



Edinburgh
WOMEN'S AID

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

2022
IMPACT REPORT

CONTENTS

What is Domestic Abuse?	2
About Edinburgh Women's Aid	3
Letter from the Chair	6
Letter from the CEO	7
Strategic Plan 2020-2025	8
We will meet the changing needs of women, children and young people through maintaining and developing our key service areas of crisis response, support and recovery	10
Case Study: Moira	13
We will support women, children and young people's voices to be heard	15
Case Study: Elizabeth and Hilda	18
We will increase accessibility to our services through innovation	21
We will positively influence local responses to domestic abuse	24
We will lead strategic and operational networks and partnerships	27
Case study: Catriona	29
Income & expenditure	32
Thank you to our supporters and fundraisers!	33
How you can support EWA	35
Who we are	37
Contact us	38

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.

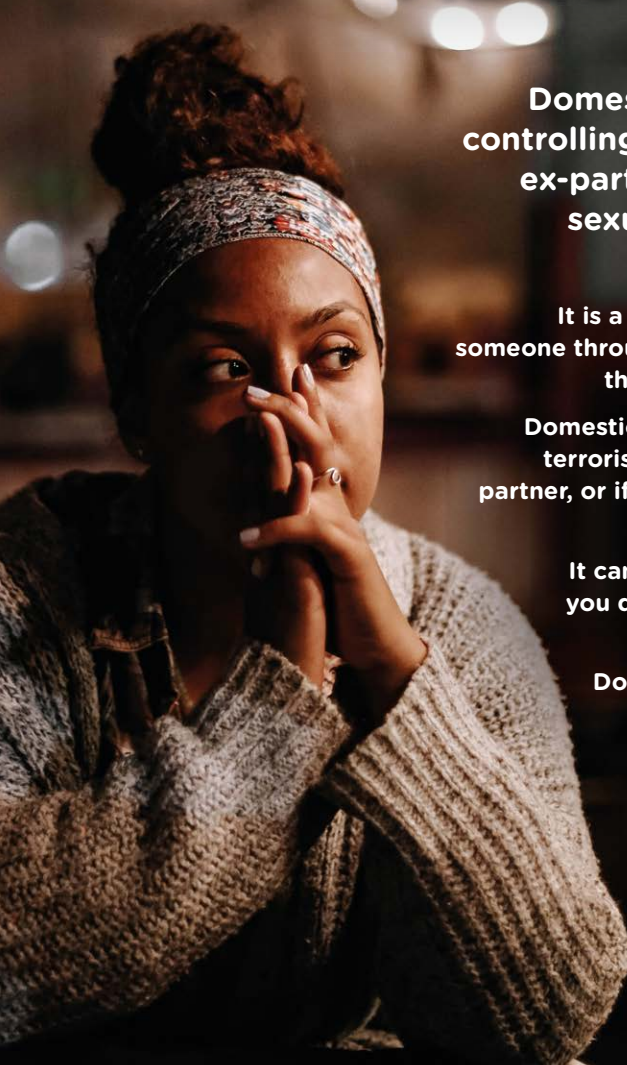
It is a pattern of dominating and isolating someone through fear and threats or undermining their self-confidence and self-esteem.

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.

Domestic abuse 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.



Edinburgh Women's Aid supports women and children in crisis due to domestic abuse – and we continue to help them as they embark on their path to recovery from the practical, emotional, legal and financial impact of that abuse.

We also work within the community, across agencies and organisations to foster engagement with specialist services, educate about the nature of domestic abuse, and to support prevention.

ABOUT EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID



Edinburgh Women's Aid (EWA) works to eliminate domestic abuse across Edinburgh, by providing practical and emotional support, information and advice to women, children and young people, and through raising awareness of domestic abuse and its prevalence across society.

At EWA, we believe that domestic abuse is unacceptable and intolerable: women, children and young people have a right to live their lives free from all forms of violence and abuse, and any violation of this is a violation of their rights.

While incidents of domestic abuse persist, we know that as an organisation, our objectives must be dynamic and responsive to the changes in lived experience and political, economic and historical contexts. When faced with COVID, we moved our services online, provided the women and children we serve with computers, wifi and digital access and moved from shared to single-family refuge accommodations. With the cost of living crisis, we will be supporting women to cope with rising fuel and food costs, as well as the increased levels of stress we anticipate the situation will create.



IN 2022, EDINBURGH WOMEN'S AID:

Supported
1929 women across
our programmes

Supported
229 children and
young people

Supported **47** women in refuge

Connected with **749** women through our crisis support line

Supported **39** women through our new Mental Health support service

Provided our Polish language service to **58** women

Supported **50** women through Works 4 Women, our employability program (between April 2021 and March 2022)

Supported **47** mothers and children through assessment for our CEDAR (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery) programme

Supported **58** children and young people through our Children's Rights and Advocacy Service

Supported **17** children through our Art Therapy programme

Worked with **565** people through our training and education programme, including those in NHS perinatal groups, Police Scotland's Street Assist programme, DWP, universities, Turning Point and Bethany Trust



OUR VALUES

We put the needs of women, children and young people at the heart of the organisation and all of our services.

We are non-judgemental in approach and delivery.

We respect women, children and young people and their right to make choices.

We are open and inclusive to all women, children and young people who experience domestic abuse.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our 2022 Impact Report.

We hope that this report will give you an idea of the wide range of services that Edinburgh Women's Aid provides to the women, children and young people in our city who have been affected by domestic abuse. We are proud of our achievements in 2022 and very grateful to everyone who has helped fund the services we provide.

Thanks goes out for the enormous support from the local community, and the many fundraising challenges, workplace charity initiatives and collections we have benefitted from. We are also incredibly appreciative for the ongoing funding we have received from The Scottish Government, The City of Edinburgh Council, Children in Need-BBC, The RS Macdonald Charitable Trust, State Street, the Walter Scott Giving Group, the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund and the Garfield Weston Foundation, as well as various other smaller trusts and grant-making organisations. Thank you for enabling us to provide crucial support services to the women and children who need them.

In 2023 we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Edinburgh Women's Aid, and have events planned throughout the year to mark this significant milestone – we hope you can join us on some of those occasions! We will be celebrating the women who founded EWA as well as the staff – past and present – who have continued to build it into the organisation it is today. We will also be looking to the future, ensuring we can continue to provide specialist domestic abuse support services to as many women, children and young people as need it.

None of this would be possible without the commitment, dedication and skill of our staff and Board members. I am extremely grateful to them all for their hard work, compassion and flexibility over this last year. As ever, it is an honour to work with the women of EWA and be part of the ongoing struggle to eliminate violence against women and children.



Morag Waller

LETTER FROM THE CEO

This year, we are doing something a little bit different.

As you may know, in previous years we have structured our report by looking at each of our services in turn and the work we have done.

2022 marked the half way point in our 2020-2025 Strategy, a perfect time to reflect on the progress towards our goals.

In 2019 - back before we had any idea of what was ahead of us - we asked women, children and young people using our services what they thought we should be aiming to do. Staff met and discussed the changing needs of women and children, the changing environment that we are in, and the pressure points of service delivery. Our board of directors assessed the political, environmental, social, technical, economic and legal environment. In each team we did SWOT analyses to help us identify where we needed to focus.

After doing all this work, our world changed beyond recognition in March 2020, and that June we reviewed our strategy in light of the pandemic and lockdowns. While we recognised that how we worked towards our strategic objectives might change, we determined that our priorities should stay the same.

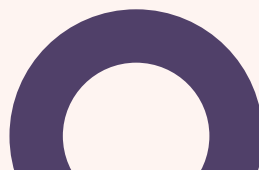
In Summer 2022 we asked women and children how we were doing in meeting the priorities they had identified and what they would like us to prioritise going forward. As we move into our 50th Anniversary year we have exciting plans to involve women with lived experience in developing a peer support programme, to further develop our specialisms in housing, mental health and supporting young women and to develop volunteer opportunities.



Thank you for reading our report and for your support for our services!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Linda Rodgers'.

Linda Rodgers



STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

Every five years, Edinburgh Women's Aid develops a strategic plan.

We do this to ensure that EWA continues to meet the needs of women, children and young people in an ever-changing environment. The plan details EWA's strategic objectives and the organisational processes that we have in place to sustain the plan over the next five years. The plan development is engaged and vigorous – we involve service-users, staff and stakeholders through forums, questionnaires and development days.

Our current plan was meant to cover the time period from 2020 to 2025 – but 2020 turned out to be an extraordinary year, as COVID circled the world. Our Board met to review the plan in June of 2020, as we were just beginning to grapple with the effects of the pandemic and lockdowns on our service users and our service delivery. Because we had a robust disaster delivery plan in place, we were able to continue providing support to our service users – and our staff – almost immediately.

Although there were inevitable bumps in the road with moving services online and adjusting to the requirements of the pandemic, we are very proud that the organisation was able to respond quickly and effectively to the challenges and needs. For example, despite the impact of the court closures that meant we had at least 50% more open cases than normal throughout the year, we never missed our deadline of responding to the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit referrals within one working day. Fundamentally, the Board chose to maintain the goals of the strategic plan as originally written, whilst initiating a more frequent review process

We're now half-way through our strategic plan – a perfect time to review where we are now, and where we are heading for the next 2 1/2 years.



EWA'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2020 - 2025:

1

Meet the changing needs

of women, children and young people through maintaining and developing our key service areas of crisis response, support and recovery.

2

Support women, children and young people's voices to be heard.

3

Increase accessibility

to our services through innovation.

4


Positively influence

local responses to domestic abuse.

5

Lead

strategic and operational networks and partnerships.



We will meet the changing needs of women, children and young people through maintaining and developing our key service areas of crisis response, support and recovery.

EWA's core services are to provide **crisis, support** and **recovery** services for women and children with experience of domestic abuse (DA). We maintain our core services at all times, providing practical support for women and their children that are experiencing DA, and to help them recover from the trauma of DA and build lives for themselves that are free of abuse.



In Crisis

- Helpline and Drop-in
- Refuge accommodation
- Court Advocacy (in Polish & English)
- 1:1 Support (in Polish & English)
- MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) referrals for women and children at high risk




For Recovery

- Counselling
- Peer Support
- Housing Support
- Employability Programme (Works 4 Women)
- CEDAR (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery)
- Art Therapy
- Mental health support and advocacy, using trauma informed practice

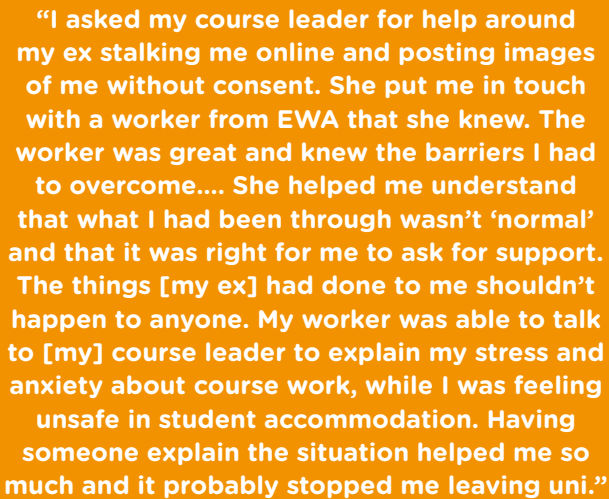


We at EWA are also always thinking about how we can grow to meet the changing needs of the community. For instance, we are aware that younger women do not always know about Women's Aid or they don't think of it as a service for them or their generation. We also know that when young women are entering their first relationships, they may still be learning the differences between a coercive or abusive relationship and a 'normal' one. We are therefore working to develop bespoke services for younger women. For instance:


- We continue to promote our presence within further education institutions and universities. We attend fresher events, participate in online groups, work with societies, promote our social media channels and distribute leaflets about the organisation.
- We sit on the Fearless Committee (a group of further education and university members who work together for the safety of women) to highlight our services and our cross-agency work.
- We are often asked to speak to Youth and Philanthropy Initiative groups, who approach us wishing to support the work of EWA through awareness and fund-raising.
- As we move forward with our strategic plan, we will be working with schools to promote our prevention work to sit alongside the current curriculum. Ensuring that we have a voice in High Schools is key to community engagement – we know that education about domestic abuse as or before young people are becoming involved in intimate relationships is key to understanding and eliminating it.



Towards the end of 2022, EWA was very grateful to receive funding from Community Justice at the Council of Edinburgh City to support the development of a **Peer Support programme**. We will be bringing on to our staff a facilitator who has lived experience of using domestic abuse services. She will work with women who have experienced domestic abuse, facilitating meetings, workshops and outings that will help participants to feel less isolated, safer and more hopeful, more aware of the resources and networks available to them, empowered to use their experiences for their personal growth, and a greater sense of self-esteem. Ultimately, we hope to build a network of peer supporters who can connect with other women who have shared experiences of domestic abuse and are rebuilding their lives.



“I asked my course leader for help around my ex stalking me online and posting images of me without consent. She put me in touch with a worker from EWA that she knew. The worker was great and knew the barriers I had to overcome.... She helped me understand that what I had been through wasn't 'normal' and that it was right for me to ask for support. The things [my ex] had done to me shouldn't happen to anyone. My worker was able to talk to [my] course leader to explain my stress and anxiety about course work, while I was feeling unsafe in student accommodation. Having someone explain the situation helped me so much and it probably stopped me leaving uni.”



MOIRA

Moira (not her real name) was first referred to EDDACS (EWA's court support service) following an incident when an ex-partner destroyed her property.

Additional referrals were made by the Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit (DAIU) when Moira then reported historic incidents and breaches of special bail conditions by the abuser.

Moira had been in a relationship with the perpetrator for some time, and there were no children within this relationship, although the perpetrator has children with previous partners to whom he was also abusive. Moira said that the beginning of the relationship was very loving. However, eventually the abuse began, with verbal assaults. The abuser was also extremely jealous and made it difficult for Moira to see friends, isolating her from everyone while gaining more control over her. If Moira did go out, he would accuse her of cheating and insist she FaceTime him to prove who she was with and where.

Her partner was frequently physically violent with Moira, resulting in permanent, disfiguring injuries. Moira believed he would and could kill her, relating a history of significant physical abuse including fractured bones and head injuries. Moira had previously lied to medical professionals about how the injuries were sustained, fearful of the consequences from her abuser.

Moira made several attempts to end the relationship, but the perpetrator always made this extremely difficult and Moira would give in and reconcile with him. The abuse escalated to extreme violence, with approximately 20 incidents within the 6 months leading up to her report to the police. Moira was finally able to end this pattern when she made the report to the police, who made the referral to EDDACS.

Contact was made with Moira on the same day that EDDACS received the referral from DAIU, and Moira accepted support from EDDACS.

Moira shared her background information with her EDDACS worker and a risk identification checklist was completed. Moira and her worker also made a safety plan and EDDACS submitted comments for the custody hearing on that same day.

When the hearing had occurred, EDDACS reached out to Moira. The abuser had been bailed by the courts, causing understandable concerns for Moira's safety. Due to an assessed high risk, a MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) referral was made. Partnership working and communication with appropriate services took place throughout the support, as the court proceedings continued.

The proceedings continued for several years, during which time ongoing support was provided to Moira. Every time Moira had a question or query, EDDACS responded to her, knowing how crucial it was for Moira to be and feel supported. EDDACS also updated all hearing outcomes to Moira and explained them as they occurred, preparing Moira for trials and providing information on special measures available. Safety planning was revisited frequently and a risk assessment checklist completed for each referral. The lengthy court proceedings negatively affected Moira's wellbeing and her recovery process.

Finally, Moira's abuser was sentenced to significant prison time and received a very extensive Non-Harassment Order, prohibiting him to contact or approach Moira in any way at all. This was a huge relief to Moira who felt that she could now move on fully with her recovery. She expressed how thankful she was of the support EDDACS provided. "You answered my questions, supported me throughout and kept me informed," she said. "I don't know how you do this job and I will be eternally grateful!"



We will support women, children and young people's voices to be heard.

We know that domestic abuse silences its victims. Perpetrators use isolation as a tool of control and the fear of the consequences of speaking out is real and persistent in women and children's lives.

Despite this enforced silence, we know that women and children are the experts in their lives and we strive to make sure our services centre the needs of those we serve. To enable us to do that, we consistently provide opportunities for them to raise their voices.

Gathering feedback from women and children so that they can tell us how we can improve our services and what new services are needed, is a regular part of our services, baked into the process. We also create space for survivors' voices to be heard in the policy and mainstream arenas. For instance:

- In 2022, we were part of the Scottish Government Steering Group on the research into the implementation of the **Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act (DASA)** and supported women and children from Edinburgh to participate in the research.
- EWA is part of the **Domestic Abuse Court Advocacy Accreditation (DACAA) steering group**, which works to create: standards for domestic abuse court advocacy services; an assessment framework for domestic abuse court advocacy services; and an accredited module on domestic abuse court advocacy to enhance current training. The goals are to improve the lives and wellbeing of all victims going through the court process; increase the confidence of professionals to navigate a complex justice system on behalf of victims of domestic abuse; and to increase effectiveness, validity, visibility and consistency of the court advocacy role across Scotland.



- We are part of the Risk and Strengths Framework Working group of **Community Justice Scotland – Restorative Justice**.
- We are working with **Scottish Women’s Aid, other domestic abuse court services and Police Scotland** to develop a list of questions for women who have reported domestic abuse incidents; the questionnaire will be offered to these women so that we can assess whether they are receiving the support they need.

Recently, EWA has also responded to the following **Scottish Government legislative and policy consultations**:

- The SG Bairns’ Hoose (supporting Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee)
- The Future of Violence Against Women funding
- Reform to police complaints, investigations and misconduct process (supporting Scottish Women’s Aid)
- Temporary accommodation standards
- Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues (Edinburgh)
- Emergency barring orders
- Domestic Abuse Register

Where possible, **we have involved service users directly in responding to consultations**; all responses have been grounded in the experiences of women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

We regularly check in with current and former service users to see how we could be doing better in hearing and understanding their needs. Our 2022 service-user survey results are heartening. For instance, 100% of respondents to the question “Did you feel that we understood how domestic abuse had impacted on you?” responded affirmatively. Two respondents even said that EWA understood the impacts more than she herself did, and one responded:

“Yes - that’s what I felt the most because no-one really gets it but you [EWA] do.”



Other notable findings include:

- 100% responded affirmatively to: “Did you trust us to provide the support you needed?”
- 100% responded affirmatively to: “Did you feel that we treated you as the expert in your own life?”
- One respondent replied,

‘Yes my views were respected, I was encouraged to speak about what would work for me and supported with this. The support I have had from EWA has helped me to think about me and what I want for the future.’

- A staff member was told by another service member that EWA was ‘always concerned about how she felt, what she wanted to do going forward, and was given encouragement to move forward. [She] always felt her voice [was] heard and her feelings mattered.’
- To the question, “Do you think we are an organization that supports you to make your voice heard to improve things for other women, children and young people – both within EWA and with other agencies and systems?”, we received an average score of 9.3 out of 10.



ELIZABETH AND HILDA

Hilda (not her real name) referred her 13-year-old daughter, Elizabeth (not her real name) to EWA for one-to-one emotional support due to an abusive situation in their home.

When the EWA children's worker tried to reach back out to Hilda, she had considerable difficulty, which turned out to be because the abuser, Hilda's partner, was monitoring her email and telephone communications. The worker therefore reached out to Elizabeth's school. The Pupil Support teacher there was very relieved to hear from EWA, and said that Elizabeth "was crying out for help". The teacher supported EWA to contact Hilda, although it remained difficult due to the safety issues posed by her abuser.

When the EWA's children's worker was finally able to meet with Elizabeth and Hilda, both became very emotional about what had been going on. Elizabeth's demeanour was extremely low; she came in with her head down, looking sad and very rarely smiling. When she did speak, it was brief and about her negative experiences with the perpetrator, her mother's partner.

The EWA worker saw clearly during this meeting that both mother and daughter were feeling stuck and were struggling to manage the really difficult situation they were in. Because Hilda was needing support too, the worker talked to her about EWA's Women's Support Services (WSS), explaining how it could help her through the situation, and Hilda agreed for the worker to make the referral to WSS. Once Hilda engaged with WSS, her confidence increased greatly.

Hilda spoke about ways the perpetrator was controlling the family despite him being in temporary accommodation. For instance, he could not be in his accommodation during the day, so Hilda felt that

she had to allow him access to the family home at those times. Hilda was struggling with this as his presence caused arguments within the household, especially with Elizabeth. Hilda mentioned that Elizabeth was having significant issues with her mental health and Hilda was very concerned about the impact of the perpetrator's presence in the house on her daughter, but was unsure how to stop the perpetrator from being there.


The EWA worker was able to arrange a private space for sessions to start with Elizabeth the following week at school. An immediate action with any child who has contact with the abuser is the development of a safety plan, and the worker and Elizabeth began working on one at their first session. During this process, Elizabeth disclosed concerning information about the perpetrator's behaviour.

The EWA worker followed child protection procedures for the disclosed information and also discussed with Hilda her reasons for raising the concerns. She explained the positive aspects of having Social Care Direct involved in order to ensure safety for the family from the abuser's actions. Hilda agreed that this would be a good course of action. The EWA worker reported the concerns to Social Work, who agreed that they would contact the school and email Hilda discretely, but that no further action would be taken if a Child Planning Meeting was carried out in order to make a safety plan for the family, which the school arranged.

Because Hilda had been afraid to report previous incidences of abuse, there had been no official record of it with any agencies and the child protection report made by Elizabeth's EWA worker was the first that Social Work had been made aware of the situation. Hilda said she felt safer having more people aware and looking out for the family. Both Hilda and Elizabeth said they felt included and listened to by the EWA worker and during the Children's Planning Meeting.

As a result of the Children's Planning Meeting and requests Elizabeth had made during it, the school implemented additional support.





With the support in place and with encouragement, Elizabeth's attendance at school increased greatly. Elizabeth also attended every session with her EWA worker during term time, and as Elizabeth built up a trusting relationship with her keyworker she became more open about what had been happening and what she was feeling. She also passed onto her mum positive feedback about the sessions.

A few months later, with close collaboration between EWA and Family and Household Support Services, the perpetrator was offered a new, more permanent living arrangement that meant he wouldn't be in Hilda's home during the day. Elizabeth was delighted and spoke about how now she and her mum could have the perpetrator's belongings removed from the flat and they could carry out their plans to decorate it to their tastes, making it feel more like their home and a place of comfort and safety.

Not long after, Hilda mentioned that she had been offered a new job which better fit her childcare needs. Things were falling into place for the family, and they were able to start their road to a new life free from abuse. Both felt they could now really start recovering from the years-long abuse.

In their feedback, Hilda and Elizabeth both spoke about the positive impact EWA's support has had for the whole family.



We will **increase accessibility** to our services through innovation

We are working in diverse ways to increase accessibility to our services, as we think about *how, to whom* and *where* we reach out and support women.

We have developed a **mental health post**. Domestic abuse generally causes deep and lasting mental health consequences, including devastating effects on self-esteem, social anxieties, difficulty forming relationships, damage to existing relationships and more. EWA currently offers emotional wellbeing support for the women using our services through one-on-one support and referrals, but we know there is much more work to be done. Our new mental health specialist role supports positive mental health for women affected by domestic abuse by supporting them to access the mental health supports they need; providing day-to-day support to EWA staff on specific cases and best practices; and supporting public and third sector mental health agencies to improve their domestic abuse policy and practice responses.

We developed **alternative means for women to be in contact** with EWA during COVID, such as webchat and video calls.

We have partnered with other organisations, universities and further education institutions in the Fearless Edinburgh initiative, which amplifies our **outreach to young women** affected by relationship abuse. Fearless Edinburgh is a multi-agency partnership tackling and preventing gender-based violence, primarily focusing on further and higher education settings. FE works to address sexual violence by challenging harmful behaviours and attitudes, as well as supporting those impacted by it.

We worked with DWP to develop local champions who can support women affected by domestic abuse to **access their benefits** more quickly.



We developed a new **Peer Support** programme with Community Justice Social Work, which will be launched in 2023. The programme will be facilitated by a Peer Support Facilitator who has lived experience of using domestic abuse specialist services, and will work to build a community of support among women who have experienced domestic abuse. They will be supported to build a safe and understanding community and to support each other on their journeys towards building lives free from abuse.

We developed a **legal services project**, funded by the Legal Education Fund, which 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 project 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. One woman said the service "...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." Another told us, "This programme is a game changer!"

"I could not fault you guys.... The work you guys do is amazing."

"[The solicitors] are so kind and always answer all my questions without judging me."

“The service was brilliant overall, I was made to feel safe, the solicitors worked well and at a fast pace; I always got a quick response.”

“[The solicitors] were so knowledgeable and answered all my questions making me feel more confident and supported.”

“The lawyer herself seemed well informed, listened to everything I had to say, spoke honestly to me which was all new to me - gave me clarity and provided me with feasible steps.”

“Great at listening to me, let me explain my situation as well as my previous experience and were sympathetic and understanding. They’re not like regular lawyers, they made me feel so much more comfortable and supported; a lot more personal and informal. The service from EWA also helped financially as I had lost money before on paying useless lawyers.”

How people access information and support has changed radically since EWA first began operation in 1973 – and we must also be responsive to these changes in order to ensure our communities know about EWA and our services. For instance, we know that many of us now rely on **online communications** to connect and learn. Therefore, EWA had been working to improve our social media presence, continuing to widen our reach by increasing our contacts and networks; working with a social media professional to increase our impact, visibility and reach; and increasing our presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

As we look to the future, we will be continuing to develop innovative resources to increase access to our services for all the women that need them, at all stages of their journeys.



We will **positively influence** local responses to domestic abuse

We know that supporting women and children who have experienced domestic abuse through crisis situations and into recovery needs to be a joined-up effort.

Women come into contact with representatives of many different agencies, all of whom need to be able to recognise and appropriately respond to signs of domestic abuse and coercive control. We therefore are continuously engaging in and increasing our training delivery to other agencies. For instance:

- We **deliver training to agencies** including NHS, DWP, Police Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council and Shelter. The training continues to be well received and far reaching.
- We have an ongoing working **relationship with the City of Edinburgh's Housing team**, which includes co-training events. This ensures that staff within Housing have a better knowledge of domestic abuse, and EWA better understands the workings of Housing.

Over the coming years, we will be developing the training programme to incorporate the private sector as well as the public one. We are also planning to deliver domestic abuse training, workplace domestic abuse Policy Trainings and to increase our visibility for training delivery via social media. As the cost of living crisis continues to impact people's lives, we know that the need for training will only increase.

“ I have gotten a better idea of how hard it is for women to come forward for support. This will change how I deal with [domestic abuse] cases 100%. ”

DWP Partnership member



In 2022, we reached **565 delegates** through our engagement and education work. Trainings were held with entities such as NHS groups, including Perinatal Care and Complex Needs; Police Scotland's Street Assist teams, which are deployed on foot during the evening and night time to prevent incidents, assist vulnerable people and ensure that everyone gets home safely; City of Edinburgh Council housing; DWP Partnership; and Further Education student bodies, specifically students studying Social Care. In addition to the information we impart, all EWA trainings also provide support to those attending as we understand the content may have personal impacts.

Topics covered in our trainings are tailored to the needs of the group we are working with, and include:

- domestic abuse and awareness, intervention and bystander training, signposting and intervention
- women with complex needs such as substance misuse and mental health concerns who are experiencing domestic abuse
- building a close relationship so that survivors don't have to 're-tell' their situations repeatedly in order to access support
- safeguarding, safety planning, accessibility of services, inter-agency working and a joint working approach
- developing policies aimed at helping survivors
- how to best support survivors and their children, specifically for students studying to work in the third sector



A participant of one of the trainings set up a regular monthly donation because of [the training] a few weeks ago. This was a direct result of [the trainer's] work (and what EWA does, of course).





“

We really needed to hear the information on what domestic abuse looks like. As we work in the community at late night venues, we often deal with couples. Learning about dynamics of coercive control is really interesting and eye opening.

**Police Scotland Street Assist
staff member**

“

I had no idea that risk increased due to pregnancy and the first year of life. Or that pregnancy or forced terminations are a control method. I also will be far more aware of partners who show control tactics like not wanting Health Visitor visits, speaking for their partner or just not giving me and the woman time to talk alone.

NHS Perinatal worker

”

”

“

I have been studying [domestic abuse] as part of my course but you have made it real. The examples of coercive control in real life have been shocking. This training has made me realise how important supporting survivors of [domestic abuse] is.

Social Work student

”



We will lead strategic and operational networks and partnerships.

We know that it is nearly impossible to address the issues around domestic abuse unless all agencies understand and act on them.

EWA is therefore a leading member in many partnership forums, including:

- Vice Chair of the Equally Safe (Edinburgh) Committee (previously known as Edinburgh Violence against Women Partnership)
- Lead partner for CEDAR (Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse Recovery) in Edinburgh and co-ordinator of the CEDAR Project Advisory Group
- Third Sector representative on Edinburgh's multi-agency Learning and Development Child Protection Committee
- The co-ordinating agency and co-chair for Edinburgh MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)
- Founding member of the Domestic Abuse Court Monitoring Group
- A leading agency in the development of the Domestic Abuse Local Action Group (DALAG), now operational across the city

EWA is also an active participant in:

- Police Scotland's Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Unit Group
- Edinburgh Children's Services Planning Group
- Edinburgh Universities' 'Fearless' Co-ordination Group
- EVOC's Children and Young People Local Organising Group
- Lothian and Borders Sheriffdom Restorative Justice Group
- Edinburgh's Multi-agency Domestic Abuse Training Steering Group
- Scottish Women's Aid working groups and forums
- the newly formed Royal Society of Edinburgh-funded multi-disciplinary law research network led by Napier University
- the new City of Edinburgh Council's trauma steering group
- Domestic Abuse Court Advocacy Accreditation steering group supporting the development of national standards and accredited training

We work closely with other agencies and organisations in order to support our clients, including in the areas of education, social work, police, housing, legal, UK statutory, third sector, NHS, and justice.



CATRIONA

Catriona (not her real name) had been married to and living with an abusive partner for several years. When they separated, the abusive situation escalated.

In January, the perpetrator destroyed a neighbour's property, and threatened to do the same to Catriona's. During that period, he also harassed Catriona by leaving her dozens of messages over a short time span. Police were called on both instances, which resulted in the perpetrator receiving special bail conditions requiring he not approach or contact Catriona, and not enter her street.

Over the next few months, the perpetrator found other ways to harass Catriona: sending deliveries to her door in her name, sending a highly unprofessional letter to her employer in her name, and coming multiple times to the edge of her street. This culminated with the theft of some of Catriona's property, which was also reported to the police.

When Catriona started engaging with EWA's services, a risk assessment was completed, highlighting the risk Catriona faced because the abuser was living very near her. Catriona's mental health was also very poor; she felt like there was no escape from her situation, which led to extreme depression and suicidality. She still lived in the marital house, a Council tenancy she was having no success in exchanging. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all exchanges had been temporarily frozen.

Immediately, Catriona's mental health situation was addressed by her EWA worker, who ensured that she had appropriate support in place. Due to the severity of the situation, EWA also referred Catriona to MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) and her housing officer was quickly contacted.

Catriona was regularly supported through phone calls until the case was heard at MARAC, where she was put on a priority list for a house exchange. As soon as the Council began offering new exchanges again, Catriona was offered one.

EWA kept regular contact with Catriona during the following months, until she was finally able to move to a different area. During the same period, she applied for a divorce from the abuser, at which time a safety plan was enacted with her worker, and police were advised of the increased risk when the papers were served.

Since moving, Catriona has expressed being in a much better place. A further risk assessment showed her risk going from high to low and her mental health has improved drastically. As she is in a secure location, unknown to her abuser, she has not been contacted by him for several months. She is still getting regular support calls from EWA's court support, although the frequency has been reduced due to the change in risk.

While petition cases are still ongoing, Catriona has been feeling strong and is eager to be able to turn the page on this part of her life. Without the EWA support, Catriona had expressed she would not have been able to engage with the extended court process and understand the court's legal 'jargon'.

Upon relocating to her new place, Catriona shared a message with EWA: "I have not long moved in to the new house, I've been unpacking I am very happy! The house is just what I wanted, everything has been quiet I am finally settling down. Thanks for all your help getting me here!"

EDDACS IMPACT

100%

said their understanding about the court process had increased through support from EDDACS (our court support service)

93%

said EDDACS provided them with the information they needed

88%

said that the safety planning by EDDACS had made them feel safer

84%

would recommend the service to others

82%

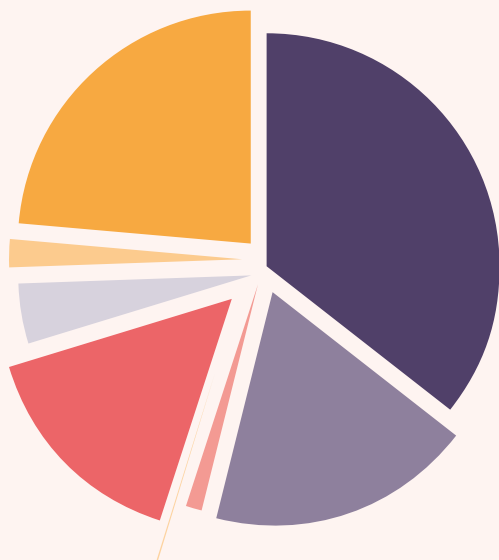
rated the service as exceptional or very good

72%

said their understanding about their rights had increased or very much increased

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

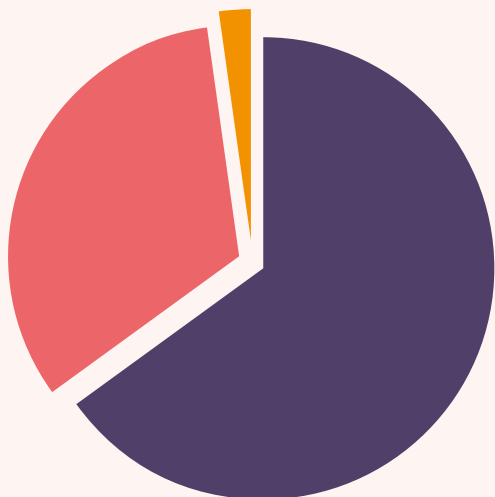
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022



Income

- City of Edinburgh Council
£645,111
- City of Edinburgh Council - Housing Income
£316,435
- Housing Income
£25,259
- Investment Income
£798
- Trufts & Foundations
£262,444
- Donations
£78,148
- Scottish Women's Aid
£50,802
- Scottish Government
£449,065

TOTAL
£1,828,062



Expenditures

- Women's Services
£1,262,835
- Children's Services
£651,847
- Fundraising
£42,728

TOTAL
£1,957,410



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



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* 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.**

Baillie Gifford
The Big Give Matching Funds
Children in Need / BBC
CMS Foundation
Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund
Community Justice at the City of Edinburgh Council
Dr Guthrie's Association
The RS Macdonald Charitable Trust

The Ponton House Trust
Scottish Women's Aid
State Street
UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Volant Charitable Trust
Walter Scott Giving Group
Garfield Weston Foundation
Workplace Wellness Fund
Youth and Philanthropy Initiative

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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDRAISERS!

We are so grateful to the many individuals, groups and businesses who have raised funds for Edinburgh Women's Aid! If you are interested in having a fundraiser for EWA, contact us at hello@edinwomensaid.co.uk

Special thanks for the amazing fundraising efforts from:

Andrew Brock (In Memory of Rachel)
Brodies LLP
Clare Heggie
Dentons Edinburgh
International Women's Day Swimmers
**Katy Tulloch and Sophie Pywell "Art
Gratia Artis" (Art Exhibition)**

Lori Anderson
Republic of Media Free Thinking Group
- The Seven Hills Challenge
**Traverse Theatre production of
Maryland**
Women at Amazon Walk



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT EWA

By working together, we can help more women and children in Edinburgh to escape and recover from the trauma of abuse, and continue our work towards a world free from 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:



Text **EWA** to **70580**
to donate £5



Set up a one-time or recurring
donation at www.justgiving.com/edinburghwomensaid



Take on a fundraising challenge!

You can use the Just Giving page to do this. Visit www.justgiving.com/edinburghwomensaid and click on "Start Fundraising"



2023 marks EWA's 50th year in operation. Text **EWA50th** to **70580** to donate an amount you choose in honour of this milestone



Invite us to provide a training at your business or school

EWA provides hundreds of specialised and individually designed trainings 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.

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



Leave us a gift in your will

By writing a will and naming EWA as a beneficiary, you can help ensure that we are able to support women and children for generations to come. Chat with your solicitor about this option, or contact us at hello@edinwomensaid.co.uk



Keep in touch via social media

Facebook: @edinwomensaid
Twitter: @EdinWomensAid
Instagram: @edinbwa
Linkedin: Edinburgh Women's Aid

To talk to us, 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 Davis

(Treasurer from December 2020)

Jenny Peachey

(Vice Chair from December 2020)

Fiona Bowen

Laura Cree

Lynn Dewar

Hannah Gibson

Kate Heggie

Rachel Hindson

Jessica Macdonald

Julie Moran

Claire Pattullo

Danielle Trudeau

Board members who retired in 2022

Micheila West

17/06/2022

Rachel Carmichael

10/05/2022

Sharon McIntyre

22/05/2022

Emma Plant

03/02/2022

Staff

Aaisha Saeed

Ainuska Sheripkanova

Alison Thomas

Alison Lawrie

Amelie Lamontagne

Anne Hay

Beata Burchard

Bonnie Thomson

Catherine Todd

Claire Gillespie

Crystal Roebuck

Cynthia Gimenez Payo

Danielle Coll

Dina Subasciaki

Dorota Lings

Dorota Oleksiewicz

Elaine Barclay

Eleftheria Minopoulou

Elizabeth O'Donnell

Elle Lindsay

Emily Thomas

Fiona Black

Fran Previdi

Gianna Sharni

Holly Cathcart

Irene Bruce

Isabella Balloch

Ivona Dutkova

Jade Lawson

Jakki Spicer

Jan Ferguson

Jane Crewe

Jasmine Clark

Jennie Ranta

Julie MacDonald

Karen Drummond

Karen Griffiths

Katie Thompson

Kira Foster

Laura Fearn

Laura Nagle

Leanne Glancy

Leigh Fraser

Lila Vera

Linda Rodgers

Lisa Dowie

Louise Young

Margaret Patrizio

Mariea Nairn

Marina Chatzivasileiou

Martyna Keckowska

Michelle Appleby

Michelle O'Rourke

Natalie MacKenzie

Nicola Dhanda

Nicoletta Katseniou

Palpasa Shrestha

Paula Gribble

Rafaela Efstratiou

Robyn Buchanan

Sana Illyas

Sarah McWilliams

Sharon Hall

Shashika Heiyantuduwa

Sinead McCafferty

Siobhan Shanks

Sowda Gallacher

Tessa Warinner

Toni McCulloch

Urska Ozimek

Veda Cher Runge

CONTACT US

Helpline

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 **duty@edinwomensaid.co.uk**

Drop in

You can drop in at our office during the above opening hours. The address is: **4 Cheyne Street, Edinburgh, EH4 1JB**

For general office enquiries, call our business line: 0131 315 8111, which is staffed Monday to Friday 9.00am - 4.30pm

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