

Scottish Women's Aid respond to the Scottish budget statement

Media Release

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“The majority of local Women’s Aid funding comes from local authorities, and it’s therefore of no surprise that we are seriously concerned about the knock on impact of potential cuts to local authority budgets on vital, specialist domestic abuse support across Scotland.

Funding for domestic abuse services from local authorities is not ring-fenced, which means that the budgets of local women’s aid services can – and are – being cut. Whether it’s real term cuts because funding is not rising with inflation, small cuts or more significant ones, the impact on women’s aid services and consequentially on women and children is potentially devastating.

Women’s Aid groups already operate on tight budgets, and indeed many have had to dip into reserves to continue to provide high quality and wholly necessary work for the women and children in their local authority. It’s critical that as knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse increases and we encourage women and children to seek support from their local women’s aid that is properly funded and resourced.

It is the responsibility of the Scottish Government and of local authorities to ensure that domestic abuse support does not become a postcode lottery, and that women, children and young people across Scotland receive the help and support they need and deserve.”