

1981: Women's Day Faifley: SWA workshop – Support starts from Faifley. Campaigning begins for funding and refuge

1983: Urban Aid funding secured for workers and refuge: Affiliated to Scottish

1987: First Urban Aid Funding Ends. Funding granted for a further 3 years

1989: Campaigning began to get mainline funding as in last year of Urban Aid funding. Feeling that there was a general apathy and some councillors seemed interested in having the service closed

1990: Year to year funding agreed by WDC

2000s: funded by package of housing benefit, supporting people, topped up by section 10 grant from what was social work, now CHCP. Continued year on year.

2011 / 2012: Responsibility for funding was transferred to WDC homeless department. This was done without consultation with CWA

2011 / 2012 / 2013: Homeless department continue to attempt to cut funding levels but have been successfully challenged on this with support of local councillors

2014: Homeless department proposes that they will fund only housing functions as they do not have the flexibility within their budget anymore. We have to supply percentages of our work which may fit into the 3 areas of housing function (tenancy sustainment, prevention of homelessness and anti-social behaviour). Propose that refuge becomes self-financing via housing benefit (this was agreed at WDC committee stage) Housing benefit only covers the fabric and security of the building and leaves a marked short fall). Within current situation there are no support costs for work around domestic abuse available for women in refuge, CYP in refuge, financial malmanagement of services, resettlement services for women moving on from services, support costs for women not living in refuge, support for women who cannot access refuge due to additional needs / barriers (addiction, severer mental health etc.,). In contact with WDC CHCP to request they pick up short fall. Also appear that we no longer have the backing of the current labour group which has the majority in WD area.

January 2015: WDC announced it was withdrawing 100% for CWA's annual funding – letter stated that "The CHCP is not in a position to identify future funding of what was provided by a by Women's Aid as the "care" element of their service provision". At this point WDC were trying to put a new, cheaper arrangement in place whereby women and children would be supported within WDC's homeless properties. Only income to be Housing benefit which will cover Janitorial role.

February 2015: "Council gives in and throws lifeline to Women's Aid" headline. After online petition signed by 15,000 people and demonstrations outside WDC offices, new funding offered to groups. Councillor , stated that the "council had supported Women's Aid for many years and, despite a 22% cut in funding from the Scottish Government we are committed to continue this support. In last week's budget we transferred a further 450,000 to the Community Planning Partnership for Women's Aid to provide further services over the next three years: £75,000 per year via CPP, £42,000 Tenancy sustainment, £50,000 Homeless Support (Known as temp flats). Funding cut totalled £76,000

December 2017: Funding levels secured for a further 3 years

March 2020: COVID Pandemic. 2 long term members retired, 1 worker moved to work closer to home, 1 moved to private practice: loss of 110 years of knowledge and expertise.

March 2021: Funding secured for another 3 years and a one-off payment of £20,000 in recognition of the increases of the demands of our service during pandemic

2022: Beginning of only 3 workers providing all aspects of service including 24 hours on call. Significant recruitment issues.

July 2022: Council's 5-year pledge to continue support. DDWA and CWA will each receive 167,000 each until 2027. *Councillors unanimously approved proposals to maintain funding for the duration of the administrations term* to Violence Against Women organisations operating in West Dunbartonshire Council. They went on to say that *"the DDWA group and Clydebank Women's Aid will each receive 167,000 annually until March 2027"*. Councillor ¹ ent on to say that *"We know specifically that West Dunbartonshire has a serious problem with domestic*

abuse... over the next few years it's going to require a lot of multi-agency input and support for vital services like Dumbarton District Women's Aid, Clydebank Women's Aid and Rape Crisis it is important to us as a council that they know that we are behind them every step of the journey ahead over these next five years

September 2024: CWA and DDWA had no funding paid for period from April 24 – August 24. Relied on reserves to sustain operations. CWA and DDWA couldn't get a response from council officers. Eventually informed that it "was not good news" and that West Dunbartonshire Council (WDC) had approved cuts to the Housing Revenue Budget, as agreed by local elected members.

A proposed cut of £42,000 each to CWA and DDWA was raised in January 2024 and enforced from April 2024. Not notified of this decision until August 2024. This reduction—cutting CWA's grant funding from £167,000 to £125,000—constitutes a direct breach of the commitment made by WDC in 2022 to sustain CWA's funding through 2027. The unexpected loss of this funding has placed the continued operation of Clydebank Women's Aid in serious jeopardy.

Despite ongoing discussions with Council officers and elected members in an effort to recoup the lost funding, these attempts proved unsuccessful. CWA was unequivocally informed by (WDC) that the funding would not be reinstated through the Housing Revenue Budget, as tenants had voted in favour of the cuts. However, tenants were advised by WDC agents that CWA does not provide "tenancy sustainment" support, on the basis that there had been "no referral" to Housing Officers—despite the fact that no such referral pathway existed. In reality, up to 50% of the support provided by CWA involves tenancy sustainment work with West Dunbartonshire Council tenants. At no point prior to the tenants' meeting were we asked to provide data or clarify the scope of the services we deliver.

Equalities Impact Assessment was never produced which leads us to believe it was never conducted. When CWA sought clarification from elected members regarding why they approved the funding cut, we were told that neither CWA nor DDWA had been explicitly listed under the Housing Revenue Budget and the cuts were approved without the elected members being fully aware of their implications.

As what was termed a "gesture of goodwill," stated that WDC would continue to provide funding until December 2024. CWA was then told to "plead our case" in order to secure tenancy sustainment funding through to March 2025. This was paid through to March.

January 2025: A meeting scheduled with WDC heads of department in January 2025. However, CWA was not invited to attend this meeting, and no alternative funding was allocated. The resulting cut has placed significant financial strain on the organisation and will lead to the loss of at least one full-time post—at a time when the service is already critically understaffed.

The charity has already absorbed inflationary pressures of up to 50% over the past 15 years (according to the Bank of England inflation calculator), as well as a funding cut of £76,000 in 2014/15.

February 2025: the group was notified that WDC had put forward a proposal to elected members to discuss reducing or removing the funding provided to CWA. A WDC budget meeting has been scheduled for the 5th of March, and no final decision will be made before that time. This proposal to consider cuts to CWA's funding is, once again, in direct conflict with the commitment made by WDC in 2022 to maintain CWA's funding through to 2027, in order to secure the service for the following five years.

CWA raised this concern with local elected members, who stated that "we would always be on the table for cuts." We queried why this was the case, as—based on our understanding—CWA had not previously been considered for such reductions when funding had been protected.

March 2025: CWA organised a protest against proposed cuts at WDC council offices at on the 5th of March. Highly publicised and well attended. WDC agreed unanimously not to make further cuts to our service, but there was no consideration of the £42,000 lost – this was not recouped. CWA operating on a core grant from WDC at 125,000. This is 35% of funding levels allocated from WDC in 2006.

April 2025: CWA will no longer be in receipt of the "100 days funding" allocated by SWA. The cut of 42,000 and the loss of the 100 days funding now means the funding lost is over £60,000.