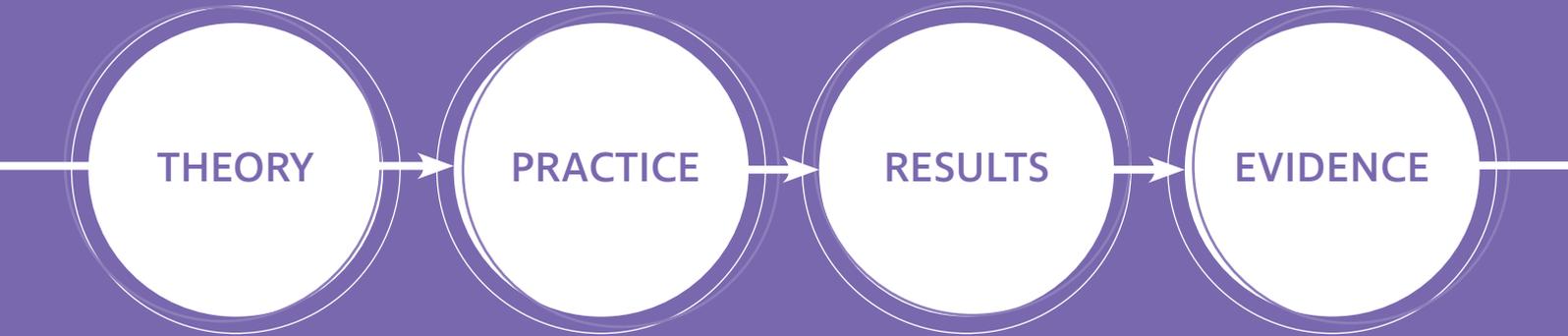


# A CHAIN REACTION



 EDINBURGH  
WOMEN'S AID

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

# TRUSTEES' REPORT

AS CHAIRPERSON OF EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID, I AM HONoured TO PRESENT THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON BEHALF OF OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES. OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS CURRENTLY MADE UP OF TEN WOMEN, WHO CONTRIBUTE A DIVERSE WEALTH AND BREADTH OF SKILLS AND EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT THE ORGANISATION.

This year, we bade farewell to Maxine Cuffe, who was our treasurer for three years. We wish to thank her for her contribution to the board and wish her well in her future endeavours. We are also pleased this year to have welcomed Kirsty Mooney, Fiona Morrison, Miriam Khan and Maro McNab, who each bring valuable experience to the Board and who have already made positive contributions to the organisation, for example, in supporting fundraising activities and in developing the organisation's communications capacity.

We have also taken steps in the period 2015-16 to strengthen the governance of our organisation; a number of trustees have taken part in the development of a feminist governance toolkit with sister organisations across Scotland and our trustees have also



taken part in a Board development day organised by Scottish Women's Aid.

The services Edinburgh Women's Aid provides continue to provide critical support to women and their children who are at risk of, experiencing, or are seeking to move on from domestic abuse. The range of services we provide to meet these needs include:

### **WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICE**

During the period 2015-16, EWA has completed the restructuring of its women's services, merging its outreach, refuge and crisis, and resettlement teams to respond to the needs of service users and to improve the efficiency of the provision of our services within our current resources. Women accessing the refuge, crisis and resettlement, and outreach services will now have a single EWA keyworker regardless of which element

of the service they are engaging with. We continue to provide telephone and drop in services from our office and services to women in the community along with our supported accommodation.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE**

Edinburgh Women's Aid has always recognised the negative impact of domestic abuse on children and provides support for children and young people both in refuge and during resettlement to help them deal with difficult changes in their family and to come to terms with their experiences. We also recognise that children and young people may be in situations where their mother has not sought help. Through funding from the Scottish Government, we provide an outreach service in which we work

with CYP in schools or other suitable places to reach those who may not otherwise receive support.

### **EDDACS**

This service provides support to women after a police call out; when a perpetrator has been taken into custody and goes on to enter the court process. EDDACS is an independent advocacy service aiming to provide support and information at the earliest opportunity. Staff develop a court report for the domestic abuse court and also carry out a risk assessment (using the SafeLives Risk Assessment tool) to support safety planning and to identify high risk cases for referral to a MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), which seeks to identify appropriate interventions to reduce and manage risk to a woman's safety.

### PREVENTION WORK

This year we continued our investment in our prevention post, which has the aim of taking prevention work into schools and reaching as many young people as possible. During the period of the post, 359 pupils from 5 high schools took part in workshops covering topics such as identifying abuse, understanding coercive control and understanding gender and inequality.

### PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Edinburgh Women's Aid believes that the issues around domestic abuse and intimate partner violence cannot be tackled effectively unless all agencies involved take those issues on board and critically engage with them. We are currently members of a range of Partnership Forums, including holding the Vice-Chair position

in the Edinburgh Violence against Women Partnership (EVAWP) and participation in related sub-groups, the Domestic Abuse Court Implementation Group (DAIG), Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Unit Group, MATACs and MARACs and Scottish Women's Aid working groups and forums.

### SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

Edinburgh Women's Aid also continues to develop its services to ensure we are meeting women's changing needs and are able to continue working in a climate of austerity and increasingly precarious funding for the sector. To this end, we are investing in our internal communications capacity to enable us to raise the awareness and profile of our work. We also in the period 2015-16 developed and launched our 2015-20 strategy

which sets out the organisation's strategic goals over the next 5 years and which was developed in consultation between the board, staff and key partners.

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

**WE BELIEVE THAT NO-ONE SHOULD EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC ABUSE AND IT IS OUR MISSION TO WORK TOWARDS A SOCIETY FREE FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE THROUGH OUR PROVISION OF SPECIALIST SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND ADVICE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND THROUGH RAISING AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE.**

I am delighted to present the 2015/16 annual report which illustrates throughout its pages how Edinburgh Women's Aid continued 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 continue to illustrate the importance of specialist services that take account of the particular dynamic of domestic abuse and its impact well beyond physical violence and the long lasting and traumatic effects of being subjected to coercive control.

Key elements of our work this year are set out in this report with contributions from each of our teams along with case studies which highlight the positive impact of the work that we do with women and children.

In the broader sphere we were delighted

in July 2015 to host the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, the Chief Constable Sir Stephen House and Mr Michael Brown, Clare Wood's father, to launch the Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DSDAS) from our premises. Since the launch Edinburgh Women's Aid has continued to work in partnership with Police Scotland and City of Edinburgh Council to support the success of this scheme.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Alex Neill MSP also chose Edinburgh Women's Aid as the venue from which to announce the Scottish Government's decision to provide additional funding for infrastructure for Women's Aid and Rape Crisis in Scotland.

We worked closely with our local Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit throughout the year and are grateful for



their support. This year, through the DSDAS scheme, we have developed joint visits with the police and have organised forums for police and women to work together to develop improvements in police responses to domestic abuse.

We have also taken a lead in the Edinburgh Violence against Women Partnership review, along with colleagues in City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian and Police Scotland.

The partnership is the vehicle through which service providers can co-ordinate resources and create a strategic approach to violence against women.

City of Edinburgh Council continues to review its approach to domestic abuse and Edinburgh Women's Aid remains committed to engaging fully with this process, ensuring that the voices of women and children are heard and that the importance of and need for specialist services is not lost. The council has also begun to implement a Safe and Together approach to social workers dealing with domestic abuse cases and Edinburgh Women's Aid staff have been championing this process.

Some other highlights this year have included successfully gaining funding for a children's court advocacy worker to

complement and bring a children's rights slant to the work done by our domestic abuse court advocacy team (EDDACS).

Working with colleagues from Shakti Women's Aid, Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre, and LGBT Youth Scotland we set up a network of Scottish third sector organisations to work with young people in Scotland on the subject of gender-based violence, providing education and equipping Scotland's young people with the tools to create change. On International Women's Day "We Need to Talk", a report detailing the network's first GBV focus group with young people was launched.

We have also expanded our Polish language team and work closely with other Polish language projects in Edinburgh to ensure that we make the best use of resources and

provide the best possible support to women in this community.

We continued to work on a programme of policy review to ensure that our policies and processes are fit for purpose, meet and exceed our regulatory requirements and best meet the needs of women and children using our services. We invited the Information Commissioners Office in this year to conduct an audit for us and were delighted with their favourable report on our data protection processes.

We have also been seeking funding to extend our CEDAR (children experiencing domestic abuse recovery) programme and look forward to this expanding significantly in 2016/17.

None of this would have been possible without our team of dedicated and hardworking staff and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to their commitment and hard work and the continuing high level of service that they provide to the women and children using our services. We are also ably supported by our board of voluntary trustees who give their time to oversee and guide the strategic direction of Edinburgh Women's Aid. Working together, staff and board made 2015/16 the successful year that it was.

I would finally like to thank our key partners and funders at the City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Government. We would not be able to provide our core services without their support. In particular we are extremely grateful to the Scottish Government who stepped in with additional support when the

Big Lottery funding for the domestic abuse court advocacy service came to an end during 2015/16.

I would also like to thank Barnardos for their continued financial support and partnership with us on the CEDAR project, Firrhill High School Students for once again championing our children's service through the Youth Philanthropy Initiative and the many members of the Muslim community in Edinburgh who donated anonymously during Ramadan.

We have once again been hugely supported through the kindness and generosity of Edinburgh individuals and organisations. Those who have given their names are listed in this report. Many more of you have done so anonymously and I thank you all for your generosity.

# WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICE

Over the past year, Edinburgh Women's Aid Women's Support Service (WSS) has worked hard to respond to every woman who presents for crisis support either through a self-referral or a referral from another agency. For the first time in EWA history self-referrals were not the largest group of women coming into our service. This year, internal referrals from our court advocacy service (EDDACS) represented the largest single group accessing our services. The merger between our outreach, refuge, crisis and resettlement teams into a single 'women's support service' was fully completed in 2015. This merger supports women to have a single keyworker throughout their journey with EWA, regardless of which element of our service they use. In addition we have streamlined allocations into service through our duty/

crisis service to enable us to best meet the increasing need within our existing resources. This has helped us to continue to engage with women at the earliest opportunity, to understand their immediate needs for safety and support and enabled us to provide the right service at the right time.

Women accessing our Women's Support Service have a range of choices in how to interact with our service. We offer telephone and drop-in support, this can be accessed on an ongoing basis or as a one-off; we can meet with women in the community in places suitable to them and we continue to offer our refuge service to women who require safe temporary accommodation. This includes our 24-hour refuge which offers additional support to women who have a range of needs.

The Women's Support Service has seen a 10% increase in new referrals this year. The number of women self-referring into our service has remained stable, but the number of women referred from Police Scotland via the EDDACS team has increased significantly. The number of women referred from Children and Families Social Work also doubled this year from the 2014/15 figure.

It has been a challenge, but this year we are very proud to have been able to continue to respond to women immediately without resorting to a waiting list.

While our largest single group of referrals into service have been by frontline services (e.g. police, court advocacy and social work) working with a woman where an incident of physical violence has occurred and legal remedies are being pursued, we recognise

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WOMEN USED  
THE WOMEN'S  
SUPPORT SERVICE

686 OF THESE WERE  
NEW REFERRALS

136

WOMEN WERE REFERRED  
BY THE DOMESTIC ABUSE  
COURT ADVOCACY  
SERVICE (EDDACS)

that domestic abuse is not limited to physical violence. Women that we support may or may not have experienced physical violence. Almost all women that we support tell us that the hardest element of abuse to recover from is the psychological abuse that they have experienced. We understand domestic abuse as coercive behaviour that is designed to control the non-abusive partner – the micromanagement of behaviour and the petty rules which when broken result in punishment. We view this behaviour as a crime of liberty and understand the traumatic and long lasting effects that all forms of abuse take on women and the time that recovery can take.

To provide the right type of support to women, our team takes a trauma informed approach to support provision. This is

illustrated in the key elements of our practice:

- **SAFETY** – we recognise the risks of re-traumatisation through a lack of safety and prioritise the safety of the women using our services. This involves providing a women only service, ensuring that our data protection practice is of the highest standard, listening to what women tell us about what will keep them safe and maintaining the confidentiality of our refuge addresses. We recognise the importance of emotional safety and employ a reassuring, empathic and authentic approach when working with women. We are conscious of the potential for service generated risk – whether emotional or practical and take steps to ensure that our practice is safe through

supervision, reflection, assessment and policy development.

- **TRUSTWORTHINESS AND TRANSPARENCY** – we take the time to build a trusting relationship with women, working at her pace, recognising her right to any information about the service she is receiving and explaining thoroughly any changes to the service she is receiving. We restructured our women's support service so that each women's ability to retain her key-worker throughout all of our services is enhanced.
- **EMPOWERMENT, VOICE AND CHOICE** – we recognise each woman as the expert in her own life. We use the Empowerment Star to support each woman using our service to set her own priorities and develop her own support

## WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICE

306 OF THOSE ACCESSING THE SERVICE WERE MOTHERS OF CHILDREN

83 WOMEN STAYED IN AN EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID REFUGE ALONG WITH 47 CHILDREN

and safety plan. Often psychological abuse has involved isolation from family and friends, and has limited or denied a women's ability to access services. The enforcement of control over another, necessarily involves the removal of agency. Supporting women to develop their own voices and to act upon their rights is a key element of recovery from trauma.

- **PEER SUPPORT AND MUTUAL SELF-HELP** – we recognise that peer support is a key vehicle for establishing safety and hope, building trust, enhancing collaboration, and utilizing their stories and lived experience to promote recovery and healing so we ensure that women using our services have opportunities to take part in group work. An illustration of the importance of peer support

groupwork in recovery can be seen in 'Glue sticks and glitter' below.

### MEETING THE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES OF WOMEN

Women with children often express concerns about their abusive ex-partner deliberately disrupting their relationship with their children or continuing the abuse through manipulation of child contact arrangements. WSS workers are able to support women to understand and access civil legal options and to develop strategies and knowledge to deal with, for example, children being used to monitor and report back on their mothers including recording monitoring and tracking through the child's social media devices.

We recognise that the patterns of abuse may look different in different communities and in February 2016, in response to rising

demand we appointed a third part-time Polish-speaking worker. During 2015/16 we worked with 98 Polish women. In addition to dealing with domestic abuse, working in this community also involves providing support with complex issues such as habitual residency, the right to work, employment, finances, housing, health and child residency. Women using our Polish language service tell us that their additional needs are often not met by other agencies because of the language barrier.

In 2015/16 we continued our progress towards the LGBT Youth Charter of Rights Award Standard. This involved ensuring that 70% of EWA staff attended training on supporting LGBT people experiencing domestic abuse and reviewing our practice and policies to ensure that the needs of LGBT women accessing our services are appropriately met.

# CASE STUDY

## GLUE STICKS AND GLITTER

NICOLA MUIR SHARES HER  
EXPERIENCE OF JOINING A  
WOMEN'S AID ART GROUP.

**When my support worker asked me along to a Women's Aid art group, I said yes, just for something to do. As a single parent and full-time student, summer work is hard to find and free time is a luxury that I don't often get to enjoy. I knew that the art group was part of a funded project aimed at marking Scottish Women's Aid's Fortieth anniversary and thought I'd just go along once, to see what it was like.**

I was exhausted from a tough round of uni deadlines, being a single mum to my young son and also dealing with the aftermath that inevitably follows many women around after they flee an abuser. Abusers don't like to move on with the same urgency that their victims do and being the target of continued abuse is all too common for women like me. It's exhausting, extremely challenging and it

wears you down. Sadly, even after four-and-half years of 'freedom', it's just a part of my life.

And so, I arrived at the first session feeling tired, a little nervous about meeting new people and far too early. But, the venue looked pretty great, there was tea and biscuits and the art supplies looked like they had been raided from Priscilla Queen of the Desert's set design cupboard with glittery disco paper and glamorous feathers – OK, I thought, this is going to be OK.

My support worker was there with a couple of other staff running the project along with the group of women who, like me, have suffered abuse. We delved into the biscuits and the art supplies with just one guiding principle – free rein to create whatever we wanted (within our theme of masks and



fans). One of the most enjoyable aspects of the group is that it doesn't require special skills. This was truly art as a form of expression, and we had permission to express anything and everything.

After the first session, I realised I had vastly underestimated how much I would enjoy it, how valuable it would be, how much I needed it. Granted, we're not sculpting the Venus de Milo, it's just craft, cobbling together bits and pieces of paper, sequins and feathers, scooping biscuit crumbs out of

the glue pot. We're just a group of women like so many others who have been abused by an intimate partner – ordinary, regular. We're just mothers and co-workers, scholars and carers, but we are together, creating, pottering, and sharing. We are safe. We have permission to say in one breath 'Did you see the news last night?' and with the next 'I remember that time I thought he would creep across a loved one's face. We can laugh together about Donald Trump's hair, and cry together about the trauma of 'that time he flipped out in a hotel room abroad'. Each of us is different, has had a different experience, a different abuser, a different journey. By coming together over art and craft we can share these differences with a common understanding, and a sense of complete safety, that is hard to find elsewhere.

The art group wasn't something I would have sought out had my support worker not invited me. I'm a literature student, not arty in the traditional sense, but it turns out I didn't have to be. The art group provides us with an opportunity to make a permanent record of our experiences as women who were/are abused. It's an outlet for the frustrations and anger that injustice can leave us with and it's a place of safety to melt the isolation that abusers rely on to wear their targets down, even long after they have left the relationship.

I'm so grateful to have learned that recovery and support from trauma and abuse doesn't have to be serious or difficult or soul bearing. It can be as simple as tears and laughter, tea, biscuits, glue sticks and glitter.

# CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE

**"I SAW MY DAD PUNCHING MY MUM IN THE STOMACH, I WAS REALLY SCARED, SO I HID BEHIND THE SOFA..."**

**EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOY**

47

CHILDREN STAYED  
IN AN EDINBURGH  
WOMEN'S AID  
REFUGE

This is so often the story told to Family Support Workers within Edinburgh Women's Aid Children and Young People Service, whose main objective is to provide a specialist support service to children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse has a detrimental effect on the physical, emotional, social and behavioural development of children and young people; it can damage the primary relationship between children and their mothers and impacts significantly on self-esteem and resilience. This can create difficulty managing and expressing emotions and actions around violence, separation, shame, loss and guilt.

Edinburgh Women's Aid recognises these impacts on children's lives and provides support to children and young people

through outreach, refuge, follow-on and prevention services. We also have the Children Experience Domestic Abuse Recovery (CEDAR) Programme, to help children and young people recover from the trauma of abuse, and to develop the skills and confidence to express themselves and move on safely.

CEDAR Edinburgh is a multi-agency initiative for children and young people who have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties as a consequence of their experience of domestic abuse. It comes from the adapted innovative model of group work for children who have experienced domestic abuse, which originated in Ontario, Canada. Edinburgh Women's Aid co-ordinates and works in partnership with Barnardos, City of Edinburgh Council Social Work and NHS Lothian to deliver this programme.

# TWO

CEDAR GROUP PROGRAMMES  
TOOK PLACE SUPPORTING 12  
CHILDREN AND 12 MOTHERS.

The 12-week therapeutic group work programme seeks to directly address the impact of domestic abuse on families. Sessions take place once a week, lasting for one-and-a-half hours. CEDAR is based on a core principle that recognises that domestic abuse is damaging to the children as well as to the mother/child relationship. A key belief is that mothers are best placed to support their children in their recovery.

The CEDAR group is an opportunity to explore feelings with an emphasis on providing fun and creative activities that keep children engaged and interacting with each other. It is about creating a safe place for children and their mothers to help each find the best strategies to deal with their experiences and rebuild their lives. The key aim of CEDAR is to help mothers to support their children in their recovery.

The programme builds emotional literacy, increases safety, helps children understand domestic abuse and recognise it is not their fault, and improves the ability to manage emotions. It also encourages planning, flexibility, resourcefulness, critical thinking and insight.

During 2015/16, CEDAR has been well-received by children, young people and mothers.

**"I HAVE GAINED CONFIDENCE, MY CHILD HAS BECOME MORE EXPRESSIVE, WHICH HAS MADE THEM HAPPIER, WE ARE MORE SOCIABLE AND HAVE ALMOST MADE PEACE WITH OUR PAST."**

#### A MOTHER WHO COMPLETED CEDAR

Quotes from 7 to 11-year-olds who attended a CEDAR group.

**"IT IS FUN."**

**"I FEEL SAFER EVERYWHERE I GO."**

**"IT HELPED ME THINK ABOUT ANGER."**

#### **USING OUR PRACTICE EXPERTISE TO INFLUENCE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT**

Children and young people will not only experience domestic abuse but may have the added trauma and complexity of dealing with a parent or family member being accused of a crime and the likelihood that they and/or the protective parent will attend court as a witness. The outcome of the court process may be that one of their parents goes to prison or has an exclusion order or bail conditions that mean he is not allowed to approach his children or family home, it may also mean that no action is taken. These are all complex and confusing issues for

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WOMEN USED  
THE WOMEN'S  
SUPPORT SERVICE

children and young people coming to terms with not only the domestic abuse they have experienced but also the involvement of the police and the criminal justice system.

This year, with the growing evidence of the benefit of the domestic abuse court advocacy service for women, EWA developed a proposal for a Children and Young Person's Advocacy Worker to provide emotional and practical support, as well as individual advocacy in a multi-agency context, around the criminal justice system. Funding was successfully secured, and we appointed a full-time Children and Young Person's Advocacy Worker to be a 'voice' for children and young people through the court processes and to share expertise and learning with other agencies around children's particular experiences of the domestic abuse court processes and its impact.

178

CHILDREN AND  
YOUNG PEOPLE WERE  
SUPPORTED BY THE  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG  
PEOPLE'S SERVICE.



# CASE STUDY

## ADVOCACY SUPPORT FOR A YOUNG PERSON

**FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD B WAS REFERRED TO THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVOCACY WORKER (CYPAW).**



*An advocacy worker adapts a box to represent a court room.*

B was directly affected by domestic abuse. Her dad was isolating her from family and friends, keeping the family short of money and was charged by the police with physical assault of B and her sibling. B was very upset and anxious, she experienced nightmares and did not feel safe at home. Due to the psychological and emotional impact of domestic abuse, B also received additional support from a counsellor.

The case was serious enough to be referred to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) because of concerns about the safety of the family. B's advocacy worker acted on her behalf to ensure she was listened to. B was asked to think about what she wanted from the conference: what were her fears, what would make her feel safer and any other issues she wanted the agencies to understand. After the conference, we gave B a

full update and helped her access the services she needed to reduce the risks to her safety.

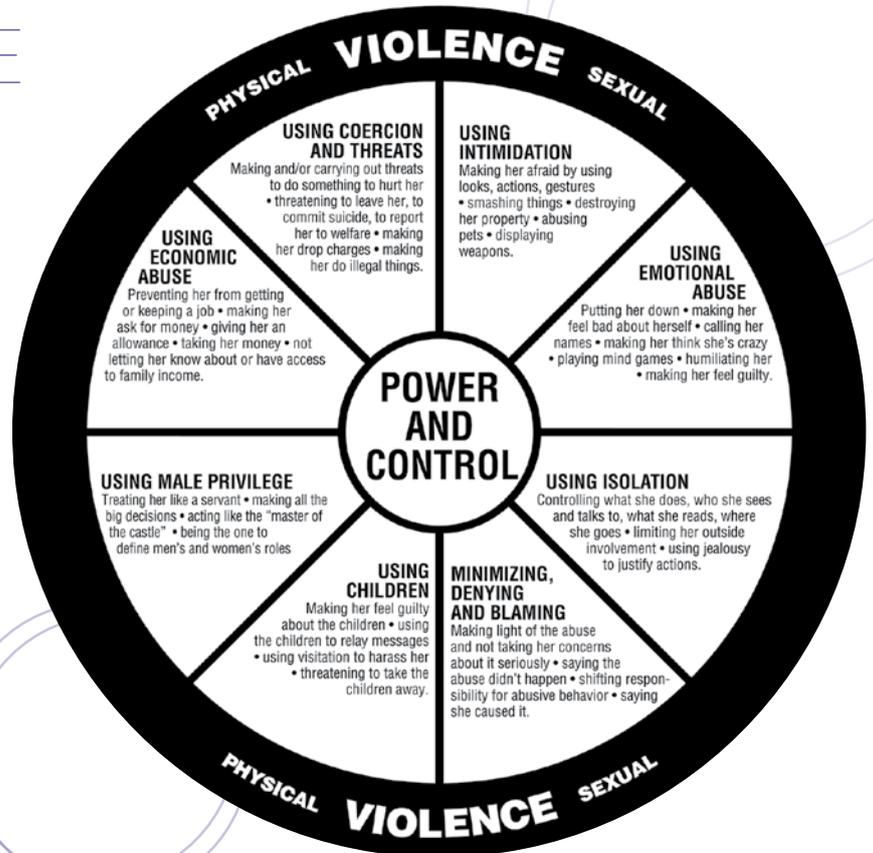
We encouraged B to share her views of what had happened. She had many questions: What is bail? How long can the court process take? Why was the court day cancelled? What does it mean when bail conditions are lifted? There was a clear need to provide information on court processes and outcomes, including children's rights within these processes. B was also a victim of physical abuse and therefore could expect to hear from the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal and the police and we talked through with her what this would involve and how she could express her wishes.

Through discussion with advocacy worker, the young person was able to think about what the court room may look like. Visualisation before going to court helped to take away some of the anxiety.

# EDDACS SERVICE

The aims of the Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Advocacy Service (EDDACS) are to support women to become safer, to support an understanding of court processes and potential outcomes and to advocate on her behalf in the Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court. The way in which we advocate for women in the court is through the provision of a specialist Court Report which informs the Domestic Abuse Court of the women's perception of her risk and our assessment of her risk.

In order to do this, we use the SafeLives Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) developed by SafeLives in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers. SafeLives is a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse previously known as Co-ordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA). Their RIC builds on the Metropolitan Police's



5,802

INCIDENTS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE WERE RECORDED IN EDINBURGH IN 2015/16.

1,413

WOMEN USED THE EDDACS SERVICE IN 2015/16.

tool to save lives and reduce incidences of serious harm through analysis of domestic homicides; it was launched as the DASH in 2008 and renamed RIC in 2014. The 24 questions are designed to identify victims of domestic abuse who are at high risk of physical harm or murder.

The RIC tool is framed around an understanding of domestic abuse as coercive control, not just physical violence, and recognises the risk implications of separation, stalking behaviour and conflict over child contact. The questions in the RIC correspond to Edinburgh Women's Aid's framing of domestic abuse and the importance of the Duluth Power and Control Wheel (see below), which we have used for many years.

The RIC is used by EDDACS workers who telephone women within 24-hours of a police call out to a domestic incident. The process of a specially-trained domestic abuse advocate asking the questions helps to raise the woman's awareness of her own risk, by linking physical risks with sexual abuse, coercive control, stalking, abuse of others and financial abuse.

Workers say that they find using the RIC a very direct way of working with women and helpful in building trust and honesty quickly over the telephone. Within a short time, they are asking victims personal questions about their relationship with the perpetrator. For women, the process of questioning can bring home the reality of her situation. The importance of a specially trained and experienced domestic abuse worker means

that the necessary immediate support and ongoing advocacy is available.

After assessing the level of risk, EDDACS helps women to complete a safety plan, tailored to their needs and developed to ensure we meet their requirements. In recognition of the nature of power and control in domestic abuse and the importance of addressing feelings of powerlessness in trauma recovery, we openly acknowledge that they are the experts in their own safety. Women are the authors of their safety plans, and we take a counsellor-advocate approach by fore fronting self-determination and recognising that this is a necessary precondition to safety. Our role in the safety plan is to support women to assess the risks that have been identified and consider their safety options.

603 OF THE CASES REFERRED WERE REPEAT INCIDENTS.

Women have told us that they find their increasing knowledge of the range of abusive behaviours and their impact empowering.

**"...YOU EXPLAINED EVERYTHING IN BLACK AND WHITE, I UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING, AND I FELT SAFER."**

**"[I FELT SAFER] BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT AND REASSURANCE...AND SAFETY PLANNING."**

Edinburgh Women's Aid and the existence of the EDDACS team has been central to the development of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) in Edinburgh. EDDACS provides the co-ordination, facilitation and administration for the Edinburgh MARAC.

Women who score more than 14 on the RIC, or who are professionally assessed to be at

risk of significant harm, or who have been victims in three police domestic incidents in one year are referred into the MARAC.

The purpose of the MARAC is to bring together multi-agency partners to share information and develop actions that will improve the safety of the victim. MARAC meetings are held every four weeks. Edinburgh Women's Aid and the EDDACS team are represented along with the police, social work, education, the NHS, housing and any other specialist agencies who are working with the woman.

### **USING OUR PRACTICE EXPERTISE TO INFLUENCE POLICY TO MAKE WOMEN SAFER**

Edinburgh Women's Aid is at the forefront of the development of MARAC to be able

208 WOMEN WERE REFERRED TO MARAC MEETINGS.

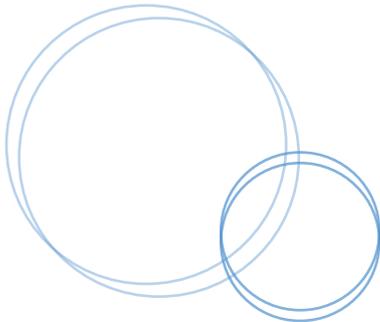
to take referrals from a wider range of services. This involves working to develop agencies confidence and understanding in dealing with domestic abuse, recognising the importance of specialist support and using referral pathways into our services.

**"I FEEL A LOT SAFER SINCE EVERYBODY/ AGENCIES HAVE BEEN AWARE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING."**



# CASE STUDY

**N HAD BEEN IN AN ON-AND-OFF RELATIONSHIP WITH HER EX-PARTNER FOR THREE YEARS. WITHIN THAT TIME, SHE HAD SUFFERED BOTH PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE. N WAS REFERRED TO THE EDDACS SERVICE AFTER A POLICE INCIDENT WHERE HER EX-PARTNER CARRIED OUT AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK BY KICKING, PUNCHING AND CHOKING HER AT HOME.**



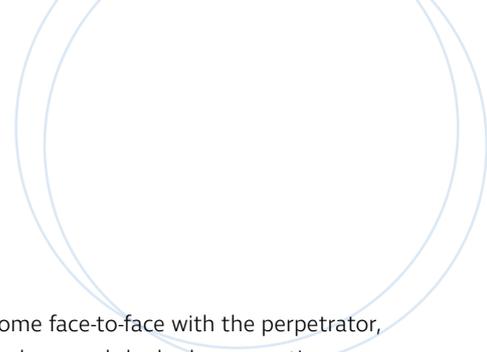
EDDACS helped N complete a SafeLives Risk Identification Checklist, which identified the risk of future harm as well as the appropriate steps needed to reduce the immediate risk. N was assessed as being at high risk and with the help of EDDACS, moved to safe temporary accommodation away from her ex-partner.

The court process is often a complex procedure for many and frequently contributes to existing feelings of stress and anxiety. As N often felt overwhelmed, EDDACS would provide unconditional emotional support as well as guidance throughout the lengthy legal proceedings.

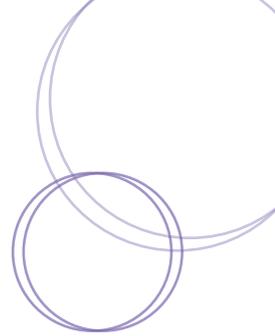
EDDACS continually advocated on N's behalf to make the court process less stressful. We requested special measures at the criminal court hearing so that N did not have to

come face-to-face with the perpetrator, and ensured she had a supportive person from the witness service. This additional support helped N to overcome her anxiety of attending court. She was able to give evidence at the trial against her ex-partner, who was found guilty. At the last sentencing hearing, N's ex-partner was sentenced to a three-and-a-half-years custodial sentence. He was also given a non-harassment order not to contact or approach N for ten years.

N was incredibly relieved by the outcome, and that legal measures are in place in case he tries to contact her directly or through his friends. N can now move on with her life, safe from the abuse that had become so familiar, and take active steps to improve not only her self-esteem but her overall wellbeing.



# SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS



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

**Summarised Financial Statements: Year ended 31 March 2016**

**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 2016. The full audited statements dated 23 August 2016, 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 2016**

I have examined the extracts from the financial statements of Edinburgh Women's Aid for the year ended 31 March 2016, set out on pages 22 & 23. In my opinion they are consistent with the full annual accounts.

**Kevin Cattnach**

**Senior Statutory Auditor for and on behalf of Whitelaw Wells,  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, 9 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6AT  
23 August 2016**

## SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS

THE CHARITY HAS NO  
RECOGNISED GAINS OR LOSSES  
OTHER THAN THE SURPLUS FOR  
THE ABOVE FINANCIAL YEARS.

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE CLASSIFIED  
AS CONTINUING.

## EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID LIMITED

### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2016

	2016 Total Funds £	2015 Total Funds £
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	15,024	13,159
Fees and appeals	2,170	2,395
Bank interest	2,037	3,447
Grants and housing income	1,307,421	1,131,835
Other income	202	2,380
Total Income	<u>1,326,854</u>	<u>1,153,216</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Raising funds	1,655	1,615
Charitable Activities		
Refuge & resettlement	1,143,078	1,051,118
Children's services	178,138	174,189
Total Expenditure	<u>1,322,871</u>	<u>1,226,922</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the Year	<u><u>3,983</u></u>	<u><u>(73,706)</u></u>

## EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID LIMITED

### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2016

	Note	2016	2015
	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets		85,758	95,461
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	64,395		103,957
Cash at bank and in hand	631,748		540,866
		<u>696,143</u>	<u>644,823</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(79,648)		(42,014)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>616,495</u>	<u>602,809</u>
Net Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>702,253</u>	<u>698,270</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>702,253</u>	<u>698,270</u>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General Funds		494,486	480,419
Designated Funds		124,914	136,087
		<u>619,400</u>	<u>616,506</u>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		<u>82,853</u>	<u>81,764</u>
		<u>702,253</u>	<u>698,270</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.

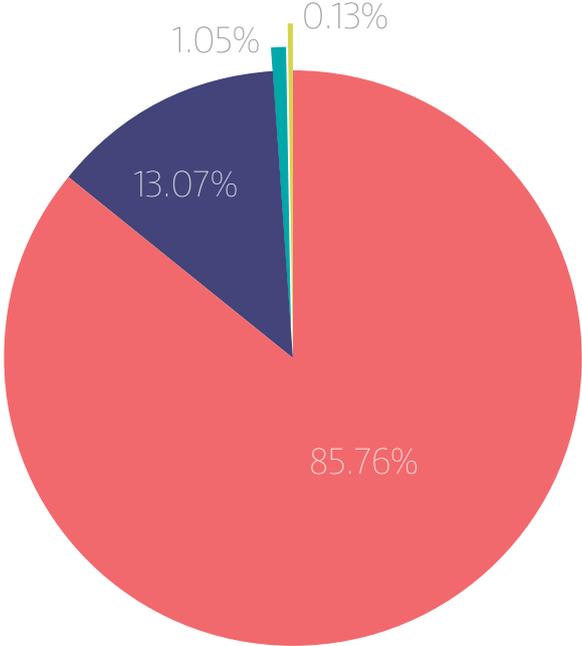
THE FULL ACCOUNTS WERE  
APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS ON 23 AUGUST  
2016 AND SIGNED ON THEIR

BEHALF BY:-



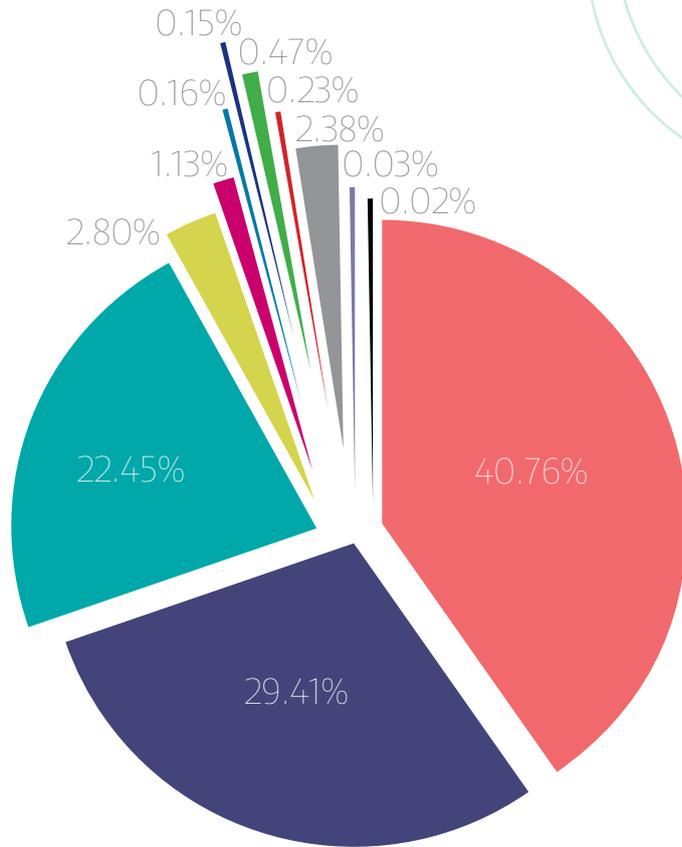
Naomi Blight

# STATISTICS – RESOURCES AND INCOME



### 2015-2016 Resources Expended

- Cost of Generating Funds (£1,655)
- Woman's Services (£1,134,491)
- Children's Services (£172,868)
- Governance Costs (£13,857)



### 2015-2016 Income Resources

- City of Edinburgh Council (£540,816)
- Scottish Government (£390,241)
- CEC Housing Benefit (£297,886)
- Direct Rent & Fuel (£37,204)
- Donations & Legacies (£15,024)
- Fundraising Events (£2,170)
- Investment Income (£2,037)
- Barnardo's (£6,284)
- Youth & Philanthropy Initiative (£3,000)
- Esmee Fairbairn (£31,590)
- Scottish Women's Aid (£400)
- Other Income (£202)

# MAIN FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

## MAIN FUNDERS

Barnardos • Big Lottery Becoming a Survivor Fund • CEC Children & Families • CEC Health and Social Care • CEC Services for Communities Esmee Fairbairn Foundation • Scottish Government Violence against Women Fund • Scottish Government Children's Services Fund  
Scottish Government Strategic Intervention Fund

## ADDITIONAL FUNDERS

Firrhill High School (Youth and Philanthropy Initiative)

## SUPPORTERS

A Christianson • Adam & Company • Aegon • Andrew Thin • Anne Cochrane • Artemis Investment Management plc • Balerno Parish Church • Benson MS D • Beveridge & Kellas • Blackwell's • BNY Mellon • Broughton High School • Charities Aid Foundation • Cannonmills Church • Christians Against Poverty • Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh • Corstorphine Old Parish Church  
Corstorphine St Ninian's Parish Church • Crew Road Nursery  
E McPherson • Edinburgh Bar Association • Edinburgh's Spirit of

Christmas • Fairmilehead Parish Church • Festival Theatre • Fettes College • George Heriot's School • Gilmerton New Church • Home Start • James Gibb • Jim Halley • Kathleen Dignan • Liberton Kirk Mackay FS • Maclay Murray and Spens LLP • Mary Erskine School  
Mayfield Salisbury Church • Mr & Mrs Daly • Murrayfield Parish Church  
Nancy Steel • Paediatrics Team, Edinburgh University • Populus Princes Trust • Queen Margaret Royal Infirmary Edinburgh • Rotary Club of Edinburgh • Royal Bank of Scotland • Scottish Funding Council • Scottish Gas • Scottish Water • Search.co.uk • Selex ES  
Sheila Hall • Shoe Box Giving • Smith's Deli • St John Colinton Mains Church • Tesco Bank • The Church of Scotland • The Corstorphine Nursery • The Stand, Edinburgh • The Tanner Family • Trudy McPherson • Wight Chiropractic Clinic • Zoe Harvey

We would also like to thank the many people who donate toiletries, 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 the very generous Ramadan collection from Edinburgh's Muslim

Community. Many thanks too, to Lifecare and to all the social landlords (Castle Rock Edinvar, Homes in Scotland, Hillcrest Housing Association and the City of Edinburgh Council) from whom we rent our properties.

## DROP IN AND HELPLINE HOURS

Drop-in service (4 Cheyne Street) and phone support (0131 315 8110)

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

**JustGiving™**

**Believe in children**  
**Barnardo's**  
Scotland



**• EDINBURGH •**  
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



LOTTERY FUNDED

## CURRENT STAFF MEMBERS

Katie Anderson	Premila Healy	Margaret Patrizio	Rosie Smith
Isabella Balloch	Lisa Kane	Clare Philpot	Maureen Stevenson
Debbie Bell	Dorota Lings	Fran Previdi	Cathy Todd
Beata Burchard	Julie MacDonald	Alison Pupkis	Val Waugh
Susie Chandramohan	Noreen McCafferty	Susan Rae	Karen Wilks
Kim Chapman	Lee McCormack	Catriona Robertson	Laura Williams
Jasmine Clark	Kiro McIntyre	Linda Rodgers	Louise Young
Lisa Dowie	Yvonne McMeechan	Alison Roxburgh	Mauline Zvaita
Margaret Gibson	Yin Yin Mok	Georgia Scott-Brien	
Rachel Gollan	Mariea Nairn	Khayrun Shah	
Karen Griffiths	Dorota Oleksiewicz	Mary Sinclair	
Caroline Harley	Joanna Oleszczyk	Sherry Singh	

## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Alva Traebert (Chair)	Maxine Cuffe (Treasurer) (resigned 12/5/2015)	Maro McNab
Naomi Blight (Vice Chair)	Miriam Khan	Kirsty Mooney
Deborah Benson (Treasurer)	Abbie McCreath	Fiona Morrison
Jo Birch (resigned 24/5/2016)	Irina McLean	Jane O'Donnell

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

