



Annual Report
2002 - 2003



Foyle Women's AID

Administration Office and Aftercare Centre Pathways

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Management Committee

Chairperson:	Helen Bond
Vice Chairperson:	Mena Heaney
Secretary:	Christine Whiteman
Treasurer:	Kay McIvor

Other Members

Margaret Logue
Alice McKenzie
Karen O'Leary/Gilland
Fiona Doherty
Eileen Webster
Jacinta McCool
Shiela McNabb
Christine Bell
Joanna O'Boyce

Area Management Co-ordinator

Marie Brown

Legal Status
Company Limited by Guarantee
Company No. NI23041
Registered Charity No: XN 48783/BT



Chairperson's Report

Now as we come to the end of our three-year Strategic Plan we can reflect on our achieved targets, which were the additional services that the Management Co-ordinator will outline in her report. We continue to try to negotiate and contract the services of Foyle Women's Aid with funders to consolidate and provide continuing services for women and children suffering Domestic Violence.

This year more than others, I feel, we have seen more change in Foyle Women's Aid which is reflected in a more structured service. The contracting with N.I.H.E. under the Supporting People programme has provided an opportunity for a more sustainable service both in refuge accommodation and also supporting women in the community in urban and rural settings.

I welcome these changes and was glad to be supporting our management co-ordinator and other staff throughout the training and preparation for taking up the Supporting People contracts. However, the year coming will provide Foyle Women's Aid with the challenge of meeting our obligations and fulfilling the targets we have set for ourselves around providing a quality service the Supporting People Contracts and all of the projects in Foyle Women's Aid, to ensure a better service for women and children experiencing Domestic Violence.

I would like to thank the Northern Ireland Housing Executive staff on the Supporting People programme for their commitment and support and also the leadership N.I.H.E. are providing as a statutory agency in proactively putting the resources and support in place to tackle the issue of Domestic Violence in our

community. Without them the Domestic Violence services in Foyle would not have achieved the success that they have both in terms of Foyle Women's Aid and also the Foyle Interagency Partnership on Domestic Violence.

However, once again it saddens all involved in Foyle Women's Aid to have to report that services to support children and young people in the Foyle area are not being supported or resourced by any funders and the programmes that Women's Aid has ready and waiting to be delivered are unable to be delivered, not because of lack of demand but because of lack of will to recognise or provide resources to support children, the most vulnerable victims of Domestic Violence.

This is my final year with Foyle Women's Aid, I have been working with Foyle Women's Aid for 9 years, initially as a volunteer and then as a committee member, moving from Secretary to Chairperson. I have enjoyed being part of much change and progress during this time, but ultimately my memories will remain of the many women and children who have been through the services of Foyle Women's Aid and their needs and wishes must always be paramount. I know that any future plans will always be informed by the experiences of these women and children, a part of the ethos that gives Foyle Women's Aid the great strength and understanding of the issues women bring to us daily.

As the organisation prepares to go into the next three year strategy I wish you all well and continued success for the future, although I am leaving my role within the organisation my personal commitment to the issue of Domestic Violence will always remain with me. I look forward to keeping abreast of developments within



"I found that when the program addressed the effects of Domestic Violence on children, I found it very difficult to deal with."

Foyle Women's Aid and hearing of the ongoing work, which I know will be challenging, exciting and crucial to the lives of many women and children.

Helen Bond
Chairperson
Foyle Women's Aid

Area Management Co-ordinators Report

Once again we have reached the end of yet another very eventful and progressive year for all at Foyle Women's Aid.

This year more than others has been very demanding, not only because of increased demand across all our services, but due to a lot of change and to increased pressure of fundraising the necessary resources. We also took advantage of European funding to utilise further opportunity to increase and enhance current services. We have also reached the end of our three year Strategy so we are now reflecting on the past three years progress and also preparing to plan for the future and sustain the developments and strategic aims for the next three years.

Development of Existing Services Supporting People N.I.H.E.

We have experienced major changes in the funding mechanism, which required both re-organisation on our part and a lot of planning and preparation of budget development, training and the task of managing change. A lot of preparation went into fine-tuning

budgets and negotiating Interim Contracts under the supporting people initiative for our refuge services. This has enabled us to increase support staff at Ashleywood House, provide an essential resettlement service to women moving out into the community and provide a much more safe and effective provision for women in crises.

Community Support Services - Floating Support N.I.H.E

This year we finally accessed funding for three outreach workers. The planned Outreach Community Support service will help us meet one of our key objectives of providing a much more accessible service to the City side, Waterside, Strabane and surrounding areas.

We have submitted a further application in partnership with PSNI to provide for a similar service in Limavady District which if successful would meet our final key objectives of 2003.

We are very grateful to NIHE Floating Support Team who worked very hard to help us begin to co-ordinate this service and in particular to Eithne Gilligan who provided endless information and support to staff and management throughout the process. Foyle Women's Aid has for a long time been aware of the need for services to operate from rural areas. NIHE has helped us to address that need by providing financial resources; we look forward to at last opening rural offices in the coming year.

Interagency Partnership in Collaboration with The FHSST

We have successfully secured three years funding from DSD to continue the work of the interagency partnership; this project will provide the vital resources needed to meet the key objectives and targets set out in the interagency strategic plan. The provision, protection and prevention of Domestic Violence are best tackled in a partnership approach with all agencies that encounter Domestic Violence victims and survivors within their work. Foyle Interagency Partnership has evidenced this by their strong on the ground partnerships, detailed further in this report, that have made a difference for women and children.

The Pass Interagency Project

The Pass Project, we are currently awaiting the findings of the first ever research carried out exclusively in the Foyle area on Domestic Violence and Advice and Information services. We hope this research will further inform our strategy for interagency development and training in the Foyle area. Of course the biggest opportunity will be to hear directly from women the types of services they require in the L'Derry/Strabane/Limavady and Dungiven areas.

The Second Stage Housing Development

We are pleased to report that work is well under way on our second stage housing development at 22 Pump Street in conjunction with North West Housing and under careful supervision of Michael Hegarty Architects. If schedule sticks to plan we should hand over in November and be in a position to open this purpose built accommodation in January.

PSNI

There has been significant changes locally within the PSNI in the past year, this has led to changes in the staffing levels of the Domestic Violence officers and the service available. We would hope in the coming year that this will be addressed and we certainly will be continuing to push for a full dedicated unit to deal with this most serious of issues.

Fundraising

We have been very successful in our fundraising strategy. Although fundraising dominates much of the time that could be spent on project work and this is frustrating I would like to acknowledge and thank Cecilia Whitehorn for her help and expertise and who's supported me throughout the fundraising process. Despite our success in other areas it is with much regret and feelings of frustration that despite our commitment and endless fundraising efforts we are not able to secure the crucial resources that are required for children's services and child protection.

Unfortunately we had to lose two staff who provided a much needed and integral service for children; this has resulted in a severe gap in services for these most vulnerable of victims the children. It seems incomprehensible and almost criminal that despite the increasing knowledge of the impact of Domestic Violence on children and their need for early intervention, these children still remain excluded.

The Foyle Trust Area holds the highest reported statistics of domestic violence in N. Ireland. Supporting People have demonstrated their commitment to supporting adult victims of Domestic



"I now know how my children were feeling and how I had assumed that they knew nothing of what was going on, I had tried to shut it out."

Violence. Social services have failed to take up their responsibilities and duty to prioritise the needs of these children. Foyle Women's Aid has developed a Childcare Strategy which underpins the Foyle Social Services

Strategy which we have circulated identifying the needs of children suffering Domestic Violence to help us obtain the resources needed for prevention and protection programmes for children. There is much need for a co-ordinated response from Social Services and other agencies for children suffering Domestic Violence. We urge those in positions of power either within statutory agencies or in the political arena to take up the issue of children, "the hidden victims of Domestic Violence". I wish to take this opportunity to thank both Eimear Morrow and Tracey Swerdlick for their hard work and commitment to the many children they have supported throughout their years with us and wish them well in the future.

ACI

This project has proven to be an innovative approach and has begun to address a huge gap in the support of women through the Criminal Justice System. Local women are increasingly using the Criminal Justice System. The Criminal Justice Project will ensure they have a high level of trained advocate support and information to lessen the traumatic impact of this process on victims and survivors of Domestic Violence. The challenge for the future is to increase the training and awareness of the impact of Domestic Violence on women and children throughout.

Volunteering

We are delighted that we have achieved successful continued funding for our Volunteer Co-ordinator. Volunteers have always been an instrumental part to the success of Women's Aid Services. The Co-ordinator has a crucial role in the co-ordination, development and support of these volunteers who are present throughout all our services. I would like to welcome our newly trained volunteers. I would like to acknowledge the long-term volunteers and thank you for your commitment and time to this organisation.

Staffing

The demands of change, development and introduction of new policies and procedures are difficult within any organisation but I feel they are even more so in an organisation that manages crisis work on a daily basis. The staff teams have once again risen to the challenge and we are progressing through development and training and introduction of new systems, which will enhance and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of all services. I would like to welcome new staff and I would like to once again acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all staff across the projects. The team in Foyle Women's Aid with our newest expertise is very dynamic and committed, and I have no doubt will prove themselves well able to provide the necessary challenge for the many obstacles in the way of tackling Domestic Violence in the Foyle community.

Ashleywood House Annual Report

Ashleywood House has been busy throughout the year as the demand for accommodation continues. It is with much regret that in January 2003 we lost valuable childcare staff due to lack of funding; this is a resource that is badly missed within the refuge. The lack of sustainable childcare funding is a sad reflection on how children's needs are not seen as priority.

Our Night Workers have now been in post just over a year. This has proven to be an invaluable service to further complement the supports that are on offer in Ashleywood House. The team also welcomes our new Refuge Support Worker - who commenced employment in November 2002; again, a much needed addition to the refuge team.

There have been a lot of changes throughout the year with the implementation of Supporting People being the 'biggie'. Whilst managing and monitoring the support services to women and children, the workload has increased as quality standards and procedures remain the emphasis. A few headaches and teething difficulties have ensued, but we have weathered the paper work. All we need now is a longer working week - and the time to do it!!! We do however, feel if this enhances services for refuge provision this will be welcomed and sustained. Again, within this initiative children's needs are excluded from the agenda and this is causing a degree of concern.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the women and children who have availed of our services throughout the year especially throughout this time of transition. They have walked this road with us and really have embraced the concept of self-help and women supporting women.

Marion Mullan
Team Leader

Resettlement Worker Annual Report

From April 2002 to May 2003 our second stage housing has accommodated 12 women and 17 children. Although these women and children did not reside in the refuge they were supported to the same extent. Women and children have been supported when moving back into the community after refuge life.

The drop in service, which runs from February to June has now been extended throughout the summer. We are looking forward to the completion of our new second-stage accommodation at 22 Pump Street.



One child would become a 'peace-maker', another a 'protector'. "I found that once I understood why the children had behaved in the way they did, it was easier to approach them about the circumstances."

"Men Overcoming Domestic Violence Programme" (MODV) Programme For Perpetrators

May 2003 saw the completion of the fourth MODV Programme to be delivered in the Foyle area, the first programme having commenced in November 1999.

As the manager of this Programme I remain committed to the contribution and value that MODV plays in helping to reduce the risk that abusive men pose towards women, thereby enhancing the safety of women (and their children) whose male partners undergo the programme.

Evaluation is a priority for these programmes, and it is timely to consider some of the findings from the evaluations and the experience to date of running MODV in the Foyle area.

Almost 30 men have now completed the Programme to date. Another 13 men commenced attendance but failed to remain, or were expelled from the Programme. Most of the men referred have committed either serious acts of violence and/or evidenced persistent abuse or violence. The men who were required to attend as part of a Probation Order and who failed to complete the Programme, were returned to Court for breach of their Probation Orders, and received alternative sanctions from the Court, including immediate prison sentences, and suspended prison sentences. Most of the men who dropped out of the Programme were either referred by Social Services or had referred themselves. This bears out overall research findings which conclude that Programmes are most successful where there are clear

sanctions attached to failing to complete, particularly Court sanctions. Nevertheless one third of those completing were referred by Social Services, particularly by Child Protection Social Workers.

The measurement of whether these programmes work or not is clearly linked to whether the men re-offend. To date one man has been reconvicted of an assault on his partner out of almost 30 men who completed the programmes. However, we know that several men have re-engaged in domestic violence although have not had complaints brought against them. In the majority of men who complete, there has been no evidence of further physical assault, although some of the partners of these men would have said that emotional abuse remained significant.

Obtaining a comprehensive feedback from partners of the men can be problematic because some women don't wish to take up the opportunity of speaking to Women's Aid or a researcher. However, most women who do participate indicate avoidance of actual physical violence, and distinct improvement in respectful behaviour by their partners towards them due to the programme.

In virtually all cases the men describe a range of positive behavioural changes resulting from completion of the programme. This tends to be supported by the outcome of psychological tests administered before and after the programme which indicate positive change on a variety of factors such as, empathy, anger control, impulsiveness etc.

So what does all this tell us about the success of MODV? Firstly it reminds us that MODV was never intended as a panacea for resolving the violent.

behaviour of all men referred into the programme. What it does tell us, however, is that men are more likely to come out of the programme with changed attitudes and behaviour towards women, and that their partners are more likely to be safer as a result of the programme.

The essence of the programme's effectiveness is not simply the content and design of the programme but moreso, the partnership through which it is delivered, among the key agencies i.e. Social Services, Probation and Women's Aid.

What the programme has shown is that women have been referred to Women's Aid and have taken up a range of supportive services which they wouldn't otherwise have done without the presence of the MODV programme. The involvement of Women's Aid, Police, Domestic Violence Officers, along with Social Services and Probation has succeeded in building a network of support and protection for the partners/ex-partners of the men and their families.

Domestic Violence literature highlights the harmful effects of the violence on children, and the relationship between domestic violence and child abuse. It is very significant that most men on the programme recall childhoods where they witnessed high levels of domestic violence by their fathers towards their mothers. While they found this to be a distressing experience as children, they grew to see this as the norm and therefore acceptable. The Programme helps men to realise that such behaviour is not acceptable and is criminal, and it challenges their long held beliefs about their perceptions and beliefs about men and women. It is also a learning experience for men to take stock of the effects of their violence on their own

children, particularly the fear engendered by their behaviour, and how they are repeating their experience as a child of witnessing domestic violence on their own children.

MODV is an important element in the range of services developed in the Foyle area with the intention of making a real impact on the safety of victims of such crime. It is a programme delivered through partnership with the safety of women being paramount. I believe that the programme is succeeding and has made a difference.

Terry Doherty
Area Manager

The Floating Support Service

In April 2003 Foyle Women's Aid extended their outreach service with the aim to respond to the needs and requirements of women who are experiencing or have experienced Domestic Violence residing in rural areas of Derry and Strabane. We therefore recruited a further two Community Support Workers, bringing the floating support team to three. These posts have been funded by Northern Ireland Housing Executive under their "Supporting People" fund.

At present our Community Support Workers are working from two offices, "Pathways" at Pump Street and at the "Women's Community Support" office at Ashleywood House. On Friday 30th May 2003 the Northern Ireland Housing Executive confirmed that funding has been granted for premises in Strabane. Our aim is to be working from this office in the town



"I am not walking on eggshells anymore watching for his reaction."

centre by summer 2003. Currently the floating support team is accessing venues in the Strabane area and has met with women who are, or have, experienced Domestic Violence in their own homes.

Our Floating Support team aim is to reach Women in rural areas of LDerry and Strabane who have been unable to access services and thus bring a confidential community based service to them. We provide a listening ear service and support women by accompanying them to appointments and Court. Our Community Support Workers assist women in identifying their needs, the options available to them and encourage women to make informed decisions and choices. Community Support Workers liaise with external agencies and make referrals to other sources within Women's Aid.

The official launch of the floating support services is being held in the City Hotel, Queen's Quay, LDerry on the 10th June 2003. We are very excited to have Anni Marjoram, the policy advisor on women's issues to Ken Livingstone, The Mayor of London, as the guest speaker. We are very much looking forward to the challenges the publicity of this event will bring.

Floating Support Team

Training & Education – The 'Try It' Project

Foyle Women's Aid has been extending its range of services for women in the past year with the introduction of a new exciting training course which is currently being developed. The 'Try It' project aims to provide women with access to education and training within the safety of their own communities. The programme which will be run at four centres within the Derry City area, including Ballymagroarty, Newbuildings, a City side venue and a Waterside venue, aims to encourage women who are over the age of 18 back into employment.

The project has been divided into three programmes each of which covers areas which impact upon a women's life and aims to give value to the roles which women in our society carry out. The programme will pave the way for women to enter into NVQ training in Child Care, Social Care and Community Justice and provide volunteering opportunities for women to ensure they qualify for such training courses.

The 'Try It' Project is due to commence in September, with information sessions currently being organised and offered to women's groups throughout the district.

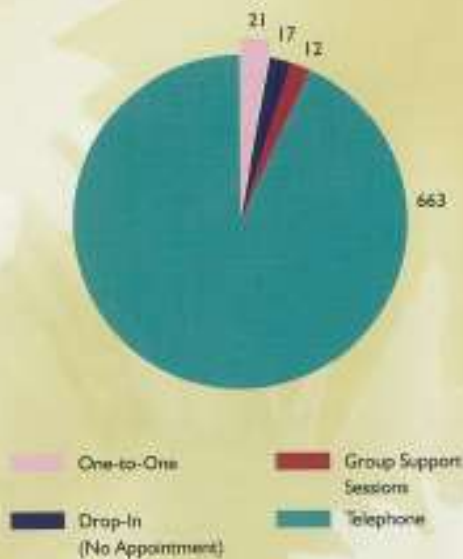
The programme has already generated huge interest and this time next year I hope to be reporting to you about its success; it is hoped that the momentum and the excitement that this project has already generated continues, helping us to build upon the services already provided by Foyle Women's Aid.

Shauna Houston
Training & Education Project Worker

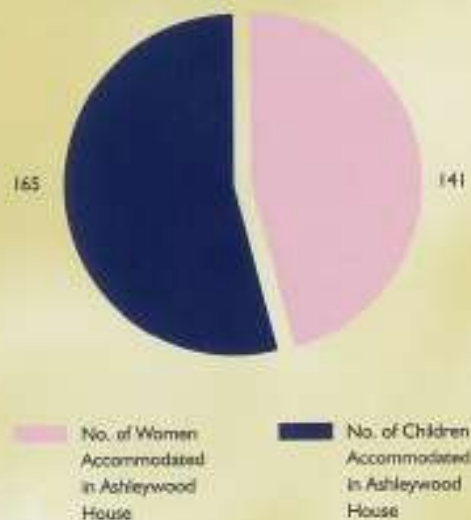
In The Year 2002 - 2003 1,775 Women &

Telephone 028 7128 0060 Pathways Outreach Centre

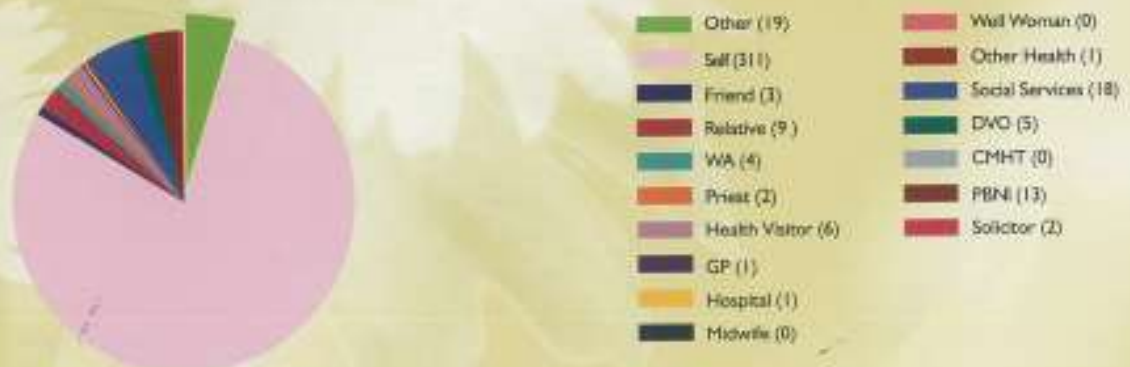
Total Number of Women Supported Through Ashleywood House = 713 (Not Including Accommodation)



Number of Women and Children Accommodated in Ashleywood House 2002 / 2003 306



Breakdown of Referrals to Foyle Woman's Aid 395



There should be more information available on school notice boards and in doctors' surgeries

Children were Supported by

24 Hour Helpline **028 9033 1818**



Total Number of Women Supported
Through Pathways Aftercare = 756



Telephone Support
Drop in
Accompanied to external
one-to-one

Total Number of Women Supported
Through Foyle Women's Aid 2002 / 2003
1469 (not including accommodation)



Women Supported through Pathways
Women Supported through Ashleywood House



Bridie McGrille pictured at the memorial garden for her daughter Caroline in Ashleywood House

I believe that young people need to recognise
the difference between an unhealthy relationship
and a healthy relationship

Interagency Training Co-Ordinator's Report

The Foyle Interagency Partnership on Domestic Violence (formerly known as the Forum on Domestic Violence) came to the end of its first strategic plan, during the last year. A review period has just been completed to look at what has been achieved, and where the gaps still are. More importantly the review period focused on planning where the Partnership would like to go in the next 2-3 year cycle. To this end a strategic review day has taken place and new targets and objectives have been put in place to guide the work of the Partnership over the coming years. The key areas to be developed are, to develop a strategic plan for Interagency work on Domestic Violence in the Foyle Trust area and to secure the resources and commitment of all to carry this out successfully.

The Foyle Interagency Partnership continues to be held as a model of good practice in the region for interagency working and a number of other agencies have contacted us directly seeking support and guidance. However, we continue to challenge our own work and not become complacent in our work and challenge ourselves and each other in the pursuit of best practice in this interagency area of tackling domestic violence.

Funding

The Partnership has been successful in securing funding for the next three year period from the Outreach Programme of the NI Executive. An application was submitted early in the year and initial confirmation has been received that we are to receive 75% of the

project applied for. This application was for the "Foyle Domestic Violence Prevention Strategy" and is tied into the strategic review mentioned above. This funding from the Outreach Programme will bring an additional worker to the project and also give full time administration support to the project. We are still reliant on securing the other 25% funding from local sources. Once again in the past year we relied on funding from the North West Development Office and would like to thank them for their continued support of this project.

Training

The main thrust of training in the past year continued to be with health care professionals, trying to complete Basic Awareness training with as many of FHSST staff as possible. However, what has become apparent is that without policies in place and the making of training mandatory for all relevant professionals we will continue to "miss out" on a significant number of disciplines in the health care professions; this is currently being addressed. We would hope in the year to come also that we will develop further our links with Altnagelvin Trust in particular and the WHSSB for training of relevant staff. Training also took place within the last year with a number of other agencies including PSNI, army, Derry City Council staff, student social workers, Derry Well Woman, local voluntary and community groups.



"I now feel stronger, more in control and more educated to the issues of Domestic Violence."

Policy Development

The main policies developed within the last year include the first employee policy in NI by a government agency that is with Derry City Council. This process included the drafting of the policy, consultation on the policy and then one day training with all those with a line management responsibility in Derry City Council. Information sessions were also offered to all other staff. A leaflet outlining the policy was distributed to all employees along with their payslip. Reaction to the policy and to the training was very positive and we continue to get feedback from those who took part. Other policies currently being developed include a PSNI policy for supporting victims of Domestic Violence and an employee policy for FHSST amongst others. We would hope to have drawn up with other agencies a number of other policies in the coming year and put in place training to support these policies as is recommended under best practice. The development of the London Strategy on Domestic Violence has given a best practice baseline for work in the Foyle area and will help inform of policies, protocols and procedures required in the area. The recent publishing of Derry Well Woman and University of Ulster research into the mental and emotional health needs of women in the North West area of Ireland also highlighted the importance of Domestic Violence as a factor in a large number of women's lives. Domestic Violence was cited as the single most important factor by stakeholders who responded to the survey in the category of lifestyle and behaviour. The Partnership looks forward to linking their ongoing policy and development work in the Foyle area into the strategic plan developed from this research.

Advice and Information Project

Funding was sought for and received to provide a worker and research to produce a strategy to inform the advice and information needs of those who have experienced Domestic Violence in the Foyle area and also to include the needs of the agencies they may come into contact when seeking help within the Foyle area. The funding was provided through the DSD Building Sustainable Communities programme under measure 3.2.

This new project began in January 2003 to develop the following work consistent with the values, principles, policies and best practice of Foyle Women's Aid:

- Implement a quality advice and information service for women and their children who seek support from Foyle Women's Aid.
- Develop and promote, in collaboration with others, a cohesive quality advice and information strategy for all those affected by Domestic Violence in the Foyle Trust area.

An advice and information worker Ann Mc Donald was recruited and began work in January 2003. Her role was to support the research and also to build contacts and relationships with relevant agencies in the Foyle area. She also gives direct support to women who have experienced domestic violence.

A research Steering Group was set up by the Interagency Partnership and CM Works successfully tendered for the research proposal. The groundwork to plan and carry out the research was carried out January to February of this year with around 1,500

questionnaires delivered to staff of agencies and also for the general public to fill out. The first questionnaire for staff assessed their competency and confidence in dealing with domestic violence and the second questionnaire profiled those who had an experience of Domestic Violence or who knew someone who had an experience of Domestic Violence. Individual interviews were also carried out with relevant personnel from a variety of agencies and focus groups with survivors of domestic violence and agency staff took place. Research findings will be disseminated fuller later in the year. Initial findings suggest high levels of recording of Domestic Violence. It is worth noting this is the largest Domestic Violence research ever carried out in Northern Ireland.

Accident & Emergency Research

Funding was also secured in the past year from the Investing For Health programme from WHSSB to carry out Domestic Violence research in the Accident & Emergency Department. Consulting Mentoring Works also carried out this research on behalf of Foyle Women's Aid. With the agreement of Mr Alan McKinney Consultant, Accident & Emergency and the support of the staff of the A&E department universal screening of all adults attending A&E over a 5 day period during office hours was carried out. A second questionnaire was made available to staff to gauge staff competence and confidence in identifying and dealing with Domestic Violence. Individual interviews were also carried out with relevant healthcare professionals and focus groups were also held with survivors of Domestic Violence. The findings from this research will be made available later this summer but initial findings indicate high levels of recording of Domestic Violence.

Community Justice Volunteer Support Project

The funding was secured during 2002 to employ a Community Justice Volunteer Support Worker through the ACI Active Communities Initiative. This is an exciting and innovative project to recruit and train volunteers specifically for court and related legal support for women who have experienced Domestic Violence. Foyle Women's Aid was one of only a handful of projects nationally to have been awarded this funding. The volunteers will work towards a new NVQ level 3 cluster award in Community Justice equipping them with the skills to support victims of crime and a knowledge of the criminal justice system. Currently volunteers are being recruited and carrying out initial Domestic Violence awareness training and other core volunteer training before beginning their criminal justice training in the Autumn. The worker recruited last year to the project Jennie Robinson, took up a new position in March of this year and a new worker has been recruited to take over this position. We would like to thank Jenni for her commitment and effort in setting up the project.

Media

Caroline's Day – January 24th saw the 3rd annual Caroline's Day being held in the Guildhall Square. Mr Eamonn McCann, journalist and author, spoke at the event along with Mrs Mary Nellis MLA; both gave emotive and supportive speeches highlighting the abuse of women in our local community and the need for action at all levels to address this crime. A special section of the 9 line BBC Radio Foyle interviewed two local survivors of Domestic Violence, one a partner of an abusive man and the second a child survivor. This programme impacted greatly on local women and



"It was not only the content of the program, but the facilitators were the reason for its success. They usually understood what was happening to me and my children."

response to it was immense. We continue to contribute to media articles on a variety of issues including attacks on women, stalking and Domestic Violence. We have contributed to local and regional radio and television programmes and continue to use the media as a vehicle to highlight the issue of Domestic Violence wherever possible.

Comic Relief

Foyle Women's Aid has received funding during the past two years from Comic Relief. As part of their ongoing commitment to highlighting the issue of Domestic Violence they wished to produce a special segment during the Comic Relief evening appeal. Foyle Women's Aid was known to them for its work and they approached Marie Brown to work with them on developing this segment. They chose the story of Caroline Crossan, spending time with Bridie McGreillis and her family to film a short piece on Caroline using photographs to tell her story. The result was a powerful insert on the evening that was introduced by James Nesbitt. Bridie and Marie Brown and myself travelled to London for the evening and Bridie and Marie also attended a pre launch for business who support Comic Relief a few months earlier, with Bridie delivering a presentation. The feedback to this has been huge and clearly highlighted the continuing media work to be done on this issue for victims of Domestic Violence and also how this abuse affects their families.

Margaret Gallagher
Interagency Training Co-ordinator
Foyle Interagency Partnership on Domestic Violence

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Since joining Foyle Women's Aid as Volunteer Co-ordinator in January 2003 it has been enlightening and encouraging to see the volume of time, work and commitment given by volunteers to the work of Foyle Women's Aid.

As part of volunteer induction, volunteers are expected to complete an eight-week training course. This training is necessary to ensure that volunteers understand the impact the many different types of Domestic Violence has on the victim and so provide the volunteer with the knowledge and skills to effectively carry out her role within Foyle Women's Aid. Fifteen new volunteers completed this training course. The training began on 24th February and was completed in mid April. It was a very diverse group and feed back from the training has been extremely positive. Another training course is scheduled to begin in the very near future due to keen interest.

Foyle Women's Aid encourages the development of their volunteers and several volunteers completed the accredited New Worker Training in early 2003.

Volunteers have been involved in the many different areas of work carried out by Foyle Women's Aid, these include: assisting in the refuge, providing reception and administration cover, providing court support, facilitating and taking part in training, helping in the resettlement of women, fund raising, decorating the refuge and in the catering for training sessions. Throughout the year there have been student placements that have helped to organise media reports and catalogue research materials. Volunteers have also been involved in our International Women's Day

celebrations which was a Pamper Day for Foyle Women's Aid clients and provided therapies such as Reiki, Reflexology, Beauty Therapy, and Massage. The day was enjoyed by all.

As volunteering is a two way process it is important to show volunteers that they are appreciated and respected and seen as a very important and vital resource to Foyle Women's Aid. With that in mind volunteers are invited to regular events such as Christmas Brunch, Caroline's Day and the AGM. Volunteers are also asked to attend regular Support and Supervision meetings, which are on a one-to-one basis or in a group setting, where they have the opportunity to give and receive feed back about their role within Foyle Women's Aid in a safe and comfortable environment. This is also a great opportunity to meet with other volunteers and thus team build.

The work carried out by the volunteers is greatly appreciated and worthy. Without the input of our volunteers much of the important work that needs doing wouldn't be done. We at Foyle Women's Aid would like to express our gratitude to all our volunteers and we look forward to another rewarding and productive year ahead.

Georgina Gallagher
Volunteer Co-ordinator

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Foyle Women's Aid

We have audited the financial statements of Foyle Women's Aid for the year ended 31 March 2003 on pages 4 to 15. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective

The management committee's responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards are set out in the Statement of management committee's responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. We also report to



"If I had have known about Journey to Freedom sooner, I may not have stayed in my relationship as long as I had."

you if, in our opinion, the report of the Management Committee is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if the information specified by law regarding transactions of the company is not disclosed.

We read other information contained in the report of the Management Committee and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that

the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2003 and of its incoming resources and income and expenditure for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

Foyle Women's Aid

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2003

	Notes	£	2003 £	£	2002 £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	9		507311		508830
Current Assets					
Sundry debtors	10	22810		46889	
Cash at bank and in hand	11	<u>49932</u>		<u>19645</u>	
		<u>72742</u>		<u>66534</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Bank loans and overdrafts	12	105064		119754	
Sundry creditors	13	<u>43195</u>		<u>11564</u>	
		<u>148259</u>		<u>131318</u>	
Net Current Liabilities			<u>-75517</u>		<u>-64784</u>
Deferred Capital Grants	14		<u>275964</u>		<u>282599</u>
Net Assets			<u>155830</u>		<u>161447</u>
Income Funds					
Unrestricted Funds			120388		161447
Restricted Funds	15		<u>35442</u>		<u>0</u>
			<u>155830</u>		<u>161447</u>

The accounts were approved by the Management Committee on 19 June 2003.

CHAIRPERSON: HELEN BOND

TREASURER: KAY McIVOR

Foyle Women's Aid
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2003

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2003 £	Total Funds 2002 £
Income and Expenditure					
Incoming Resources					
Grants Received	3	57011	125333	182344	131589
Donations & Sundry Fundraising		22861	0	22861	17665
Northern Ireland Housing Executive		169552	10600	180152	114915
Training Fees		8666	0	8666	2586
Special Needs Management Allowance		11781	0	11781	12116
Investment Income	4	166	0	166	469
Total Incoming Resources		270037	135933	405970	279340
Resources expended					
Direct charitable expenditure	5	171557	100491	272048	181489
Management & administration	5	139539	0	139539	111800
Total resources expended		311096	100491	411587	293289
Net incoming resources before transfers	6	-41059	35442	-5617	-13949
Transfers between funds		0	0	0	0
Net incoming resources for the year		-41059	35442	-5617	-13949
Other recognised gains and losses		0	0	0	0
Net movement in funds		-41059	35442	-5617	-13949
Balance brought forward 1 April 2002		161447	0	161447	175396
Balance carried forward 31 March 2003		120388	35442	155830	161447

The income and expenditure summary as required to be disclosed by the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 is included at note 16.

The company has no recognised gains and losses other than any included above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented. There is no difference between the net incoming resources for the year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.



Helen Bond, Chairperson, Tracey Swerdlick, Creche Co-ordinator receive an A.I.B. Better Ireland award on behalf of Foyle Women's Aid.



Staff and management committee members of Foyle Women's Aid. Pictured at last year's AGM.



"Thank you so much. Looking forward to the next programme and learning even more about life, human beings and human interaction!"

Foyle Women's Aid gratefully acknowledges financial support from the following:

Department of Social Development
Community Foundation
Londonderry Development Office
NIVDA
DSD Gap
Foyle Health and Social Services Trust
Probation Board NI
Western Health and Social Services Board
Coolkeeragh Power Limited
Charities Aid Foundation
Comic Relief
Esme Mitchell Trust
Lloyds TSB
Westway Film Productions
Bluffton College

To those who partook of the Give As You Earn Scheme.

To the numerous other donors of money and gifts in kind to our organisation.

Christmas can be a difficult time for victims and survivors of Domestic Violence and community support is vital at this time. Thank you to all local businesses and individuals who made a difference for many women and children in the refuge this year.

