



CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

NATIONAL WORK

FAMILY RESOURCE WORK

UNPAID WORK

REFUGE WORK

MULTIAGENCY WORK

TRAINING

STATISTICS

FINANCES

THE FUTURE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It would be remiss and untoward to produce an annual report without mentioning the organisations and individuals who have extended support to C.W.A. over the last year. We would therefore extend thanks to;

West Dunbartonshire Council
Philpott Platt Niblett & Wight
Fetters McDonald
Clydebank High School
Local Churches
St Vincent DePaul
Clydebank Unemployed Workers Centre
The Mobile Creche
Scottish Womens Aid

The work of C.W.A. is also supported by many individuals in the community who make donations of clothing / household items and toys. We value their contribution to our project.

WOMEN'S AID & THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

The re-forming of the Scottish Parliament is an exciting opportunity for Scottish Women's Aid and is an ideal opportunity for Scotland to tackle the issue of domestic abuse. According to the Scottish Crime Survey Report 1996 found Scotland has the highest incidence of domestic abuse in Europe. Therefore, we feel that eradicating domestic abuse should be a matter of priority for the Scottish Parliament.

To date MSP's have shown an interest and commitment to domestic abuse via it's media publicity campaign, the setting up of the Partnership on Domestic Abuse, and the Domestic Abuse Development Fund. Whilst we welcome these initiatives Women's Aid groups are still under resourced and inadequately funded, but, our hope is that this is just the beginning. That in the future women's Aid will gain the right number of refuge spaces and will receive secure ring fenced funding to cover the wide diversity of areas of work we undertake.

NATIONAL WORK

Clydebank Women's Aid are part of the Scottish Women's Aid network of 39 affiliated groups which decide the policy of the network. This process is done through the six geographical localised groupings throughout Scotland. CWA is part of West Strathclyde localised grouping which comprises Drumchapel, Dumbarton Gryffe, (one of only two groups for black and ethnic minority women) Inverclyde, Argyll & Bute, we meet every six weeks to share information, discuss and vote on policy. Two delegates take our votes to the Executive which takes place quarterly and this is where all decisions are made.

We have a national office in Edinburgh employing 10 national workers whose remits are:-

- Training
- Children
- Housing/Refuge
- Publicity
- Legal Issues
- Finances
- Network

The work of the national office is directed by Policy and development groups made up of representatives from localised groupings. Employment issues are the responsibility of the Staffing Group again comprising reps from localised groupings.

There are also short term working parties formed to look at issues of concern or in response to new legislation e.g. statistics, National Funding Strategy Group.

CWA are represented on the Housing/Refuge and Children's PDG's.

Over the past year the Housing/Refuge PDG has along with National Refuge workers members produced a booklet entitled 25 Years of Listening to Women. This contained writings, poems, artwork of women's experiences before, during, and after refuge over the past 25 years. It was launched on the 25th November 1999, International Day to End Violence Against Women, in the City Chambers, Edinburgh. Speakers included Maureen Macmillan MSP, and a women speaking about her own experiences. Guests included women who had used the service, Women's Aid Workers, Women's organisations, Councillors, and MSP's, as well as other voluntary and statutory organisations.

Other pieces of work undertaken by the PDG were comments on the Executives Green Paper on Housing. A briefing paper produced in conjunction with National Funding Strategy group, and Children's PDG outlining our funding needs. This was used to lobby all MSP's and led to the setting up of the Domestic Abuse Development Fund. Research into specialist refuge provision, production of a handbook for Housing Association workers in conjunction with SFHA. SEDD funding to produce packs for workers and women who use the service on the issues around women with alcohol dependency. Research into the standard of housing women receive using Housing Scotland Act as a result of domestic abuse.

Work undertaken by the Children' PDG, a launch of Children said brochure on the 9th November 1999 which was information collated from postcards from children throughout Scotland who have lived with abuse and used Women's Aid services. This was presented to Sam Galbraith MSP Minister for Education and other MSP's in Edinburgh..

A training pack for women's aid workers interested in working with children and young people within the network was produced.

the PDG had input into a Shelter Conference on the effects on children leaving domestic abuse causing homelessness from this conference Shelter received funding to produce a Resource Pack for homeless children, the PDG is on the monitoring group for this.

The PDG attended a Childline conference on Children in Need.

CWA also have a member of the collective who is a Director of Scottish Women's Aid who oversees the financial Management of the National office.

FAMILY RESOURCE WORKER

The family resource worker links up closely with mothers to look at the individual needs of each child or young person. At this point she explains what working with children involves and the service her and her family can expect to receive whilst living in refuge.

Many children and young people live with domestic abuse and cope with it's consequence for themselves, their siblings and their mother, without anyone who comes into contact with them knowing about it. Often it is only on the arrival at the refuge that children finally break the silence that has surrounded their experience.

Work with children who have experienced domestic abuse is essential as they have the right to individual support as survivors of abuse not because they are tomorrow's abusers. A common myth about children who live with abuse is that they will automatically repeat the behaviour as adults. This denies children's need for, not to mention right to, support simply because they have been hurt or are in distress. Apart from that central point, no study has yet demonstrated that there is such a cycle. A 1987 review (Kaufman and Ziglar) of the evidence concluded that no more than 30% of those who have witnessed/experienced violence in childhood are currently abusive, and found no evidence to support the view that abused women were more likely to have witnessed violence in their childhood. Disputing this model does not mean there are no examples where experiences of abuse are present in generations of families. It is rather questioning simplistic ideas about repeating learnt behaviour as if it were the same as a nursery rhyme. Human beings are not machines - we make sense of, place ourselves in relation to events and actions. A thinking and decision making process is involved before we act similarly or differently to events we have been witness to or experienced. The children have to face strangers like teachers, social workers, police, doctors, the court, other workers asking questions about their mum and dad. They may be relieved to talk or they might be frightened. They may resent the intrusion and be scared of leaving their mother. Children might learn you can't trust people in power if they have had a bad experience with the authorities. The attitude of people in authority and people woman and children come across can make an enormous difference to how a child make sense of what is happening.

Listed below is just some of the day to day work carried out by the F.R.W. (not in order of priority)

- Time to welcome each child individually.
- Talking and listening to children's experiences of domestic abuse.
- Arranging for each child to attend schools and where possible a nursery place for pre 5
- Information to access health services, interest groups, youth clubs etc.
- Planning and carrying out play sessions within refuge for different age groups.
- Preparing sessions outwith refuge, swimming, cinema, local perks
- One to one work with children who may be experiencing difficulties and offer support
- Small group work creating a safe environment for them to discuss their feelings and support for each other
- Holding children's meetings to talk about refuge rules i.e. why women only, no violence and for their input about future playsessions.
- Working with women and children on a range of matters, difficulties in parent-child relationship, non violent discipline of children.
- Identifying and building resources re anti-discriminatory work with children.
- Supporting women and children at Social Work Department, case reviews.
- Attending S.W.A. National children's meetings.
- Fund-raising and planning for playschemes and ongoing playsessions.

We were awarded a play scheme grant last year which allowed us to organise and implement 10 weeks of playscheme activities. Using internal transport and playscheme transport passes provided by WestDumbartonshire we were able to provide educational trips and activity based outings on a daily basis to all children that have used our service.

The family resource worker will continue at local and national level to provide a quality service to families living in refuge and those using the service for information and support only.

NEW FAMILY RESOURCE WORKER'S REPORT.

I came into post January. Although I have been an unpaid worker here for three years I have found a huge difference with working with children. I enjoyed organising the Easter and Summer playschemes
I find it very satisfying when I can see a change in children when they become more relaxed and starting to enjoy living in refuge. I'm looking forward to continuing my work both within women's aid and other agencies, attending childrens protocol meetings, visiting local nurseries etc, keeping up to date with children and young people's rights.

UNPAID WORKERS PERSONAL ACCOUNT.

I wanted to become involved in helping abused women and children because of personal experiences. I was invited to attend training by Women's Aid November 1996. Although I had used the service in the past the training heightened my awareness of issues affecting women and children, the training was more in depth than I imagined, I also found it very emotionally challenging.

I then went on to unpaid work with Women's Aid, I started off doing a 13 week probationary period. During this time I participated and learned all aspects of working with Women's Aid. I found that getting to grips with the structure of the organisation nationally most difficult at that time. The most enjoyable aspect was feeling useful and being able to do practical things to support women using the service.

I get a great deal of satisfaction from my work, although I'm learning new things all the time. I feel the service is very underestimated, I also believe it's sad that there's not enough funding available to run an even better service e.g. renew furniture for the refuge, more workers, toys for children etc.

I found collective working very different but a lot better than a hierarchical way of working. Although I feel happy to take up responsibility to all aspects of managing the project as a collective member sometimes when difficult decisions are required or when the workload seems overwhelming the responsibility can be daunting.

I have now moved on to be the Family Resource worker after three years of being an unpaid worker. I always wanted to become a paid worker since becoming involved with Women's Aid.

REFUGE WORKERS REPORT

CWA have 6 spaces for women (and any accompanying children they may have). Each woman or family have their own bedroom and share sitting rooms and bathrooms. A laundry and playroom are situated on the groundfloor.

All women fleeing domestic abuse have the right to temporary accommodation through a local authority many however, choose refuge, and comment often on the positive aspects, company, safety, support, (both from workers and other residents). Of great benefit is the opportunity for women and children to break down the isolation, and brainwashing they have experienced throughout the period of their abuse. Communal living is hard work and requires compromises. CWA never cease to be impressed by the strength and determination and struggle to rebuild their lives in the face of many obstacles and drawbacks women confront daily.

Women access refuge for:-

- a) Time-out to recuperate and regain strength.
- b) As temporary accommodation whilst awaiting rehousing under Housing Scotland Act.
- c) Whilst awaiting Protective orders or other legal orders before returning home.

Not all women are appropriate for communal living sometimes because of mental health difficulties they may be experiencing, difficulties around dependencies etc. and our group is involved in discussion within SWA network ways in which women falling into these groups can be best accommodated and supported.

Last year as every other year has proved difficult with regard to refuge refurbishment and maintenance. It is a constant struggle to keep the refuge well equipped and furnishing and fittings in good order and safety equipment to the right standard. However, we have managed rather well on our limited budget. Double glazed windows, a new front door, and some new blinds courtesy of WDC have been a welcome improvement.

MULTIAGENCY WORKING.

Over the past year Clydebank Women's Aid has been heavily involved in the work of West Dunbartonshire Domestic Violence Forum, now named West Dunbartonshire Domestic Abuse Partnership.

The work necessitated Clydebank Women's Aid presence on the following working groups:

- Management Group.
- Strategic Planning Group
- Civil and Criminal Justice Group
- Children's Protocol
- Respect
- Good Practice Group

Clydebank Women's Aid prioritised this work over the past year which drew on a substantial amount of our resources. Now that a strategy has been developed and DASDAF funding secured the next stage i.e. implementation, should see some easing off of Clydebank Women's Aid involvement, although our commitment to the Partnership continues.

TRAINING.

MAY 1999	MENTAL HEALTH & DA MAKING THE CONNECTION. DOMESTIC ABUSE CONFERENCE - POLICE CHILDREN'S REPORTER - CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE.
JUNE 1999	VOLUNTARY SECTOR FORUM - DRUG AWARENESS HOUSING LEGISLATION.
JULY 1999	POLICE TRAINING
AUGUST 1999	POLICE TRAINING
SEPT 1999	POLICE TRAINING
NOV 1999	ONE PLUS - WOMEN'S SAFETY MEETINGS RE TRAINING WITH WDC
JAN 2000	WDC TRAINING
FEB 2000	SOCIAL INCLUSION SEMINAR.
MAR 2000	HEARING IMPAIRMENT - DISABILITY AWARENESS WDC TRAINING.

During 1999 Clydebank Women's Aid was heavily involved in facilitating training, with DDWA, for local Police Officers and also for Managers within WDC.

The Police training took place in July/August/September of 1999 and the objective was that each officer would attend a session where we would cover understanding the situation of an abused woman and the training officer from the police would cover what was expected of the police when called out to incidents of Domestic Abuse.

This involved using a lot of Women's Aid resources in terms of workers time and expenses neither of which were covered by Strathclyde Police. Although we welcomed the invitation to facilitate this training, it put great strains on our already overstretched budget and any future decisions about training from WA would have to involve careful planning and costings.

However, on the positive side, it would seem that, at last, police attitudes to Domestic Abuse are changing and at the training sessions we were able to discuss why women stay and why women sometimes return to violent partners, challenge attitudes and explain the service that WA provides.

West Dunbartonshire Council introduced a policy for employees who were experiencing Domestic Abuse. we were invited by Mary Cullen, then Head of Corporate Policy, who was instrumental in introducing this policy, to work with WDC Training Section to provide training on how managers could best support their employees. This involved a full consultation process with WDC who agreed to cover costs for both Clydebank and Dumbarton WA groups.

This training again had a positive outcome with departmental managers discussing the best options for supporting abused women.

Training to the Children's Panel members in May 99 produced a positive feedback from the sixty panel members who attended.

Clydebank Women's Aid members continued, throughout the year, to take up relevant affordable training mainly through Scottish Women's Aid e.g. Housing Legislation, Hearing Impairment Disability Awareness, Directors Responsibilities.

There was also community involvement training on Drug Awareness, Mental Health, Women's Safety, Social Inclusion..

Women's Aid continued to provide Awareness Training within the community.

It is essential that Women's Aid workers are able to attend relevant training courses to continue to offer a comprehensive service to abused women and any accompanying children.

Clydebank Women's Aid continue to offer training on our service and awareness training and would be happy to discuss training input with any groups in the area.

STATISCAL INDICATERS

It is apparent that there has been a decrease in the number of women using the service this past year CWA feel that there are 3 factors which contributed to this:-

- a) The extensive roadwork's which are part of the canal renewal project i.e. building works, men. and equipment in close proximity to the office premises.
- b) The removing and re-surfacing of the pavements in the street meant access was impossible and the noise and disruption meant we were unable to counsel women in the office or on the phone.
- c) The fitting of new windows which took far longer than planned.

S.W.A. ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICS 1999/2000

Name of group Clydebank Number of spaces 6

TYPE OF CONTACT

office 1633

phone call 2648

SOURCE OF CONTACTS

self 2522

other W.A. group 861

S.W.D. 194

housing 290

other vol orgs 141

friends/relatives 232

police 22

medical agencies 19

other _____

Number of contacts requesting info & support only 3469

Number of requests for refuge 812

Number of women admitted own refuge 73 Number of children admitted own refuge 80

Number of women admitted other refuge 141 Number of children admitted other refuge 217

Number of women turned away due to lack of space (own group) 282
children 348

Number of women turned away due to lack of space (other group or agency) 316 children 376

Number of women offered refuge who did not take up space _____
children _____

Number of women who requested refuge for whom refuge is inappropriate _____ children _____

REFUGE OUTCOMES

returned to partner 12

friends and relatives 4

transfer to other W.A. refuges 11

home with partner away (interdict, exclusion order or transfer of tenancy) 9

rehoused by council 31

rehoused by housing association 3

private rented accommodation 2

other 1

FINANCE WORKER'S REPORT.

As the 1999/2000 accounts show we had a deficit of £2607. In consultation with West Dunbartonshire Council we looked at options for funding for 2000/01 and agreed on an increased Housing Benefit level. This should eliminate the deficit over the coming financial year.

Funding will continue to be reviewed with West Dunbartonshire Council having made a commitment to adequately funding Clydebank Women's Aid in the future.

CLYDEBANK WOMENS AID

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2000

	Notes	£	2000 £	£	1999 £
INCOME					
West Dunbartonshire Council Grants			57,966		51,302
Rents Received			38,799		41,852
Donations			930		4,666
Interest Received			166		220
Sundry Income			1,000		475
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			98,861		98,515
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries		83,874		74,495	
Heat and Light		3,048		4,411	
Telephone		2,071		3,047	
Office Expenses, Postages and Stationery		1,433		136	
Childrens Playscheme		187		50	
Repairs and Household Sundries		1,745		3,450	
Travel Expenses		1,330		363	
Subscriptions	4	468		391	
Rent, Rates and Insurance		3,896		3,766	
Audit and Accountancy	4	1,200		1,821	
Bank Charges		63		-	
Sundry Expenses		620		645	
Volunteer Expenses		662		-	
Cleaning		-		1,352	
Office Equipment		873		383	
Cash for Kids		-		50	
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
			101,468		94,360
			<hr/>		<hr/>
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year			(2,607)		4,155

THE FUTURE

Our aim for the future is to provide a service that is accessible to all women regardless of their special needs e.g. dependencies, mental health or disability.

Clydebank Women's Aid are working towards identifying and closing the existing gaps in provision in conjunction with external agencies

We plan to establishing resources such as a drop in facilities in specific areas of Clydebank, where the levels of referral have fallen.

Recently we secured funding which will allow us to set up programmes of activities for women who have used the service and women in the wider community.

There will be two rolling programmes through the year, each one will last ten weeks, activities will include.

- Tai Chi
- Assertiveness training
- Self defence
- Aromatherapy
- Reflexology
- One plus