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WHERE YOU CAN FIND US

One number for all Services: 028 71416 800

PATHWAYS

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Support Services

Jo Corcoran

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Support Services Manager 24 Pump Street L'Derry, BT48 6JG **Email:** jo.corcoran@foylewomensaid.org

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Ms Eileen Webster

Vice Chairperson

Mrs Eileen Maguire

Treasurer

Ms Margaret Logue

Assistant Treasurer

Ms Jacinta McCool

Secretary

Ms Karen O'Leary

Assistant Secretary

Ms Anne Marie Harkin

Vision

Purpose

We will create a centre of excellence that leads in partnership working to develop and sustain non-violent, healthy communities in the North-West

Respect: We treat others with equality and fairness

Understanding: We strive to understand the needs, fears and wishes of others

Shared Learning: We are committed to exchanging knowledge, experiences and ideas

Trust: We will build open and honest relationships, and act with integrity and confidentiality

Non-Judgemental: We respect the right to hold opinions and the choices of others, even though they might be different from our own

Challenge: We advocate and question to empower all to make changes and reach their goals

Total = 2757 women and children supported during 2016-17

Company No: NI23041

Registered Charity No: NIC 103223

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Key Priorities

OBJECTIVE 1

To support victims of domestic abuse and their families.

OB₂

OBJECTIVE 2

Prevention of sexual and domestic abuse.

3

OBJECTIVE 3

To develop services relating to support, protection and justice of victims.

OBJECTIVE 4

To ensure financial sustainability of FWA.

OBJECTIVE 5

To have sufficient, flexible and competent staff.

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Director's Report 2016 - 17



Like all years, this was a very busy and productive year within Foyle Women's Aid. This year has held a special significance, both within the organisation and within the Foyle area, as we celebrated the 40th year of Foyle Women's Aid's campaigning, advocacy, and development and delivery of programmes and services that have moved with the times and needs of the large numbers we support. The ethos and aims, however, remain the same. We work from a feminist perspective to continue challenging the inequality of women and girls, and combat domestic violence in all its forms, and continue to work towards the relief of poverty within these families.

As well as delivering on all the objectives and services for the year, we marked the occasion by running a range of community events throughout the year. The events are all documented throughout this report

and a special Interactive Timeline was developed and launched. The Timeline is a working document and provides the historical narrative of all the activities, milestones and people involved along the way, which contributed to our success and helped form the strong, reputable organisation we are today.

The Timeline can be accessed at <u>www.foyleonesafeplace.org</u>. It is well worth a visit to view pictures and film of the changes throughout the years. It is very interesting to reflect on what has changed and what issues still remain the same or have deteriorated in this millennium. We will continue to document and archive our work to educate and inform present-day and future audiences about the harrowing impacts of domestic abuse on families locally, as well as all the work within Foyle Women's Aid and the partnership work that has been truly innovative in this area, contributing to keeping families safer. A special thank you must go to i3 Digital, who worked closely with us to develop this great tool that will help us document the stories yet to come.

As always, the staff team in Foyle have to be commended for all their hard work throughout the year, with a special mention to all staff who took on extra work and gave up their free time to organise or perform within the year's events, and make 2016 a very memorable and successful celebration that was well supported within the local community.

This year marked the end of our current strategy and, as we reviewed the objectives, the staff teams were successful in achieving all of their targets. Special acknowledgement must go to the Support Team, who managed to exceed targets for the complete five years.

This demonstrates the hard work and commitment of these teams in busy and challenging times, with rising referrals, occupancy rates, decreasing resources, and more hardship and deprivation locally. The Team has overcome all of the difficulties and has excelled to reach higher numbers of victims from risk to safety year on year. This outstanding performance has been expertly supported and managed by our Support Services Manager, Jo Corcoran.

Throughout the report, you can read about all of the projects and ongoing work of the teams, and importantly, the service user feedback and attendance at consultations, so that we can review and advise about continuing and new initiatives and services.

The ongoing development of services is always a key objective here in Foyle. We were delighted to address the gaps in provision for children and young people suffering or witnessing abuse within the family. The opening and launch of POD15 has been a key objective and priority under the Support, Protection and Prevention categories of our plan.

This centre, and the continued funding and partnership with DHSSP, will enable us to carry out the crucial work required to break the cycle of violence within families by delivering programmes to address the trauma experienced, support mothers to rebuild attachments and concentrate on supporting resilience within the family. This project was supported by a range of funders and by Foyle Women's Aid committing a portion of our own reserves to ensure that children and young people's voices are heard and they are no longer named as hidden victims. I would like to thank Kieran Downey and Deirdre Mahon for their support in recognising and addressing the needs of these most vulnerable victims. We look forward to the ongoing commitment that will enable us to develop all of the activities within the centre and grow it to a centre of excellence in abuse intervention.

We have continued to work under the priority of developing services to support the protection and justice of victims, and major headway has been made in our development plans to move to the construction stages of this project. A major frustration in this process has been the unstable political situation that prevails in Northern Ireland. The lack of political representation and decision making has caused delays in achieving the final gap funding required to move to Phase Two of this project. However, the agencies on the ground remain undeterred, as meetings of the Strategic Operational Board are continuing to plan for the implementation stages of the project.

Judge McElholm has provided excellent support, both as Chair, and in the devotion of his time to meetings and visits to make this centre a reality.

The hardworking teams in Apex and Verbal have worked in partnership with ourselves and the architects to come up with a beautiful plan that will address the dereliction of the building and provide us with a very attractive site that will provide the much-needed accommodation for families alongside the One Safe Place centre, and the exhibition and conference centre. We were delighted by the success in achieving funding from the last round of the Tampon Tax applications. We will be working with the North West Development Office to agree our implementation plan.

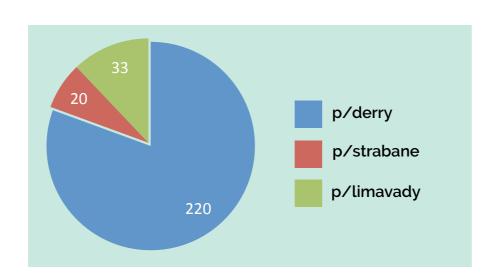
As you can see throughout the report and within the financial sections, we have continued to work hard to achieve financial sustainability and have received generous donations from within the community and funding bodies.

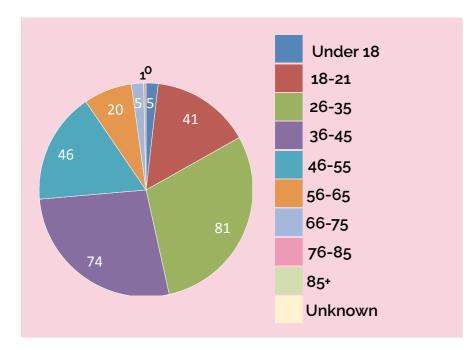
Marie Brown Director

To support victims of domestic abuse and their families.

Floating Support Statistics 2016 - 17

New Women requesting Floating Support Statistics 2016 - 2017

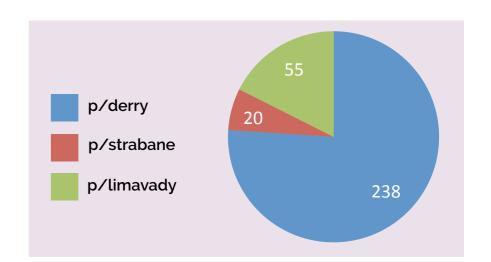


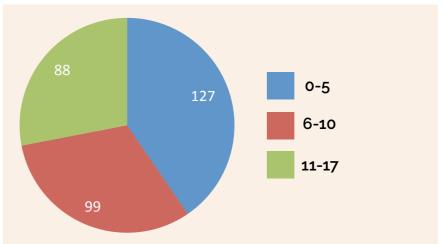


Age of Women 2016 - 2017

Floating Support Statistics 2016 - 17

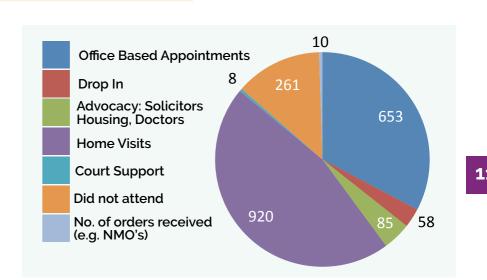
Number of Children Indirectly Benefiting from work with the mother 2017 - 2016





Age of Children 2017 - 2016

Floating Support
Direct Contact
2017 - 2016

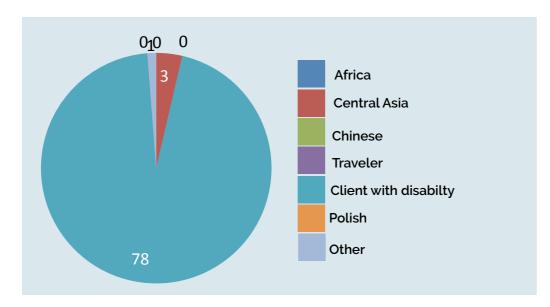


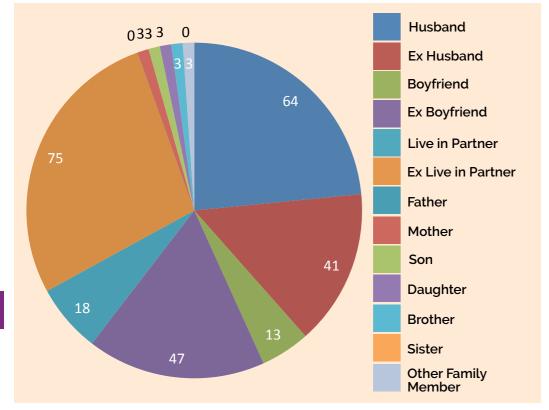
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To support victims of domestic abuse and their families.

Floating Support Statistics 2016 - 17

Women from Minority Communities 2016 - 2017

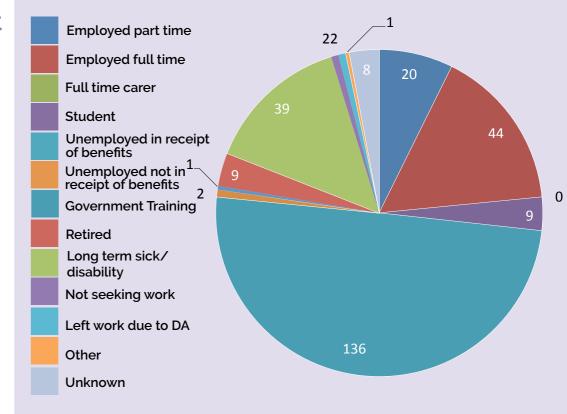


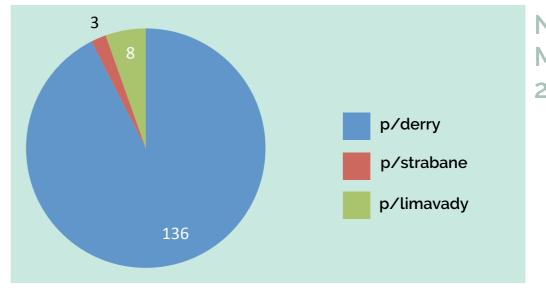


Relationship to Abuser 2016 - 2017

Floating Support Statistics 2016 - 17







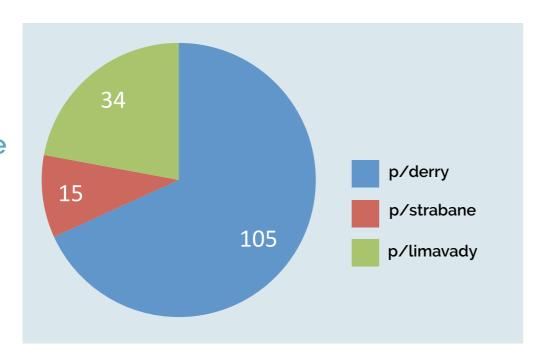
Numbers of MARAC Cases 2016 - 2017

To support victims of domestic abuse and their families.

Criminal Justice Statistics April 2016 - December 2017

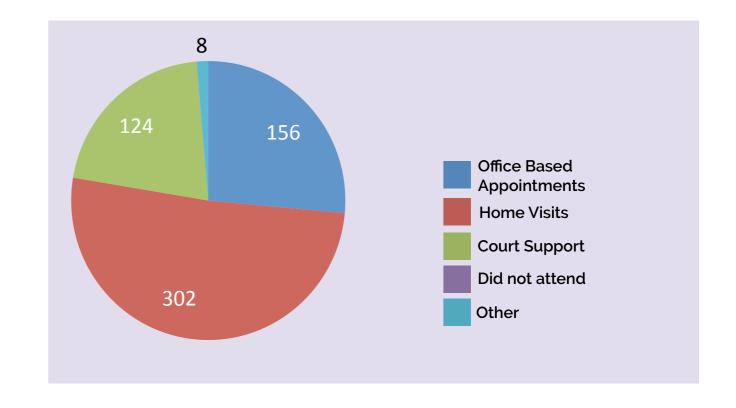
Criminal Justice Statistics April 2016 - December 201

New Women
Requesting
Support from
Criminal Justice
Workers
2016-17
Total = 154





No of children Indirectly Benefiting from Work with Mother 2016-17 Total = 125 Criminal Justice Workers Direct Contact 2016-17 Total = 590

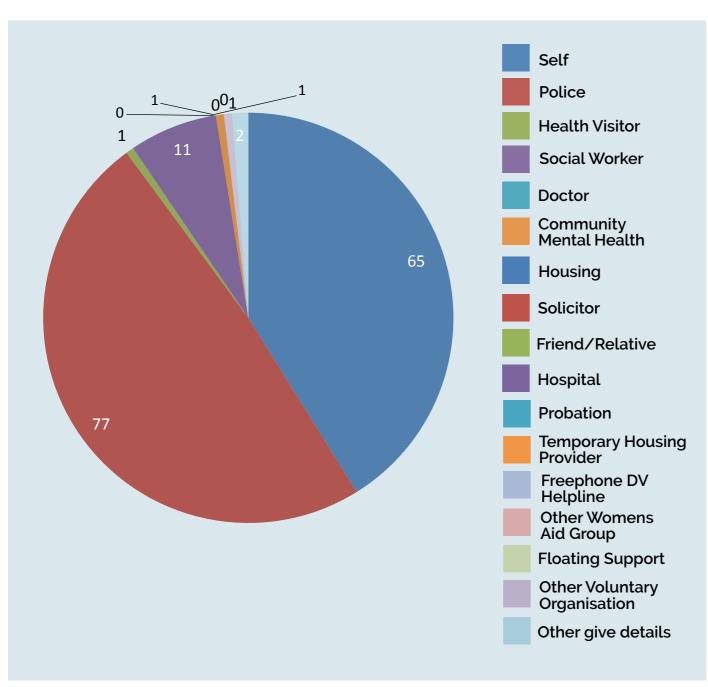


To support victims of domestic abuse and their families.

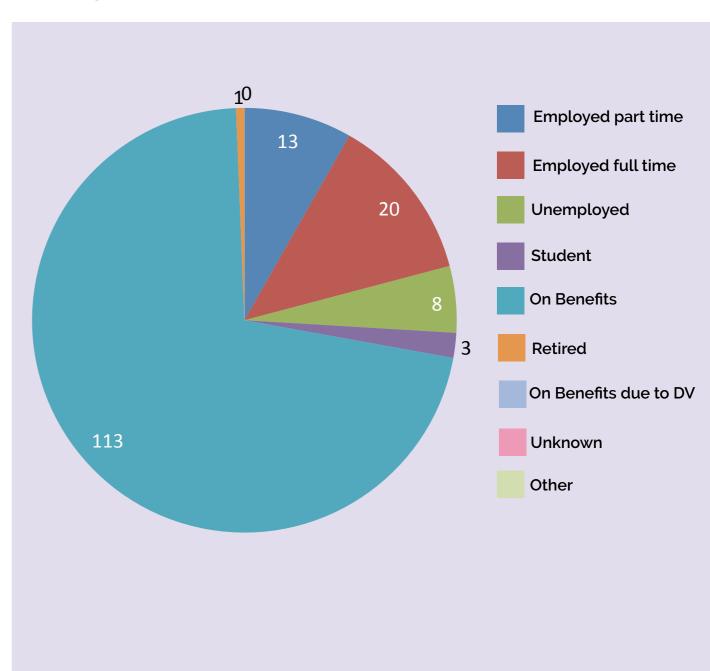
Criminal Justice Statistics April 2016 - December 2017

Criminal Justice Statistics April 2016 - December 2017

Source of Referrals to Criminal Justice Workers 2016-17



Employment Status of Women 2016-17

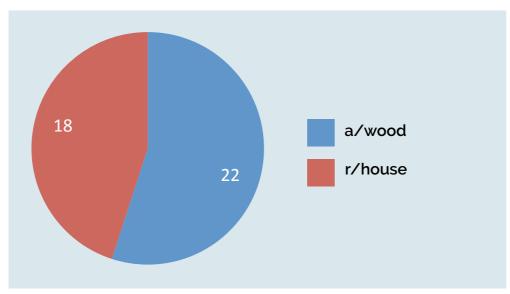


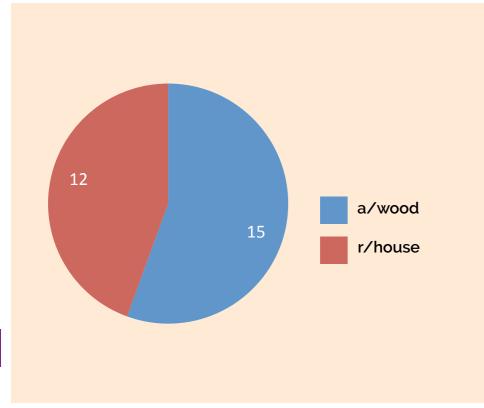
Total = 40

To support victims of domestic abuse and their families.

Accommodation Statistics 2016 - 2017

Total Number of New Women Accommodated 2016-17

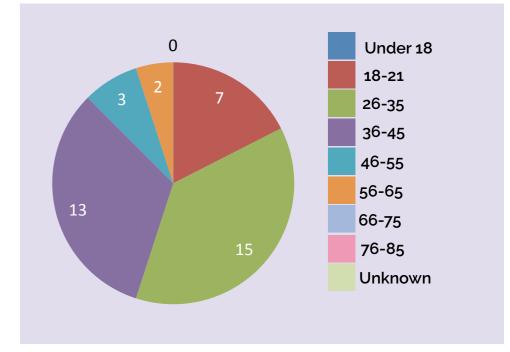


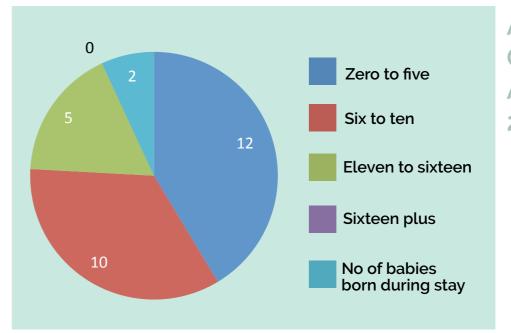


Total Number of Children Accommodated 2016-17 Total = 27

Accommodation Statistics 2016 - 2017

Age of Women in Accommodation 2016-17





Age of Children in Accommodation 2016-17

18



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Support Services 2016 - 2017

Foyle Women's Aid has supported thousands of women and children in the North-West since its foundation 40 years ago.

Support Services have developed into a specialist response addressing domestic and sexual violence and abuse in the Derry/L'derry, Strabane and Limavady areas. It centres around:

- Safe, secure, independent accommodation to women and children suffering mental, physical and sexual abuse in the home.
- Community support services offering emotional and practical support in the Derry/L'derry, Strabane and Limavady areas.
- Criminal justice and court support independent advocacy service and immediate response to high-risk victims.

For 2016/17 the Support Workers focussed successfully on their team objectives. They drew up individual action plans to achieve the team targets listed below:

- Improving client engagement: to find ways to encourage frightened victims to come forward and stay away from abusive relationships.
- Encouraging service user involvement: to be informed by the experiences of women who have experienced abuse.
- Response to risk: always act to promote the safety of women and children.
- Social impact of our service: measure the impact of our service on individuals and the community.
- Evaluation of the service: actively gather feedback.
- Use of technology: positive use of technology to improve services.

The Support Team also met all and, in some cases, exceeded targets set out in the Foyle Women's Aid Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016 for this year.

Under Objective 1 'To Support Victims of sexual and domestic abuse and their families", the Community Support Team aimed to engage 268 women throughout the year and they exceeded this by seeing 458 women, carrying out 1745 appointments in the L'Derry, Strabane and Limavady areas.

A similar result is evident in the Criminal Justice Support Team performance, who exceeded their target to help 180 women by supporting a total of 200 women to make police complaints and a further 159 women to attend court.

Both Community Support and Criminal Justice Teams identified client engagement as a key target for their team during the year, and achieved 69% and 76% engagement levels respectively. This is a remarkable achievement given the chaotic and frightening nature of domestic and sexual abuse, and the reluctance of victims to come forward for help.

Foyle Women's Aid's accommodation service focused on improving efficiency, in particular, to have a fast turnaround of flats and houses to ensure availability for women and children who need to leave their home in a crisis. Occupancy levels of over 85% were achieved for both projects. Support staff worked to get women rehoused as fast as possible and set a target average stay of 4 months. End-of-year figures show that this was achieved with an actual average stay of just over 3 months.

The Admission and Safety Team, who oversee the practical support in residential projects, assisted 44 women to move in during the year and 40 women to move on to new homes. They also completed over 1000 Health and Safety checks throughout the year, and set up for 412 training events and meetings in Ashleywood House and Pathways.

Under Objective 2 "Prevention of Domestic and Sexual abuse", the Foyle Women's Aid Support Team facilitated 122 women through the quality tailored group work programmes. These included Journey to Freedom (attended by a total of 78 women), Building Healthy Relationships and The Power of Words. Residential clients took part in the new pilot programme developed by Foyle Women's Aid called the Tenancy Programme, which aims to help women to prepare for living independently and safely back in the community after a period of homelessness. Positive feedback and successful outcomes have ensured that this programme is to continue and develop in 2017/18.

The Support Team also organised information sessions attended by over 40 student nurses and social workers. 15 training sessions were completed with 132 PSNI officers and 20 teachers.

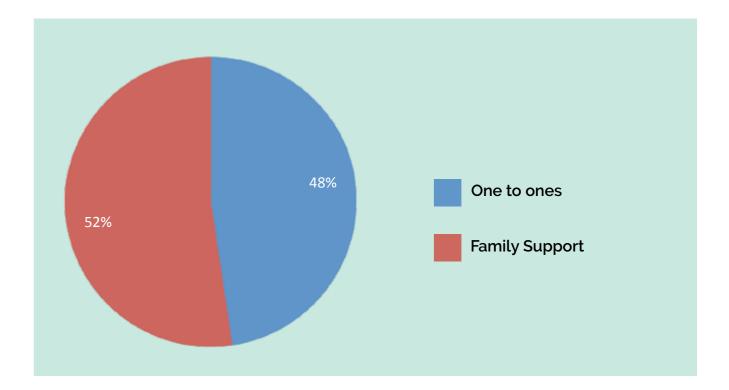
The survivors' group, The Voices Forum, met seven times during the year. Sixty nine women were consulted, and provided valuable feedback and information about their experience of domestic abuse. Their experiences and testimonies have been used to develop and inform new services and initiatives, in particular the One Safe Place: Family Justice Centre project and POD15 childcare services.

Under Objective 3 "To increase access to justice for victims of domestic and sexual violence and reduce repeat victimisation", the Criminal Justice Team worked closely with PSNI to support women who wanted to seek redress through the criminal justice system. A total of 133 women were guided through court appearances and 68 women were supported to apply for Non-Molestation Orders.

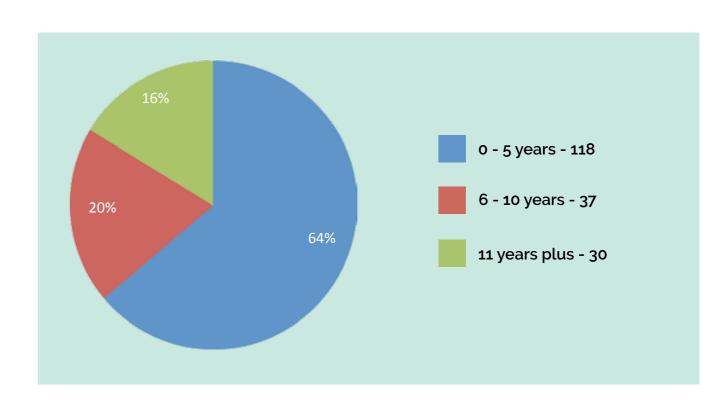
Criminal Justice staff attended the 25 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences on behalf of Foyle Women's Aid and carried out 95% of the agreed safety actions to keep high-risk victims of domestic and sexual violence safe.

Childcare Statistics

Childcare Support Services 2017 - 2016



Age breakdown of children and young people using services 2016/2017- TOTAL= 185



We launched our new POD15 centre in May 2017, which was officially opened by Koulla Yiasouma, the Children's **Commissioner for Northern** Ireland.

This was a great day of celebrations, with quests from both voluntary and statutory sectors. We had a themed approach to the opening with the Mad Hatter and friends welcoming guests and providing entertainment. We also had the Rapid Relief Team providing refreshments on the day.



We were very fortunate to have Sinéad Ward to speak to the invited guests about her own personal experience of domestic and sexual violence. Sinead spoke about her experience as a young mum, the support she received from FWA and how POD15 would have made a difference to her recovery if this service had been available at that time.

The centre is active 5 days per week with a brimming calendar of events, including Stay & Plays, crèche sessions, group work and young people's programmes.

Early Years

We are now in the final stages of registration with Early Years, which will see the POD15 crèche become a registered centre working under the HSC minimum standards guidance. This will include yearly inspections, training and keeping POD15 working at a high standard of practice.

Group Work

During our Active Learning sessions, we deliver our Helping Hands programme. This 6-week programme is facilitated by our Childcare Team and involves group talks, arts, music and drama all completed in an age-appropriate manner, so that the children involved begin to understand the core messages:

"There is nothing so awful or so small I can't talk to someone about it."



"I have the right to feel safe all of the time."



"Others have the right to feel safe."



- Annual Easter Hunt in our extensive grounds at Ashleywood House
- Halloween fancy dress party at the **Petrifying POD**
- Annual Christmas event at 1 Snowy Lane

Summer

Our summer scheme took place throughout July and August with family days and a structured play scheme for residential and community referral families four days per week.

Fun was had on trips and activities all summer, with days away on our minibus.

Here are some of the things we did:

- Giant's Causeway
- **Portrush**
- Creggan Country Park
- Benone Beach
- Belfast Zoo
- Lurgybrack Farm
- Forest walks
- Picnics
- Fun days

During the summer, we also had a lot of in-house activities at the new centre, making use of our fabulous new facilities and grounds. We had teddy bears' picnics and treasures hunts at our Log Cabin and a great fun day to end the summer with a bouncy castle, BBQ and lots of goodies.







Client Feedback

" My kids and I had a great summer *full of memories* and fun."

" My daughter's speech and confidence have grown by attending crèche."



"I have the right to feel safe all of





"This was my best summer with my mammy and brother."

the time."

" Helping Hands helped me to talk to my mammy."





Teenlink Report



This was very much a young person-led approach and they showed ownership of the group by deciding as a group on trips, activities and topics.

Some topics we discussed:

- Bullying
- Stress
- Healthy eating

Trips attended during these sessions:

- Bowling Alley
- Learmount Forest Walk
- Hill climb at Buncrana

April saw the start of a new partnership with PBNI as the new Teenlink Manager, John O'Hagan, commenced post.

The Teenlink therapeutic programme ran from April to June. Feedback was sought from young people on an ongoing basis and was included in the revision of the programme. A new Teenlink group commenced in October 2017 and this saw the new content of the programme delivered. As part of this pilot, it was felt that the programme needed further revision to accommodate older adolescents and a consultation group of young people has been running on a weekly basis since November 2017.

A major part of the Teenlink programme is the social aspect for the young people to come together in a safe, therapeutic environment that provides young people with new opportunities and experiences. This helps to increase each individual's social skills and minimise social isolation.

We attended some new and exciting places this year, including:

- 3-day residential at Carlingford Adventure Centre
- Creggan Country Park
- Wildwoods Bushcraft Centre, Culdaff
- Wild Atlantic Adventures, Clonmany
- Horse Riding
- Surfing
- Kayaking
- Zip-wire
- Laser Tag
- JumpLanes

The highlight of the year was a visit to the Mayor's Parlour to present the new Teenlink promotional video. This was completed in partnership with STEM and involved the participation of some of the young people involved with Teenlink.

The young people decided that the video should show the story of their journey with Teenlink, with a view to encouraging other young people who may be having the same experience.

Individual work was offered to a number of young people to support their involvement in the family proceeding court that involved complex contact issues. This support has allowed these young people to express their feelings in relation to contact and has led to positive outcomes.



Prevention of domestic and sexual abuse

Objective 3:

To increase access to justice for victims of domestic and sexual violence, and reduce repeat victimisation

Group Work/Programmes - 122 clients

Journey to Freedom – 9 sessions – 78 clients

Building Healthy Relationships – 1 session – 12 clients

Power of Words – 3 sessions – 20 clients

Tenancy Programme – 2 sessions – 12 clients

Information Sessions – Training

Holistic Therapies – 2 sessions – 16 clients Teenlink support



Information/Training Sessions Awareness

- 5 information sessions
- 40 attendees student nurses, social workers and community workers
- 15 training sessions 132 PSNI Officers

- 20 Teachers

Voices Forum

- 7 sessions carried out 69 clients
- Leaflets
- Cancer screening
- Victim Support presentation
- Pain Management presentation
- Derry Well Woman presentation
- Focus group on Justice Centre
- Focus group on Childcare services



Court Support 2017							
	Target	2015/16	2016/17				
Referrals	150	252	159				
Court appearances	150	228	133				
NMOs	160	106	68				
Repeat victimisation	18%	18%					

MARAC 2016/17						
	Target	Actual				
MARAC meetings attended	26	25				
Actions completed	100%	96%				

22

To ensure financial sustainability of FWA



Financial Report 2016/17

Foyle Women's Aid has posted a net movement in funds of £2,639 for the year to 31st March 2017. Total funds carried forward as at 31st March 2017 now stand at £1,441,419.

Restricted funds (including restricted capital funds) for the charity comprise of £497,375 as at 31st March 2017, with unrestricted funds comprising of £944,044 as at 31st March 2017.

Our principal funders are Supporting People and we received continued funding from the Big Lottery and Western Health & Social Care Trust. The funding we received has enabled Foyle Women's Aid to provide the services, staff and resources required to meet the aims and objectives of the organisation.

Donations

Generous support was received from a number of individuals and organisations. Halifax made a donation with match-funding from Lloyds Bank; Progressive Building Society; Lisahally Power Station and Mrs Eleanor McGuckin who made a generous donation towards Foyle Women's Aid's polytunnel. There were also private donations, which were gratefully received throughout the year.

Our Christmas appeal, 'Silent Night, Violent Night', raised £6,271.50 in donations from the Diocese of Derry, CHNI, Seagate, Julie Allen Consulting and numerous private donations.

This money was distributed throughout the Christmas period by providing hampers for the women in residence, Christmas gifts for the children, gas and electric top-ups for the women in residence, and oil fills for women in the community.

As with every year, we held a Christmas party for the women and children, where Santa and Mrs Claus handed out gifts to the children and a hot buffet was provided for all who attended. Any underspend from this appeal goes back into supporting the women and children throughout the year.



To have sufficient, flexible and competent staff.

Training April 2016 - March 2017

- Creating a Positive Workplace
- Nutrition Matters for the Early Years
- WorldHost Training
- Powerful Presentations
- Early Movers
- FGM: Awareness of the Issues
- NIFHA Care & Support Conference
- Online Safety Workshop
- Managing Difficult People
- Evan Stark Seminar: Domestic Violence & Coercive Control
- Breast Cancer Screening Awareness
- First Aid
- Guardian24
- Cervical Cancer Screening Awareness
- Dealing with Challenging & Aggressive Behaviour
- Bowel Cancer Screening Awareness
- Financially Safe & Secure Conference
- Working with Substance Misuse in a Homeless Setting
- Kickstart Your Social Media Strategy
- Fair Recruitment & Selection
- Working with Young People & Substance Misuse
- Competence Instruction in Suicide Intervention
- Walk Leader Training
- NW Business Leadership Network Event
- NI Economic Conference
- Toxic Childhood Conference
- European Family Justice Centre Alliance Conference
- Conference: NICE Quality Standard on Domestic Violence & Abuse

Training April 2016 - March 2017

- Managing the Media Workshop
- Accessing Social Housing
- Teenlink App Training
- Interactive Timeline Training
- Start to Play
- Seminar: Perpetrator Intervention Programmes & Managing Risk in Families Affected by Partner Violence
- Mental Health First Aid
- Fundraising Clinic
- ASIST Training
- Effective Volunteers: Settling in the New, Refreshing the Old
- Workplace Health Champion Training
- Achieving Quality in Volunteer Management
- Introduction to Web Design
- Branding & Marketing for Social Enterprise
- Innovation in the Field of Sexual Violence
- Child Protection
- Child Protection & Online Safety
- Adult Safeguarding Champion Information Roadshow
- The Role of the Domestic & Sexual Violence/Abuse Practitioner
- Adult Safeguarding Champion Training
- Handling Difficult Conversations
- Housing Advice Training
- NIFHA Practitioners Conference
- Effective Minute-Taking
- Intercultural Awareness
- IOSH: Managing Safely
- Social Housing Enterprise Conference













Total Page Likes by March 2016 1358

Total New Page Likes Since April 2015 610

Average Audience Reach Per Week April 2015 - March 2016 4000 - 5000



Total Followers by March 2016 1110

Total New Followers Since April 2015 289

Average Audience Reach Per Month April 2015 - March 2016 5000 - 6000



Average Website Sessions Per month by March 2016

363

Average website users per month by March 2016

343

Average Page Views per month by March 2016

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FUNDERS

Our thanks to all the agencies listed and to all the wonderful individuals, organisations and companies who supported our work so generously during the year.

Big Lottery Fund Department of Justice Supporting People NIHE
Western Health & Social Care Trust Heritage Lottery Fund NIE
Education Authority Enkalon Foundation Health Work NI
Probation Board NI

























Company Registration Number **NI23041**

Date of Incorporation **6 September 1989**

Charity Number NIC103223

Auditors **Fergus McAteer & Co.**

Bank **Danske Bank**

Solicitors **Caldwell & Robinson Solicitors**

Contact Foyle Womens Aid:

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