



KILMARNOCK & LOUDOUN WOMEN'S AID

66 John Finnie Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1BS
Telephone: (0563) 36001

A Registered Charity giving advice, support and refuge to battered women and their children

Chief Executive,
Clydebank District Council,
District Council Offices,
Clydebank.

28.10.92

Dear

I am writing to you regarding your Council's position in relation to funding of Clydebank Women's Aid.

As one of the Women's Aid groups affiliated to Scottish Women's Aid, we would like to express our concern that one of our local groups is under threat of closure due to the possible withdrawal of funding by Clydebank District Council.

If this decision is taken it will totally contradict the Report of the COSLA Working Party on Women & Violence published in 1991. The report states under Annex 4 (Questionnaire - Summary of Responses) District Councils that:

'Most respondents ...had experienced few problems in dealing with Women's Aid workers and were pleased to work with Women's Aid groups locally and nationally.'

Presumably your authority responded to this questionnaire positively and it therefore begs the question as to why dissatisfaction is now being expressed. As with the previous situation in Falkirk, could it be that some of your elected members feel more able to judge the needs of abused women and their children than the major recognised charity with years of experience in the field? Should this be the case, perhaps the electorate will make their judgements when the time comes as they did in Falkirk.

I understand that allegations have been made about standards of accomodation in the refuge and this again mirrors the Falkirk situation. I would point out that the Cosla report states on this issue:

Annexe 2 5.2 Standards of Accomodation in Refuges:

'The quality of refuge accomodation varies across the country, in direct relation to the accomodation and resources offered by the accomodation provider, who is nearly always the local authority.'

I understand that the District Council has so far failed to contribute towards the groups mainline funding and this will obviously have an affect on the ongoing standard of accomodation.

Clearly a lack of understanding exists in the council regarding the important and **comprehensive** role Women's Aid has in relation to services to abused women and ,crucially ,to the aspects of safety and support only provided by Women's Aid refuges.

We would urge your council to keep the needs of abused women out of the political arena and resolve any problems you feel exist in accordance with the COSLA report. The closure of this group would exacerbate a chronic shortage of refuge spaces in Scotland and particularly in the Clydebank area.

Yours sincerely,

(Kilmarnock & Loudoun Women's Aid)



Nuclear Free Zone

Clydebank District Council

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Telephone 041-941-1331 Fax 041-952-0573

Chief Executive

Our Ref : JTM/pt

29 October 1992

Kilmarnock and Loudoun Women's Aid

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Dear Madam

CLYDEBANK WOMEN'S AID

I refer to your letter dated 27 October 1992.

I will pass copies of your correspondence to the elected Members of this Authority prior to any discussion on Women's Aid. However, I would wish to draw to your attention a number of points of error contained in your letter of 27 October.

- (1) Clydebank Women's Aid is entirely the responsibility of Strathclyde Regional Council's Social Work Department and this District Council has never made any cash contribution to the Project.
- (2) Clydebank District Council provides property to Women's Aid at a rental well below the market rental of the property.
- (3) The District Council has a responsibility to ensure that all property for which we have ownership responsibility is kept in good condition.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER