have examined the extracts from the financial statements of Edinburgh Women's Aid for the year ended 31 March 2017, set out on pages 18 and 19. In my opinion they are consistent with the full annual accounts.



Kevin Cattanach

Senior Statutory Auditor for and on behalf of Whitelaw Wells,
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 9 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6AT

25 July 2017

SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS

EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID LIMITED

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2017

	2017 Total Funds £	2016 Total Funds £
Income		
Donations	16,495	15,024
Fees and appeals	643	2,170
Bank interest	1,632	2,037
Grants and housing income	1,342,829	1,307,421
Other income	408	202
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	1,362,007	1,326,854
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure		
Raising funds	1,375	1,655
Charitable Activities		
Refuge & resettlement	1,047,507	1,143,078
Children's services	249,478	178,138
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditure	1,298,360	1,322,871
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus for the Year	63,647	3,983
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the above financial years.

All activities are classified as continuing.

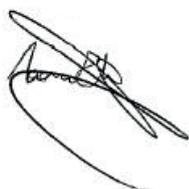
SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS

EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2017

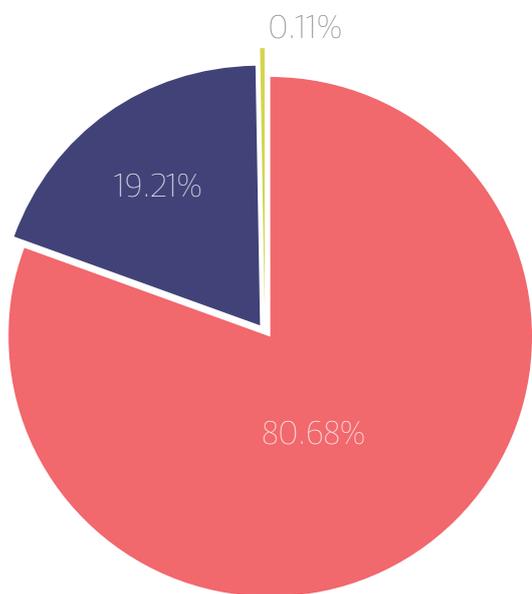
	Note	£	2017 £	2016 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets			75,328	85,758
Current assets				
Debtors		64,003		64,395
Cash at bank and in hand		688,554		631,748
		<u>752,557</u>		<u>696,143</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(61,985)		(79,648)
		<u>(61,985)</u>		<u>(79,648)</u>
Net Current Assets			690,572	616,495
Net Assets Less Current Liabilities			<u>765,900</u>	<u>702,253</u>
Net assets			<u>765,900</u>	<u>702,253</u>
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds			537,488	494,486
Designated Funds			124,914	124,914
			<u>662,402</u>	<u>619,400</u>
Restricted Funds			103,498	82,853
			<u>765,900</u>	<u>702,253</u>

These financial statements are not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to the income and expenditure account and the balance sheet. The full accounts were approved by the board of directors on 25 July 2017 and signed on their behalf by:-



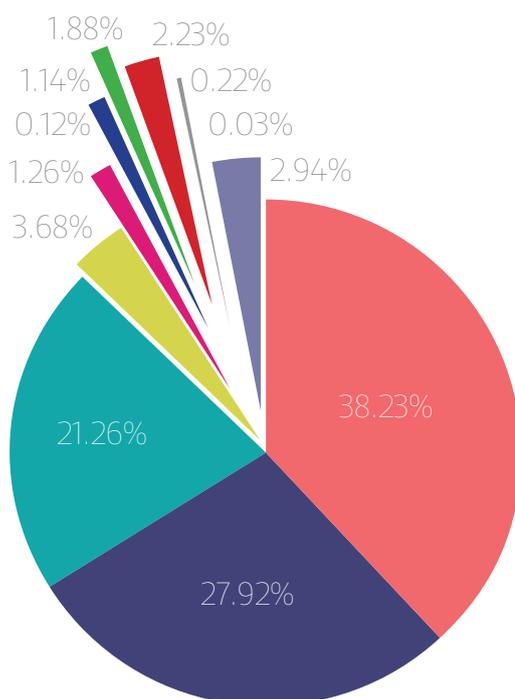
Naomi Blight

STATISTICS RESOURCES AND INCOME



2016-2017 RESOURCES EXPENDED

- Cost of Generating Funds (£1,375)
- Woman's Services (£1,047,507)
- Children's Services (£249,478)



2016-2017 INCOME RESOURCES

- City of Edinburgh Council (£520,725)
- Scottish Government (£380,241)
- CEC Housing Benefit (£289,623)
- Direct Rent & Fuel (£50,150)
- Donations & Legacies (£17,138)
- Investment Income (£1,632)
- RS MacDonald Trust (£12,000)
- Robertson Trust (£15,500)
- Esmee Fairbairn (£31,590)
- Spifox (£3,000)
- Other Income (£408)
- Scottish Women's Aid (£40,000)

SUPPORTERS & MAIN FUNDERS

MAIN FUNDERS

CEC Children & Families	Scottish Government Children's Services Fund	RS MacDonald Trust
CEC Health and Social Care	Scottish Government Strategic Intervention Fund	Robertson Trust
CEC Services for Communities	Scottish Government Justice Fund	Spifox
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	Scottish Women's Aid	
Scottish Government Violence Against Women Fund		



SUPPORTERS

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community	Controls and Business Management, Royal Bank of Scotland	National Records of Scotland	Scottish Widows
MBS Solicitors	Crew Road Nursery	NHS Education for Scotland	Slaters Menswear and Formal Hire
3Ms Youth Partnership	Edinburgh Businesswomen's Club	NHS Fife Learning Disability Service Lynebank Hospital	St Mary's Cathedral
Bags of Kindness	George Heriot's School	RBS Bank Gogarburn	Tesco bank
Blackhall Primary School	Help at Hand	Scottish Government	The International Women's Club Edinburgh
Boots Corstorphine Branch	Maclay Murray & Spens LLP	Scottish Water	The Leith Agency
Cameron McKenna Foundation			Worldwide Church of God
Canonmills Baptist church			Yoga Festival

We would also like to thank the many people who donated toiletries, nappies, bedding and food to us throughout the year, and to everyone who has supported or attended an EWA fundraising event. We are also very grateful to those who support us anonymously, to those who donate through Just Giving and Paypal, and we give particular thanks to those who donate gifts to our annual Christmas Appeal. Special thanks also must go to Edinburgh's Muslim Community for their Ramadan collection, and also to staff at Tesco Bank for their extraordinary fundraising efforts this year. Many thanks too, to Lifecare and to all the social landlords from whom we rent our properties.

STAFF MEMBERS

CURRENT STAFF MEMBERS

Diana Artis	Lisa Kane	Joanna Oleszczyk	Sherry Singh
Isabella Balloch	Dorota Ling	Margaret Patrizio	Rosie Smith
Debbie Bell	Julie MacDonald	Clare Philpot	Maureen Stevenson
Beata Burchard	Eleni MacLean	Fran Previdi	Cathy Todd
Irene Carter	Noreen McCafferty	Allison Pupkis	Amanda Vickery
Susithra Chandramohan	Lee McCormack	Susan Rae	Val Waugh
Jasmine Clark	Kirsty McDonald	Catriona Robertson	Laura Williams
Jan Ferguson	Jenny Miller	Linda Rodgers	Louise Young
Rachel Gollan	Angie Mwafulirwa	Alison Roxburgh	
Karen Griffiths	Mariea Nairn	Zoe Simopoulou	
Premila Healy	Dorothy Oleksiewicz	Mary Sinclair	

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Naomi Blight (Chair from 24/11/2016, Vice Chair until 24/11/2016)	Deborah Benson (Vice Chair from 24/11/2016, Treasurer until 24/11/2016)	Jo Birch (resigned 24/05/2016)	Maro McNab
Alva Traebert (Chair – resigned 3/10/2016)	Alison Morton-Nicholls (Treasurer from 24/11/2016)	Miriam Khan	Kirsty Mooney
		Abbie McCreath	Fiona Morrison
		Irina McLean (resigned 30/5/2017)	Jane O'Donnell

DROP IN AND HELPLINE HOURS

DROP-IN SERVICE

(4 Cheyne Street) and phone support (0131 315 8110)

Monday	1pm-3pm (Additional phone support 10am-1pm)
Tuesday	10am-3pm
Wednesday	10am-3pm
Thursday	2pm-7pm (Additional phone support 10am-2pm)
Friday	10am-3pm
Saturday	10am-1pm

4 Cheyne Street, Edinburgh, EH4 1JB

Helpline: 0131 315 8110

(You can leave a message on this number at any time)

Business line: 0131 315 8111

Fax: 0131 343 2426

info@edinwomensaid.co.uk

www.edinwomensaid.co.uk

