

Impact Statement

Women's aid

Federation Northern Ireland

Did you know...the 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline has managed 463,885 calls since 1995?

The Helpline is a specialist, responsive service, which has been shaped and developed over the years by feedback from callers and stakeholders and by the specialist expertise and knowledge of Women's Aid across Northern Ireland.

The Helpline:

- Is a confidential telephone, email and texting service for women and men who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence, now or in the past, regardless of age, disability, ethnicity and sexuality.
- provides information, emotional support and the opportunity to talk, as well as signposting to a variety of other agencies such as PSNI, Social Services, other support organisations etc.
- links directly to Women's Aid services, utilizing the full wrap around nature of service provision across NI to make direct referrals to refuge and floating support services.
- offers support to agencies and professionals in relation to domestic and sexual violence.



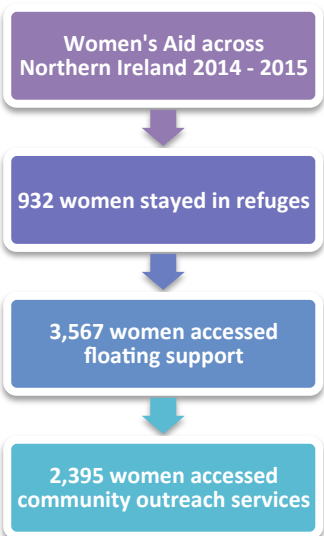
The 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline was the first Helpline in Northern Ireland to obtain the Helplines Partnership Quality Standard and it continues to maintain high levels of best practice associated with this standard. Last year (2014/15) the Helpline managed 34,420 calls.

Did you know...Women's Aid is the specialist agency addressing domestic and sexual violence and abuse in Northern Ireland?

Women's Aid provides:

- a network of refuges, providing safe, emergency accommodation to women and children suffering mental, physical and sexual abuse in the home.
- person centred programmes through community-based resource centres, including the *Journey to Freedom* and *You and Me, Mum* programmes.
- information and advice on legal, welfare and housing matters.
- outreach and floating support services to provide practical and emotional help to women and children in their own homes.

Women's Aid is continuously reviewing, developing and improving its services, based upon feedback from our service users, emerging needs and best practice.



Did you know...sometimes the biggest victims of domestic violence are the smallest?

- Violence in the home is impacting upon the lives of thousands of children and young people across Northern Ireland on a daily basis, it is vital that children's experiences of domestic violence are fully acknowledged, understood and addressed.
- Women's Aid provides a range of age appropriate, needs based, specialised services, including both individual and group work for children and young people, in both refuge and in the community.

24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline

Call: 0808 802 1414 - Email Support: 24hrsupport@dvhelpline.org

Text support to 07797 805 839

Freephone from all landlines and mobiles. Translation service available.

Open to all women and men affected by domestic & sexual violence



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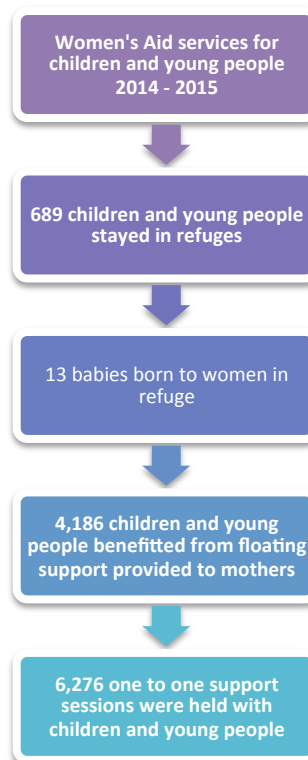
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Women's Aid is committed to the continuous improvement and development of children and young people's services and has produced a five-year strategy **Our Place - Safe Space (2012 – 2017)**.



Did you know...Women's Aid in Northern Ireland is leading the way in preventative education?

- Women's Aid believes that **eliminating abuse begins with preventing abuse** and has developed and implemented proactive approaches to addressing issues of personal safety in education settings, through a comprehensive training programme for teachers, to enable them to deliver the renowned and highly successful **Helping Hands** pack.
- To date, **824 teachers** representing **435 schools** (approximately 50% of all primary schools in NI) have been trained.



Did you know...Women's Aid service provision costs less than 1% of the total cost of domestic violence in Northern Ireland?

- The cost of domestic and sexual violence in Northern Ireland is estimated at **£885.7 million**¹. **Women's Aid service provision at current levels (outlined above) across NI is less than 1% of this total cost.**
- Any reduction in current funding would have a detrimental impact upon the provision of these vital services and the lives of everyone using them. As such, Women's Aid is fully committed to working in partnership with Government departments, funders and all relevant agencies, to address domestic and sexual violence in Northern Ireland and to ensure resources are used effectively and efficiently.

Did you know...PSNI respond to a domestic violence incident every 19 minutes?

PSNI statistics for 2014-2015² show:

- a domestic abuse incident was reported every **19 minutes** of every day.
- **28,287** domestic abuse incidents were responded to (average of **77** incidents per day).
- **13,426** domestic abuse crimes were recorded (approximately **13%** of overall crime in NI).
- **6 murders** had a domestic motivation (equates to **37.5%** of all murders which totalled **16**).
- **2,734** sexual offences were recorded, including **737** offences of rape.

¹ *Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in Northern Ireland 2013 – 2020*- Draft Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy jointly produced by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Department of Justice - public consultation document 15 January 2014

² www.psni.police.uk

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