



Edinburgh WOMEN'S AID

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

2021

IMPACT REPORT

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ABOUT EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID

At Edinburgh Women's Aid, we envision a society that is free from domestic abuse.

To that end, we have been providing critical support to women and children affected by domestic abuse for the past 48 years. We provide a range of services covering crisis support, recovery and prevention and we operate across Edinburgh.

We empower women, children and young people to make their own decisions and support them in this process.

We work in partnership with other organisations and together we are developing an effective multi-disciplinary approach to dealing with domestic abuse across Edinburgh and beyond.

In 2021 we supported



1945
women

&

211
children &
young people



to recover from the trauma of domestic abuse

OUR CHAIR

Welcome to our 2021 Impact Report.

In these pages you will see the continued impact of the pandemic on women and children affected by domestic abuse and the wide range of work that Edinburgh Women's Aid has carried out to make their lives better. You will also read about our new developments and approaches and about our crucial partnership work with colleagues in the third, private and statutory services.

Throughout this difficult second year of the pandemic we have again been humbled by the considerable support we have received. We received additional support to manage the crisis resulting from the pandemic from the Scottish Government, Comic Relief, Children in Need, Barclays Bank and many smaller trusts. City of Edinburgh Council extended our contracts with them for a further year, reducing uncertainty and enabling us to plan and flex our services according to women's and children's needs. The Scottish Government Equally Safe Fund was likewise extended by a year to provide much needed stability in our service delivery. Our community in Edinburgh have overwhelmed us yet again with their support, providing computer equipment, taking on fundraising challenges and holding collections on our behalf, and we are enormously grateful to every single one of you.

More than 2,000 women and almost 200 children used our services this year. This report shows the positive impact that our services has had on them.

All of the achievements you read about in this report would not be possible without the commitment, passion and skill of our staff and Board members. I am extremely grateful to them all for their hard work, compassion and flexibility in this challenging year. It is an honour to work with the women of Edinburgh Women's Aid and be part of the ongoing struggle to eliminate violence against women and children.

Morag Waller

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

672

women contacted our helpline
or attended drop-in for support

42

women stayed in refuge
accommodation

143

children were supported at home
through virtual support (or in person
as COVID restrictions allowed)

1052

women used the
EDDACS court
support service

34

children and young people
were supported by our court
advocacy service

99

women engaged with our
employability service

598

people attended training with
us around domestic abuse
awareness

19

children stayed in refuge

28

children and their
mothers completed CEDAR
domestic abuse recovery
programme

In total we supported

1945

women and

211

children and young people

OUR CEO

2021 has been another year of change and growth for Edinburgh Women's Aid.

The year started with our second lockdown and proceeded through the gradual opening up of life in general. We saw a similar pattern to last year, with women and children struggling to access services whilst locked down with their abusers and an increase in referrals when lockdown eased. Our staff managed these ebbs and flows admirably and worked hard to ensure that they were able to meet the needs of women and children as they came to us.

We continued to develop our flexibility. For instance, early in the year we moved our webchat service from a weekday daytime service to a Thursday - Monday evening service in response to demand. We completed the process of restructuring the organisation to harmonise our teams to the four Edinburgh localities, thus strengthening our local multi-agency relationships with staff from the NHS, City of Edinburgh Council and Police Scotland, and supporting improved responses to domestic abuse in local areas.

We offered our wide range of services across a range of methods including meeting safely in person in venues across the city and at our drop-in centre in Stockbridge, via telephone, webchat and through video conferencing. The majority of women continued to prefer to meet online or by telephone as opposed to in person and we continued to offer telephone/online support across a wider range of hours than pre-pandemic.

We continue to develop and trial new services and approaches in response to feedback and demand from women and we were delighted this year to partner with Scottish Women's Aid and BG Family Law to pilot a bespoke specialist domestic abuse legal service from our premises in Stockbridge. In the first months of this project



we are learning about the complex legal needs of women affected by domestic abuse and the type of system change required to meet these needs.

Moving into 2022, our Polish language project has been linked with CEC Polish Domestic Abuse Services in a partnership funded by the Scottish Government which will provide peer support and development for staff, resource sharing and improved cohesion between services for women. Our employability partnership with Shakti continues as does our PhD partnership with University of Edinburgh Social Work Department. We are providing data and input into a number of research projects including the SG research into the impact of the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 and the DAHLIA 19 international research study exploring domestic abuse policy and practice during the COVID-19 pandemic.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication, flexibility and sheer hard work of Edinburgh Women's Aid's talented staff team. From their own homes and while dealing with the effects of the pandemic on their own lives, this team of women have continued to support women and children in unsafe relationships, who are experiencing the trauma of abuse and in recovery. I am humbled by the staff's commitment to the women and children who need our support and I am eternally grateful to them for everything they have done during this difficult time.

This report shows the difference that our specialist, committed staff team have made to women's and children's lives over the last twelve months. As always, grateful thanks to the financial support of our core funders and to the trusts, companies and individuals that make what we do possible.



Linda Rodgers

WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Domestic abuse is persistent and controlling behaviour by a partner or ex-partner which causes physical, sexual and/or emotional harm. It often gets worse over time. It is a pattern of dominating and isolating someone through fear and threats or undermining their self-confidence and self-esteem.

Domestic Abuse, sometimes called 'intimate terrorism' can happen if you live with your partner, or if you don't. It can be perpetrated by a partner or an ex-partner. It can happen if you have children, and if you don't, and it cuts across class, ethnic and social boundaries.

Domestic Abuse often involves serious and sustained physical and sexual abuse which can cause injuries and lead to long-term health problems. It can also take the form of withholding money and finances, monitoring women and children's movements, restricting what they wear, who they see, where they go and what they say, on and offline.

Although domestic abuse can happen in same-sex relationships and men can be victims too, in the vast majority of cases the abuse is experienced by women and children and perpetrated by men.

It is estimated that

1 in 4



women

&

1 in 5



children & young people

will experience domestic abuse

HOW DO WE HELP?



Referral

Women come to us through many avenues; most make contact themselves through our crisis line, drop-in or webchat. Many are also referred by other services such as the police, social work or other third sector organisations. Friends and family sometimes contact us in the first instance so that they can support someone to get in touch with us. Sometimes they are not sure if what they are experiencing is wrong and they just need someone to talk to. We provide a listening ear, a wealth of knowledge and experience, and practical resources to help.



The Legal System

Many women find themselves interacting with the legal system, whether due to legal charges against their perpetrator, child custody issues or to get a non-harassment order. We support them through the process, listening to their concerns and wishes, explaining the processes to them, and helping them to access legal aid. Our Child Advocacy programme gives children and young people a voice, ensuring that their needs and wishes are heard.



Crisis Intervention

When women are living with domestic abuse and want to change their situation, we support them to take practical steps, such as safety planning, finding accommodation, arranging taxis, providing safety alarms, and more.

HOW DO WE HELP?

Emotional support

Domestic abuse can have a devastating effect on the mental health and self-esteem of women and children. We offer one-to-one support and referrals that help them name and process their emotions and rebuild their self-esteem and the ability to recover from the abuse they have experienced.



Housing



Women who have experienced domestic abuse often need safe accommodations. We have refuges that women and their children can move into if they need to, some of which provide 24-hour support for women with additional support needs. We also support women to find suitable independent living arrangements when they are ready to leave refuge.

Employability

Women who have experienced domestic abuse often have specific challenges to employability - they may have been kept from developing skills by their perpetrator, their self-esteem may have been impacted by the abuse, their path back to work may be consistently interrupted by legal complications or continued aggression by their perpetrator. We offer employability support that specifically takes into account the needs of women who have survived domestic abuse.



WHAT DO WE OFFER?

We may first hear about the domestic abuse as a result of a **crisis**, but the effects are wide ranging and ongoing. EWA is committed to helping women and children not only escape violent situations, but also to support them to **recover** and thrive afterward, through emotional, legal and practical support. We also continuously work towards a world without domestic violence through our **prevention** efforts.

In Crisis



For women:

- Helpline, Drop-in and Webchat
- Refuge accommodation for women and accompanying children
- Court Advocacy (available in Polish & English)
- 1:1 Support (available in Polish & English)

For children & young people (CYP):

- Refuge for CYP alongside their mothers
- Court Advocacy for CYP

For Recovery



For women:

- Counselling
- Peer Support
- Housing Support
- Works4Women employability program

For children & young people (CYP):

- 1:1 Support for CYP
- CEDAR (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery), a 12-week therapeutic programme for CYP and their mothers
- Art Therapy for CYP

Towards Prevention



- Providing training across the third sector to increase awareness about domestic abuse, including how to recognise it and how to improve the safety of women and children.
- Working with schools, colleges and universities to raise awareness and support young people to avoid abusive relationships.

FIONA

Fiona (not her real name) had experienced coercive and financial control, isolation, psychological abuse and at times physical violence from her perpetrator.

Fiona came to EWA when she was living in temporary accommodation looking for support with housing options, safety, understanding of domestic abuse and early warning signs, mental health and getting back into work and learning. An EWA worker and Fiona came up with a safety plan and discussed tenancy, community and social media safety. A personal alarm was issued to Fiona.

Fiona was later assaulted by the perpetrator in the street.

Following this attack, EWA workers worked with Fiona to update her safety plan and offered her support if she wanted to make a statement to the police. Our EDDACS team (Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Support Service) supported Fiona to go through the legal system to get bail conditions put in place stating the perpetrator could not contact Fiona.

After the assault, Fiona was concerned that perpetrator might know where she lived and wanted to move, and EWA provided her with housing support. We also provided information about the cycle of abuse and Fiona and her worker went over the early warning signs of domestic abuse, which raised Fiona's confidence.

Fiona's traumatic experience of the domestic abuse caused a decline in her mental health. EWA provided her with emotional support, helping her to express and process her feelings and understand what had happened. Fiona's EWA worker helped her understand what support was available and signposted her to several mental health organisations.



Fiona had lost her job – one that she loved – as a result of the domestic abuse. She was keen to start working again but possibly in a different industry, and was referred for employability support to the Works4Women programme.

Fiona has now secured a new tenancy in a safe area and has moved in and settled well. Her EWA worker advocated for her in support of a Community Care Grant application, as she was setting up home after being homeless. Fiona is on the waiting list for counselling and receiving support from her local mental health team and has reconnected with family members she had lost touch with when living with her abusive partner.

Fiona is rebuilding her life free from abuse.





HOW WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED

Domestic abuse can have serious short and long-term effects on physical and mental health and can have high social and economic costs for those directly affected, their families and communities.

Domestic abuse can destroy confidence and self-esteem, and propel women affected into unemployment or underemployment and can result in poverty and homelessness.

In the most severe cases, victims of domestic abuse may be permanently harmed or killed by the perpetrator.

Effects of domestic abuse on children can include but are not limited to: anxiety or depression; difficulty sleeping; nightmares or flashbacks; being easily startled; physical symptoms (such as tummy aches or bedwetting); temper tantrums and problems with school; behaving like a much younger child; aggression or withdrawing from others; and low self-worth. Older children may skip school, use alcohol or drugs or self-harm as a response to abuse.



YOUNG PEOPLE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE

In a recent survey 41% of UK girls aged 14 to 17 in an intimate relationship experienced some form of sexual violence from their partner and 1 in 3 young women said they found it difficult to define the line between a caring action and a controlling one.

In addition, studies in the US show that young women victimised in adolescent relationships are more likely to experience domestic violence in adulthood.

Our increasing reliance on technology also puts young people at risk. More than 70% of those receiving support from domestic abuse charity Refuge reported tech related abuse within a relationship. In another study, between 50-70% of all young people, reported experiencing abuse via technologies including controlling behaviour and surveillance through messaging or social networking sites - pressured sexting was most commonly reported by girls.

ANGUS

10 year old Angus (not his real name) has been supported by EWA's Children and Young People services.

He hadn't had contact with his father – who had been a perpetrator of domestic violence in their home – for a year. However, Angus's father had recently started to contact him again, against Angus's wishes.

Angus came into a support session feeling overwhelmed; in this state, he expressed interest in seeing his father, even though he knew it was not safe for him to do so. A week earlier, Angus had shared a completely different thought process with his worker. At that point, Angus had been clear that he did not want contact with his dad.

Angus stated that he was feeling very confused and emotionally flooded with recent circumstances – but was not able to clearly articulate what he wanted or was experiencing. During the session, he and the EWA worker discussed the 'Emotional Journey' Angus was on, using a visual representation tools to help identify his trigger (father's unexpected contact), his emotions (anxiety, scared, worried) and body sensations (sweaty palms, heart racing, feeling frozen). By breaking the situation down into manageable chunks and looking at it as a journey, Angus was able to identify that his feelings about the perpetrator getting in contact have been primarily negative. He was able to name fear and worry as the primary feelings that have occurred since his father's contact, and identified that it had been negatively affecting many different areas in his life already (for instance, he was having trouble concentrating, had a loss of appetite, was not sleeping well and was feeling unsafe).

In addition to this activity, Angus completed a list of Pros and Cons to potentially seeing his father again. Angus could name only 2 'Pros' to seeing his father again, as opposed to 9 'Cons' – most of which expressed deep fears for his physical safety if left in his father's



presence. This acted as another visual representation to how Angus is truly feeling about the situation and also allowed him to see that it is okay to still care about his dad. Angus explained that writing it all down in this way had helped him understand and see his thoughts clearly, without any confusion.

Afterward, Angus and the EWA worker used his “Emotion Journey” to make a plan that would get him on the path to positive experiences, rather than staying on his current path of negative ones. In this plan, Angus outlined that he would continue to attend the sessions and he and his EWA worker did some safety planning. Angus was able to identify areas to support his safety, such as that he would not contact or see his dad as he realises that he will be putting himself in danger of getting hurt again, and he would block his father on his mobile phone for the time being, so that Angus will not experience scary and anxious thoughts when he receives a text from his father. Angus and his worker agreed to revisit this activity every few weeks in case his thoughts change.

Angus left the session feeling clear and empowered to make good decisions for himself.



LET'S CHAT WEBCHAT SUPPORT SERVICE

In 2020, we introduced our Webchat support services, which provide a safe and anonymous space for women to explore various elements of dating/domestic abuse, discuss their own relationship concerns and consider ways to increase their personal safety and additional support needs.

We found that the webchat can offer an entry point for women who might otherwise not engage with EWA's services, and could especially be an important means of communication for younger women who might feel more comfortable with chatting online than on the telephone.

Let's Chat is a project providing positive relationship and safety support to girls and young women using digital devices they are comfortable with. In a recent survey 41% of UK girls in an intimate relationship said they'd experienced sexual violence from their partner - 1 in 3 found it difficult to define the line between a caring and a controlling action. What was already a serious problem has been exacerbated by COVID creating a toxic breeding ground for intimate partner abuse.

After our initial roll out, we realised that people were most wanting to engage on webchat during evening and weekend times, so in 2021, we moved the webchat times accordingly; it is now open Thurs - Monday 6pm - 10pm.



MOIRA

Moira (not her real name) contacted the Let's Chat webchat service to discuss her situation.

Our webchat service offers a higher level of anonymity than our other services and therefore, it offers women a safe space to explore their situation without the pressure of 'being seen'. A crucial part of identifying domestic abuse (DA) is allowing women the opportunity to chat, reflect and empower them with expert knowledge.

Moira was at a stage of beginning to realise she might be being abused in her relationship. However, she was afraid to use our phone support as she felt it was unsafe for her to do so. The webchat provided her with someone to talk to, at her own pace and without increasing her risk. Having access to our support over the evenings and weekends was a lifeline to her.

It was explained to Moira that she could return to our webchat service as often as she needed. The simplicity of having the chats stored (securely via our Tawk.to site) meant that when she returned to chat, there was a record of the areas that had been covered. This meant that support staff were able to access previous chats and further provide emotional/practical support.

Moira contacted Let's Chat on 14 occasions. These chats lead to Moira agreeing to be referred to our duty team for further ongoing support and safety planning. Let's Chat allowed her the space to make this choice as she was able to talk through her situation – and come to terms with it – before getting a formal referral, which had initially felt very overwhelming for her.

Moira is now currently receiving support from another EWA service and this was done at her pace, when she felt able to talk on the phone.

Let's Chat is unique in that it is open when other services are closed and offers a means of communication that can feel safer and more accessible for women. This can be crucial for those who simply cannot call us or attend a drop-in service.

LEGAL SERVICES PILOT

In August 2021, EWA entered into a partnership with Scottish Women's Aid and BG Family Law to place a solicitor within Edinburgh Women's Aid.

Knowing that the legal system can be very difficult to navigate, especially for women who have experienced domestic abuse – their self-esteem is often affected, the courts can be unsympathetic, victim-blaming is still far too often in evidence – we wanted to provide a service that could specifically address these needs.

The one-year pilot project was set up to provide this support, as well as to track and assess the difference that having a domestic abuse specialist family solicitor makes to women affected by domestic abuse.

The programme, which is funded by the Legal Education Fund, enables women to have longer, more targeted consultations with the lawyers. Normally, when a woman goes to a solicitor, time needs to be spent assessing whether she would be eligible for legal aid and, if not, how she would pay for the services; this can be quite frustrating and off-putting for some women, who do not always return. Since the lawyers in the EWA pilot provide a free service, and because the solicitor is highly experienced in domestic abuse cases and has a strong understanding of the dynamics of abuse, the conversation can, from the outset, be specifically about the woman's experiences and needs, and the lawyer can provide the particular information, experience and context that the women need.

The lawyers at EWA also work with our staff, training workers to better understand the legal aspects of domestic abuse, and what the women in our services might encounter. This provides another dimension to EWA workers' knowledge and makes them better able to support the women they work with.

Early indications are that this is a hugely valuable service for women affected by domestic abuse. Between August and the beginning of December 2021, 55 women had been referred to the solicitor, and the responses they've given have been very encouraging.

Women using the service have said:

"Thank you. This is the clearest piece of advice I've had since the start of all the court proceedings."

"It really helped to explore complex options and I am definitely going to act on the clear advice [of the lawyer] after 14 years of being stuck."

"I am feeling more reassured after our conversation."

"This programme is a game changer!"

"Thank you for helping me rebuild my life."

"This meeting was very important to me, and gave me a new and wiser view of my problems. EWA lawyer's advice is helpful in my future decisions."

"Thank you so, so much for all of your help. I have been in contact with the criminal lawyer and it has been really helpful and reassuring for me. You signposting me to them and making them aware of the situation was so helpful and I appreciate it a lot."

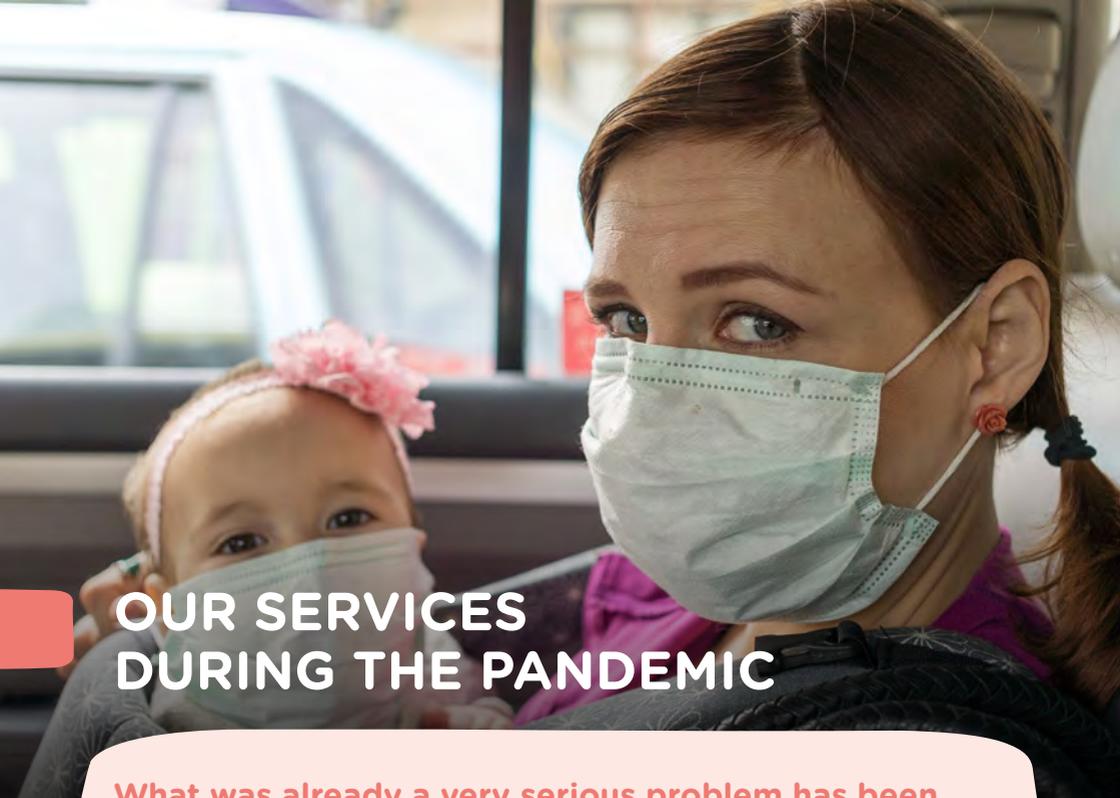
PETRA

Petra (not her real name) and her 3 year old child left her perpetrator, who is the child's father, and relocated to refuge.

Petra is originally from Poland, and is bi-lingual Polish/English. EWA's team worked together with Petra's worker from another support service to ensure that the support she was getting was effective and met all of the needs Petra had in order to flee her property. EWA provided extensive safety planning and risk assessment on how and when it would be safest for her and her child to leave. A taxi was sent to collect Petra and child, with all of their belongings, to bring them to refuge.

Since joining refuge, Petra has been finding her feet again and engages well with services as well as reporting to staff that she feels safe in refuge. EWA's refuge staff are also currently assisting Petra with child contact issues by liaising with outside agency solicitors, and assisting Petra to arrange appointments to speak with these solicitors to ensure that her views and needs are heard.





OUR SERVICES DURING THE PANDEMIC

What was already a very serious problem has been exacerbated by COVID, creating a toxic combination of circumstances which further enable abusers.

67% of survivors who are currently experiencing abuse said that it has gotten worse since COVID-19, and it has become common for perpetrators to use lockdown restrictions to further isolate and intimidate their victims. This puts women and children in increasing danger of intimate partner abuse whilst enforcing isolation from friends, family and support networks.

Additionally, women and children who are slowly recovering from the trauma they experienced are in danger of being triggered by the current situation. Many women that we support who already have poor mental health and/or feel isolated as a result of the abuse they have experienced are disproportionately affected. Some are afraid to go out, many have higher levels of anxiety than usual and many who are already vulnerable are feeling even more isolated, helpless and alone.

We continue to run all of our services throughout the pandemic - helpline and webchat; our 28 refuge spaces; 1:1 support for women and children; our court advocacy services for women and children; art therapy; our CEDAR therapeutic programme for women and children; and our employability programme. Where we have been able to do so, these have been provided remotely, however we have retained the ability for women and children to see us face to face where this has been needed.

As the world has opened up again, we have begun resuming all our services so that women can access them as best suits them. This includes face-to-face meetings, online support, webchat, and phone calls. We will continue to respond to the ongoing pandemic to best support the women and children we serve and work to keep them safe in the face of domestic abuse and the COVID virus.

67%

**of survivors said abuse
HAS GOTTEN WORSE
since COVID-19**

EWA workers closely liaised with a woman in refuge who had a hearing disability, and worked in partnership with Deaf Action and BSL Interpreters for 14 months to ensure clear and complete communication whilst maintaining confidentiality. This was also an excellent opportunity to increase EWA's understanding of the specific needs for women who are hearing impaired and experiencing domestic abuse, and to build relationships with other support organisations.

DOROTHY

Dorothy (not her real name), an émigré to the UK, has been in refuge for two months.

Although she has resided in the UK with her husband for several years, due to the nature of his coercive control, she was prevented from learning English or educating herself in any other capacity. In her home country, Dorothy was a qualified maths teacher and is now hopeful to have the same career in Scotland.

EWA's refuge staff have worked in partnership with Shakti Women's Aid to support Dorothy's all-round development and progress, and everyone was thrilled when she successfully passed an English language UK immigration exam. It was also a great boost to her confidence. Dorothy has grown in confidence and independence as a result of the robust support of EWA's refuge staff and was successfully referred to wellness sessions which she was keen to participate in.

Through a keyworker with Shakti, Dorothy shared with refuge staff that the perpetrator had been making frequent attempts to contact her through email and online platforms. Dorothy had not been effectively able to communicate this to staff herself due to limited English, but once this information was communicated, refuge staff were able to advise her on how to deal with this situation and she was able to make an informed decision to notify the police.

Workers from both agencies supported Dorothy to give her statement to the police and an interpreter was arranged. This enabled Dorothy to file a comprehensive and detailed account of the harassment. The EWA staff member worked with Police Scotland to ensure that they would not be contacting the perpetrator and that it would be done by the English police division because the perpetrator does not know that Dorothy is in Scotland. Subsequently, the English police force that were local to the perpetrator issued the warning based on information obtained from the woman. This action supported Dorothy to feel safe, supported and empowered and at ease knowing that the confidentiality of her location had been preserved.

OUR IMPACT

As a result of support from Edinburgh Women's Aid, in our most recent evaluation:

88%

of women report feeling safer

76%

of women reported feeling more positive about their accommodation

86%

of women reported an increase in their sense of empowerment and self-esteem

85%

of women reported feeling more positive about their support networks

100%

of children and young people supported completed a safety plan

81%

of women reported feeling more positive about their legal situation

“Having refuge accommodation and support and feeling secure made me feel empowered and able to apply for university and move towards financial independence. Without the support of EWA I would have still remained in the abusive relationship.”

“I feel like a different person. I came in not knowing anything, I couldn't think! My head was all cloudy and foggy. Now I feel different, like all the fog is gone from my head!”

“Thank you for noticing me.”

I found [my support worker] very helpful - she has a calm relaxing voice and helped me to understand things a lot more. She helped me to learn different techniques to handle my emotions and made me feel really safe.”

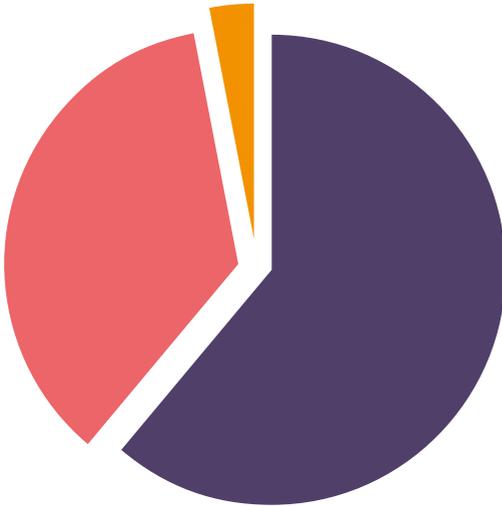
My 13-year-old child is sleeping better, eating better, feels safer, is more confident and outgoing than ever before. To think he was too scared to leave his room a few weeks ago - too scared to sleep! Thank you for everything.”

“Thank you for standing up for me yesterday. I felt pretty overwhelmed.” Mum of 12 year old, following a professionals meeting.”

“Thanks for all the work you've been doing with [a 6 year old student]. I think the sessions have had a positive impact on him - he is often happy and engaged in his learning, and...he has become kinder to his friends.”

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

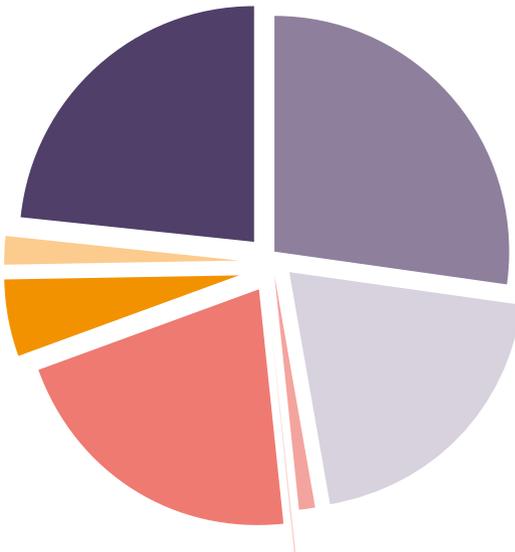
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2021



Expenditure

- Women's Services (£1,058,664.71)
- Children's Services (£605,641.24)
- Fundraising (£28,793.22)

TOTAL
£1,693,099.17



Income

- City of Edinburgh Council (£530,167.46)
- City of Edinburgh Council - Housing Income (£360,011.34)
- Housing Income (£10,044.13)
- Investment Income (£5.31)
- Trusts & Foundations (£393,332.54)
- Donations (£116,361.06)
- Scottish Women's Aid (£39,330.32)
- Scottish Government (£429,461.29)

TOTAL
£1,878,713.45

OUR FUNDRAISERS

We are so grateful to the many people who created their own fundraisers for Edinburgh Women's Aid – from participation in the KiltWalk to holding macaron baking classes to a 24-hour dance-a-thon to diving with sharks, individuals and groups and companies have generously donated their time and funds to support the work of EWA—and (we hope!) had some fun in the process!

If you would like to set up a fundraiser for EWA, please visit our [JustGiving page](#) or contact our Community Fundraiser, Katie Thompson, at katiethompson@edinwomensaid.co.uk.



'Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever' July 2021 by Wuthering Height Edinburgh Group



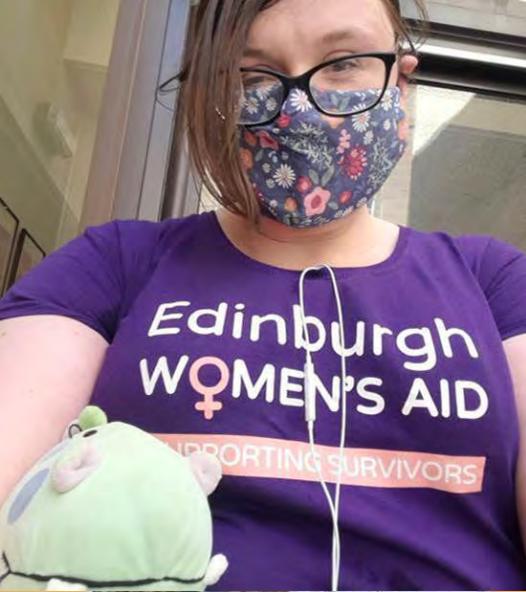
International Women's Day 2021 cold water challenge



Panthers Cheer Squad 1000km Challenge, March 2021



Zest Edinburgh, IWD 2021 "bake sale"





THANK YOU!

We are extremely grateful to The City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Government for their significant and continued support of our work.

As our services continue to expand in response to need, *an increasing proportion of our income comes from trusts, foundations, companies, legacies and individuals.* Thanks to the following and to everyone one else, too numerous to mention, who has supported us during the year. **We could not do what we do without you.**

Arnold Clark Motorstore
Artemis Charitable Giving
Baillie Gifford
Bank of New York Mellon
Barclays
BBC Children in Need
BlackRock
Comic Relief - COVID-19
DWF Group
Edinburgh and Lothian Trust Fund
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
Foundation Scotland

Charles Hayward Foundation
Miss Agnes Hunter Trust
Impact Funding
Legal Education Fund
RS McDonald Charitable Trust
The Robertson Trust
Scottish Social Services Council
State Street
University of Edinburgh
Walter Scott Giving Group, Ltd
Youth and Philanthropy Initiative

SUPPORTED BY
• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

A photograph of two women standing on a grassy hill, embracing each other. They are seen from behind, looking out over a valley towards a range of mountains under a warm, golden sunset sky. The woman on the left is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and black leggings. The woman on the right is wearing a white tank top and patterned leggings. The overall mood is peaceful and supportive.

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By working together, we can help more women and children in Edinburgh to escape and recover from the trauma of abuse.

We are grateful to our funders, but they only cover some of the costs of our work. Tens of thousands of pounds every year come from donors like you, and allow us to continue to offer all the services we do. If the stories and information in this report have inspired you to help women and children get their lives back after experiencing domestic abuse, you can help!

Here's how you can support our work:

- **Invite us to come to your place of business or education to provide domestic abuse training:**
 - EWA provides hundreds of specialised and individually designed trainings every to groups ranging from solicitors and energy companies to colleges and universities. EWA has also been working closely with Rape Crisis Scotland, DWP and City of Edinburgh Council to develop diverse training programs to be delivered to a wider audience.

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- The training we deliver is open to anyone who wants to gain a better understanding of domestic abuse, how to identify domestic abuse, and how to support survivors.
- If you are interested in this training, please contact Julie MacDonald at JulieMacDonald@edinwomensaid.co.uk

- **Keep in touch via social media**

Facebook: @edinwomensaid

Twitter: @EdinWomensAid

Instagram: @edinbwa

Website: www.edinwomensaid.co.uk

- **Make a donation via JustGiving**

www.justgiving.com/edinburghwomensaid

- **Set up a regular payment via JustGiving**

www.justgiving.com/edinburghwomensaid

- **Take on a fundraising challenge**

You can use the Just Giving page to do this. Just click on “Start Fundraising” - www.justgiving.com/edinburghwomensaid

- **Leave us a gift in your will**

By writing a will, you can help ensure that EWA is able to support women and children for generations to come.

To have a chat and find out more, contact our fundraising team on 0131 315 8111 or email: hello@edinwomensaid.co.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you!

WHO WE ARE

Patron

Malcolm Chisholm

Board Members

Morag Waller

(Chair from December 2020)

Jenny Peachey

(Vice Chair from December 2020)

Jenny Davis

(Treasurer from December 2020)

Dr Emma Plant

Hannah Gibson

(from December 2021)

Julie Moran

Jessica Macdonald

Micheila West

(from December 2021)

Rachel Carmichael

(from December 2021)

Rachel Hindson

(from December 2021)

Sharon McIntyre

Members who retired from the board during the year

Ruth Grindley

Retired 21/06/2021

Kate Jones

Retired 24/10/2021

Staff

Michelle Appleby

Maritxu Arlegui-Prieto

Isabella Balloch

Fiona Black

Irene Bruce

Robyn Buchanan

Beata Burchard

Holly Cathcart

Marina Chatzivasileiou

Jasmine Clark

Danielle Coll

Nicola Dhanda

Karen Drummond

Ivona Dutkova

Laura Fearn

Jan Ferguson

Beth Fischbacher

Leigh Fraser

Gemma Gall

Claire Gillespie

Leanne Glancy

Karen Griffiths

Rebecca Henderson

Nicoletta Katseniou

Martyna Keckowska

Amélie Lamontagne

Jade Lawson

Dorota Lings

Julie MacDonald

Noreen McCafferty

Toni McCulloch

Sarah McWilliams

Eleftheria Minopoulou

Helen Murray

Tanya Mutema

Angeline Mwafulirwa

Mariea Nairn

Elizabeth O'Donnell

Dorota Oleksiewicz

Michelle O'Rourke

Urška Ozimek

Margaret Patrizio

Clare Philpot

Kelsie Pool

Fran Previdi

Linda Rodgers

Crystal Roebuck

Veda Cher Runge

Kasia Sadaj

Gianna Sharni

Kim Sharp

Ainuska Sheripkanova

Zoi Simopoulou

Olu Sodipo

Jakki Spicer

Dina Subasciaki

Alison Thomas

Emily Thomas

Katie Thompson

Bonnie Thomson

Catherine Todd

Kate Tregaskis

Lila Vera

Tessa Warinner

Val Waugh

Sinead Welsh

Verdi Wilson

Hannah Yafai

Louise Young

CONTACT US

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse or you feel that the relationship you are in is abusive or unsafe, please get in touch.

Helpline and Drop-in

Talk to us

For support or to contact any of our support services call **0131 315 8110**. Our opening hours are:

Mon	10am – 3pm	Thu	10am – 7pm	Sat	10am – 1pm
Tue	10am – 7pm	Fri	10am – 3pm	Sun	Closed
Wed	10am – 3pm				

...or leave a message on our 24-hour answer machine at **0131 315 8110**, or email us at **info@edinwomensaid.co.uk**

Webchat

Talk to us by webchat

Thursday – Monday from 6pm – 10pm at bit.ly/LetsChatWebChat

General office enquiries

Call our business line: **0131 315 8111**

Monday to Friday: 9.00am – 4.30pm

Drop-in and Office Address

4 Cheyne Street, Edinburgh, EH4 1JB

While Covid meant we were working a bit differently with fewer services available in person, we can now provide services in the way that best suits the woman or child seeking support, whether that be face-to-face, online, by phone, webchat or text. However, we will continue to respond to government and scientific advice as needed to ensure the safety of our staff and service users.

Emergency Helplines Out of Office Hours

(run by other agencies)

Emergency Social Work: **0800 731 6969**

City of Edinburgh Council Emergency Housing: **0131 200 2000**

Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline:
0800 027 1234 *(24 Hour)*

Edinburgh Women's Aid
4 Cheyne Street, Edinburgh, EH4 1JB
Office number: 0131 315 8111
email: info@edinwomensaid.co.uk
www.edinwomensaid.co.uk

Edinburgh
WOMEN'S AID

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

Edinburgh Women's Aid is a charity registered in Scotland charity number SC028301 and a company limited by guarantee company number SC237521