



# SCOTTISH WOMEN'S AID ANNUAL REPORT

**2020 - 21**



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# ABOUT SCOTTISH WOMEN'S AID

## ANNA RITCHIE ALLAN

Chair of Scottish Women's Aid

Scottish Women's Aid is the lead organisation in Scotland working towards the prevention of domestic abuse and we play a vital role in campaigning and lobbying for effective responses to domestic abuse.

We are an umbrella organisation for 36 local Women's Aid services spread across Scotland. These groups provide specialist front-line services to women, children and young people including safe refuge accommodation, information and support.

Our vision is a Scotland with no domestic abuse, where women, young people and children enjoy all of their human rights and have equal opportunity to explore all of their ambitions and aspirations.

We work towards achieving this by:

- Supporting and advocating for the women in our network who work with women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse;
- Engaging with the government and other national stakeholders to help them understand and respond boldly to the problem of domestic abuse in Scotland; and
- Challenging the pillars of women's inequality – poverty of rights, autonomy, money and power.

The challenges facing domestic abuse services in 2020/21 due to the global pandemic were unprecedented. Covid-19 provided opportunities for perpetrators to increase their control over women, children and young people and at the same time made access to support more difficult.

In spite of the immense challenges, Scottish Women's Aid has worked relentlessly to advocate that the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on women and children experiencing domestic abuse doesn't further entrench the inequalities they face. Scottish Women's Aid quickly adapted to the new way of working, being innovative and creative in responding to the new challenges. Our staff have demonstrated adaptability, resilience, and above all, their continued commitment to the realisation of women's and children's rights, and ending domestic abuse.

Furthermore, we want to pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of

the network of Women's Aid groups which has done an incredible job to ensure that services have remained open and flexible in the most extreme of circumstances. The network works tirelessly, when the need is more pressing than ever, to make women's and children's lives safer and more supported, and to enable women and children to move on to a life that's free from abuse.

The Board of Directors also wants to send out heartfelt thanks to all our funders and the individuals and organisations who have reached out and supported us through their donations during this difficult year. We have been truly humbled by the level of spontaneous support that has come from across the country. With your support we will continue to work towards our vision of a Scotland free from domestic abuse where women, young people, and children enjoy all their human rights and are able to make their aspirations a reality.





## MARSHA SCOTT

CEO of Scottish Women's Aid

2020-21 was a truly challenging year for domestic abuse services and the women who work in them. We were extremely concerned about the impact of Covid-19 on women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse as well as on the women of the Women's Aid network who continued, by hook or by crook, to support survivors, keep refuges open and functioning, and manage the immensely complex lives we women inevitably have. The pandemic fundamentally reshaped work across the whole of SWA and the 34 services we support

through the year in a myriad of ways. The following are just a selection of the challenge that SWA staff and board delivered:

- Supporting radical service redesign while in lockdown, while providing services including significant additional funding for groups to cope with the pandemic
- Supporting and challenging the policy and government responses to Covid-19, to ensure that the needs of women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse were visible in emergency response and responded to appropriately
- Undertaking a comprehensive redesign of our training and infrastructure to enable our members and external training programme to be delivered digitally
- Ensuring that all Helpline services could continue to be delivered remotely and efficiently through investment in technology and staffing
- Managing the effects of Covid-19 on our organisation: the transition to remote working; the impact of increased workloads in dealing with not only emerging Covid-19 issues but also ongoing and programmed

- external work such as consultations and bills; managing the complex impact on the finances of the organisation and using the learning from new ways of working to become a truly flexible organisation
- Working with national partners and with the Women's Aid network to respond to the pandemic in a way that upholds children's rights, for example, highlighting and addressing children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse during lockdown
- Leveraging the public focus on domestic abuse in the pandemic to push for stable funding and a review of frontline funding
- Supporting SWA staff well-being through a menu of offerings including additional leave, vouchers for Zoom dinners, financial support for increased heating costs, and many other initiatives

Perhaps the single biggest challenge of running an organization and of working in one during the pandemic has been the adjustment to unprecedented levels of uncertainty that pervaded—and continues to pervade—forecasting and decision making. When we closed the office on Rose St on March 12, 2020, we

thought we'd be back in a couple of days, maybe a couple of weeks. We clearly got that wrong, although we finally realized it was an opportunity to do some refurbishment that was about 10 years overdue!

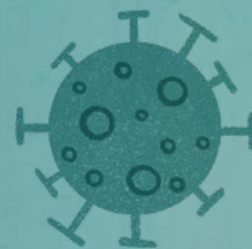
In addition, SWA's financial processes were tested mightily by infusions of short-term funding—from the Scottish Government and from UK-wide COVID emergency grants—the bulk of which would be redistributed to grass-roots Women's Aid services. The creativity and persistence shown by SWA staff at all levels as we faced problems and found solutions together were—and are—inspiring.

We have learned much however. We know that we can work from almost anywhere, that we can collaborate while many miles apart, that we can eat together while sitting at 30 different tables, that even the most reluctant technology user can share her screen, go into a breakout session, use a Jam board, and carry on. And carry on.

## POLICY, INFLUENCING AND LEGISLATION



## IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC ABUSE



We published the report **“Crisis and Resilience: The impact of a global pandemic on domestic abuse survivors and service providers in Scotland”** in September 2020. Throughout the pandemic there has been a huge demand for data on the impact of the pandemic on prevalence of domestic abuse and on domestic abuse service providers. SWA set out to collect reliable information from across the Women’s Aid network to inform advocacy on policy responses. This is, to date, the most comprehensive overview of the experience of specialist domestic abuse service providers in Scotland during the pandemic.

The research demonstrates the dedication and innovation that Women’s Aid staff across Scotland

have shown throughout the pandemic. Their ability to transform their ways of working ensured that vital services continued for women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

In addition, we were members of Scottish Government high-level groups monitoring the impact of Covid-19 across the justice system. As part of our own oversight role, we worked with the Scottish Government to highlight the impact of proposals around early release of prisoners, court programming and restart; relaxation of Community Payback Order requirements relating to Unpaid Work; use of mobile phones in prisons and “virtual visits”; various provisions of the emergency Covid-19 legislation



## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Domestic abuse is the main reason given by women for making a homeless application in Scotland. We have continued to progress the recommendations from our research on domestic abuse and homelessness:

### Report on improving housing outcomes for those experiencing domestic abuse

In partnership with the Chartered Institute of Housing (Scotland) we have published a **new report** on improving housing outcomes for those experiencing domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is the leading cause of women's homelessness in Scotland, and we're calling for changes to protect their wellbeing and uphold their rights.

### Covid-19 Guidance for Social Landlords

We launched new guidance with the Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland for social landlords on domestic abuse and Covid-19.

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Children (Scotland) Act passed unanimously in August 2020, bringing about significant changes to the family courts, particularly for children and young people. This was a substantial and important piece of legislation and we worked extensively with partners including academics the CYP sector (including Children 1st and the Children's Commissioner) and with Yello!, a young expert group on the Improving Justice in Child Contact Project in SWA, giving a strong **response** to strengthen the Act in its journey through parliament. Two members of our team presented evidence at Parliament to the Justice Committee which led to our young experts being asked to provide evidence in a closed session at

Parliament. The group responded to direct questions from MSPs and presented their own statements. Feedback from the Justice Committee was that this evidence was critical to the changes made, which included a presumption that all children can give their view regardless of their age, provision for a system of advocacy for children in the civil courts, protection of CYP confidentiality, and further protections for vulnerable witnesses in the civil courts.



### **DOMESTIC ABUSE (SCOTLAND) ACT**

One year on, we have kept a spotlight on its implementation. We have been involved in the creation of CPD training for solicitors on coercive control and trauma informed practice. We were partners with the University of Edinburgh on a successful bid for funds to conduct research on women's and children's experiences of the justice system since the start of the Act.

### **DOMESTIC ABUSE (PROTECTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

This Bill, a culmination of many years work to address homelessness caused by domestic abuse makes an immediate difference for women and children experiencing domestic abuse by granting the police and courts powers to remove an abuser from the home and also provides a more appropriate mechanism for transfer of tenancies as a result of domestic abuse. We worked closely with the Scottish Government on the consultation prior to the drafting of the Bill and then throughout the passage of the legislation. The Bill was passed on 17th March 21.

### **SUPPORTING UNCRC INCORPORATION**

We joined with over 50 other organisations, signing a joint letter to support amendments that would further strengthen the UNCRC Scotland Bill, which passed. This will help make sure children's rights are protected and upheld in Scotland. A proud day for us in Scotland, and the many #HumanRightsDefenders who have campaigned for this for years.

### **LEGAL SERVICES RESEARCH PROJECT**

We continue to advocate for a new model in provision of legal services for survivors, services that are timely, domestic abuse competent, and free. We have further funding from the Legal Education Foundation to test the model of a specialist family law solicitor linked to a Women's Aid service.

# SCOTLAND'S DOMESTIC ABUSE AND FORCED MARRIAGE HELPLINE



This year saw calls to SDAFMH reach an all-time high, with 11,087 contacts. At peak times during the pandemic calls increased by 190% on the previous year. The overall increase was 27% which is consistent with the pre-pandemic

The pandemic meant we needed to be able to transfer the Helpline to operate off site in an incredibly short timescale. We achieved this in a matter of weeks. Helpline staff were provided with the equipment required to provide all channels of communication that were available when SDAFMH was an office-based service. This has not been without its challenges, particularly with the increase that we have seen in call

volume. As a result, we have employed an additional call handler and increased our relief team to enhance our capacity at peak times.

Early in the year we were also fortunate to get funding from National Emergency Trust (NET) to implement a full-scale review and upgrade of the telephony, recording and reporting systems as well as a substantial refresh of the Helpline website. This meant that over the course of one year we implemented the improvements to the system that we had hoped to phase in over the next 5 years. These improvements enabled us to fully future proof the Helpline, strengthening its ability to provide a flexible, remote

cloud-based system that can incorporate SMS, webchat and email with streamlined bespoke reporting systems.

As well as the technology upgrade, the NET funding allowed us to develop, **a powerful 30 second animation**, for a new Helpline awareness raising campaign. Designed in partnership with survivors who have used the Helpline and featuring the voices of real call handlers, the advert was aired during the 16 Days of Action in 63 prime TV slots, including during a popular soap that was running a domestic abuse storyline. The advert had an incredible 6.7 million views.

A new Radio Advert for the Helpline on radio stations across rural parts of Scotland was also launched in 16 Days. It features the voices of Helpline call handlers. It was made with input from survivors who have used the Helpline.

We piloted a new web chat for children and young people who are experiencing domestic abuse, within their own relationship and/or from the adults in their home. It ran from the 1st of Dec 2020 - 31st March 2021. The webchat service was created and designed in consultation with 28 children and young people from across Scotland and was launched as part of the 16 Days of Action.

# WORKING WITH LOCAL GROUPS

## RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic has negatively affected all aspects of our lives. For women, children and young people experiencing domestic abuse the pandemic has given perpetrators additional tools for controlling children and women increasing risks of harm, and made help seeking more difficult.

SWA has been working with our member groups throughout this period to support them to respond to the pandemic. Member groups rapidly and radically redesigned all aspects of their services. This redesign continued during lockdowns, and staff and survivors are working together in the ever-changing landscape.

We developed and distributed weekly briefings to all WA groups from the start of lockdown for the first six months to consolidate the volume of information being circulated and help members focus on relevant updates for their services

and staff. We created a specific Covid-19 information page on our website including a **self-care guide** for WA workers.

At the outset of Covid-19 we set up communications channels with SWA and across the member groups. This facilitated real time conversations and a platform to share practice and ideas across Scotland.

"Slack's been really useful for us, just to share resources and ideas, in a way we couldn't do before."



## Emergency Covid-19 Funding Support

We raised and distributed over £3 million of emergency Covid-19 funding for and to WA groups from the Scottish Government and Comic Relief. These funds provided critical support to respond to Covid-19: equipment, staffing and transport. They enable groups to redesign their services and support their staff in the light of the pandemic.



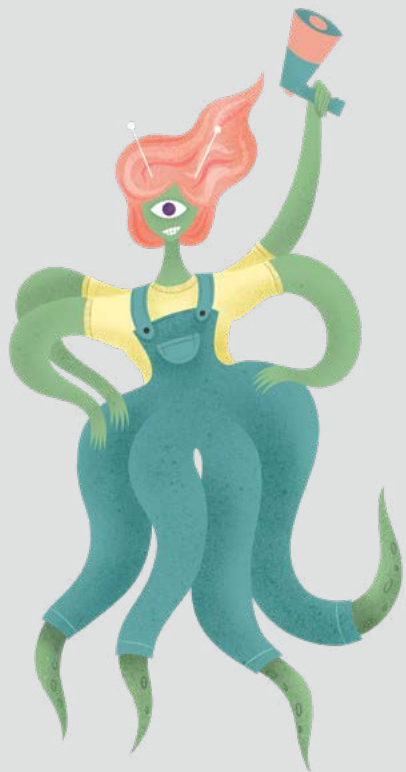
## Feedback to SWA:

*"I wanted to write to you and express just how useful this funding has been to us over the pandemic period this far. The funding has gone a long way to helping our service, team and service users maintain some level of stability during an extremely turbulent time. As you will be well aware Domestic Abuse can be hugely challenging to cope with and indeed our team have done a terrific job with managing the pressures to continue to support their Service Users from their own homes cope with trauma. The funding has allowed us to ensure that the additional/alternative support (i.e. digital engagement) can be offered to Service Users and equally we have been able to supply the right tools and welfare support for our team ... We could not have managed to set up workers to work from home without the financial support from Scottish Government."*



We delivered our first ever digital Members Conference: Breaking Through: Learning, Sharing and Networking, which ran over 4 mornings in 16 days of activism. The conference focused on how to strengthen inclusion across the Women's Aid network. The days were interactive and fun, the core

theme was about supporting a new Women's Aid groups on another planet and ways in which we would support that group. All of these events brought the services together like never before, and created cohesion and inclusion across Scotland.



**Thank you SWA!**  
***I had a brilliant day.***  
***Connecting with fellow***  
***Women's Aid sisters***  
***has revitalised my***  
***hope and motivation.***  
***The planet-theme***  
***was a great idea.***  
***I laughed a lot!***



# CENSUS 2020

## CENSUS DAY

Every year, Census Day provides a **snapshot** of the number of women, children and young people being supported by Women's Aid services across Scotland. This year our Census Day was on **22/09/20**. On this one day alone in 2020, our local Women's Aid services supported **1130** women, children and young people. In the face of COVID-19-19 our services all continued to provide their specialist, life-changing and life-saving support for those experiencing domestic abuse. On Census Day, almost **700** children and women were living in our emergency refuge accommodation.

## ON THIS DAY ALONE:

**1,130** women, children and young people were supported by WA groups and the SDAFM Helpline.

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**341** women and **357** children and young people were living in a Women's Aid refuge

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**111** women and **16** children and young people contacted Women's Aid for the very first time

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**37** women and **47** children and young people asked for refuge accommodation. Due to pressure on services, Women's Aid groups were unable to find suitable spaces for **19** women and **37** children and young people.

There were no easy options for those who could not get into refuge. **6** women and **4** children were able to stay with friends or family. **15** women and **27** children found temporary council accommodation and **1** woman stayed in B&B or hotel. At least **1** woman remained at home with the abusive partner.

# LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

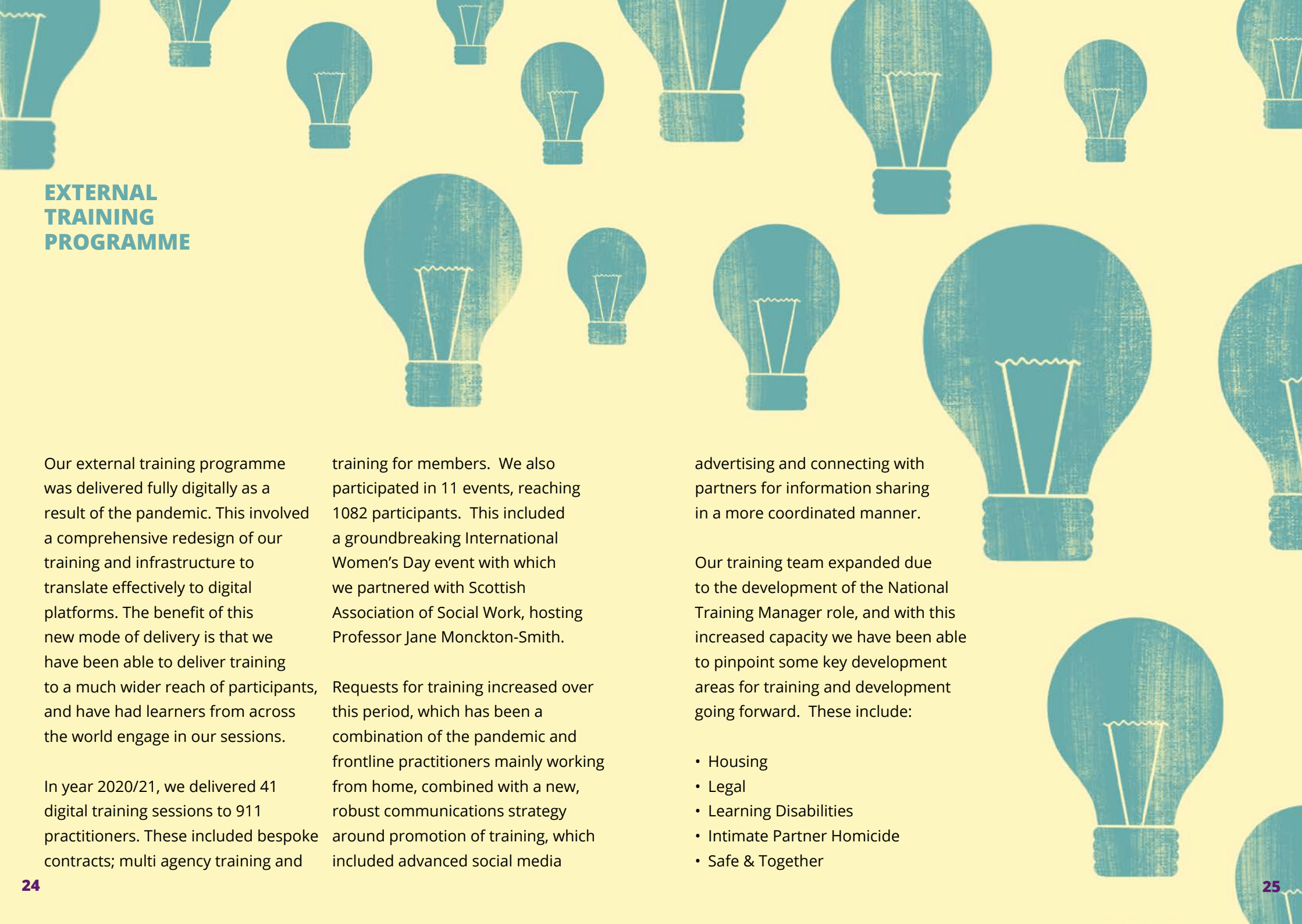
## MEMBERS LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Member Forums and Training moved to digital platforms, and have been well attended and evaluated as very successful. Services have engaged positively in all discussions and have fed back how much they value these opportunities. We increased the number and frequency of forums to provide immediate support to members, and are now moving back to a more regular timetable. We added a new forum for finance staff and ran a governance workshop to share how AGMs can be legally compliant using virtual platforms.

In total the 2020/21 Member Services Learning and development

programme and conference included 76 events that reached 1,545 participants.

***"The way SWA has been supporting us through this has been amazing, particularly all the virtual forums and the online workspace [Slack] – it's made sharing information so much easier and accessible. It's also made us feel so much more connected. It really helps knowing that other groups and workers are facing the same issues we are" .... "I actually feel more connected to the network now than I did before thanks to all the online events"***



## EXTERNAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Our external training programme was delivered fully digitally as a result of the pandemic. This involved a comprehensive redesign of our training and infrastructure to translate effectively to digital platforms. The benefit of this new mode of delivery is that we have been able to deliver training to a much wider reach of participants, and have had learners from across the world engage in our sessions.

In year 2020/21, we delivered 41 digital training sessions to 911 practitioners. These included bespoke contracts; multi agency training and

training for members. We also participated in 11 events, reaching 1082 participants. This included a groundbreaking International Women's Day event with which we partnered with Scottish Association of Social Work, hosting Professor Jane Monckton-Smith.

Requests for training increased over this period, which has been a combination of the pandemic and frontline practitioners mainly working from home, combined with a new, robust communications strategy around promotion of training, which included advanced social media

advertising and connecting with partners for information sharing in a more coordinated manner.

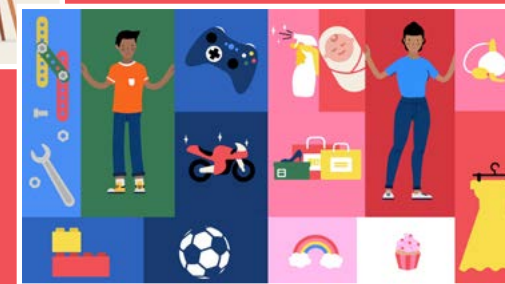
Our training team expanded due to the development of the National Training Manager role, and with this increased capacity we have been able to pinpoint some key development areas for training and development going forward. These include:

- Housing
- Legal
- Learning Disabilities
- Intimate Partner Homicide
- Safe & Together

# EQUALLY SAFE IN PRACTICE



Set in a family home, the animation 'Out of the Box' follows two young people as they explore what gender is, what it means for their lives, and how inequality between genders is linked to violence against women and girls.



The Equally Safe in Practice (ESiP) project supports the implementation of Scotland's Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, 'Equally Safe', by creating frameworks, tools and resources to support workforce development. ESiP equips the Scottish workforce with an understanding and knowledge of the dynamics of VAWG and women's inequality, why it's important, and how we can all – in our various roles and levels of responsibility – have an impact on creating a safer and more responsive Scotland.

The project supports workforce development around 3 initial key areas, which were identified by national and local working groups.

These key areas are: -

- Gender inequality
- Domestic abuse
- Sexual violence

This year, we have worked collaboratively with partners in the sector to create three e-modules – 'Together for Gender Equality'; 'Understanding Domestic Abuse' and 'Responding to Sexual Violence' that will form the basis of the workforce development framework. We are now at the stage of testing these e-modules with 8 local authorities across Scotland. This involves equipping local champions with facilitated sessions on how to

introduce, deliver, implement and embed the e-modules, including access to detailed facilitator toolkits.

The local authorities involved in testing are: Angus; Dundee; Falkirk; Fife, East Renfrewshire; Renfrewshire; South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire. The departments involved in testing include senior leaders across departments; elected members; housing; safer communities; employability and more. The pilot implementation is being formally evaluated by an external consultant, and the learning used to build the next phase of development.

As part of the Gender area of work, we have also developed a 5-minute

animation which, with a Scottish context, demonstrates concisely what the linkage is between gender equality and violence against women and girls. We are formally launching the animation via a digital launch, and have invited the Minister for Equalities and Older People to open the event. A social media campaign will also accompany the launch, which will support widespread use of the animation.

## INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC ABUSE ADVOCACY

We participated in delivery of the IDAA course, which was delivered fully digitally for the first time. We participated both in strategic development of the course through the IDAA steering group, and also via direct training delivery – with several members of SWA delivering inputs into this accredited course. The course was a huge success, with 100% positive feedback in evaluation for the first time ever, and we will continue to run.

100%  
Positive  
Feedback

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### MEDIA PRESENCE AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

SWA plays a vital role in communications nationwide. With the onset of Covid-19 safety measures and lockdown, we were immediately aware of the potential detrimental impact on those experiencing domestic abuse and undertook numerous activities to raise public awareness and to highlight the help and support available. Our voice has been the leading one on this topic in Scotland and the opportunity to raise awareness of the help and support available for those experiencing domestic abuse has been particularly important at this time.

The importance of our social media during this challenging year is highlighted by the massive increase in traffic on all our social media channels throughout the year.

From April 20 to Feb 21 SWA was featured or were quoted directly in over 1000 pieces of media content (including online news, print, radio and TV). The SWA website over the same period had over 145,000 visitors, and our social media following has increased significantly; Twitter up 14% from 15.1K to 17.3K, Facebook up 28% from 7.3K to 9.4K and Instagram up 62% from 1.5K to 2.4K. Furthermore, our tweets were seen by over 4.6 million people over the whole of last year.



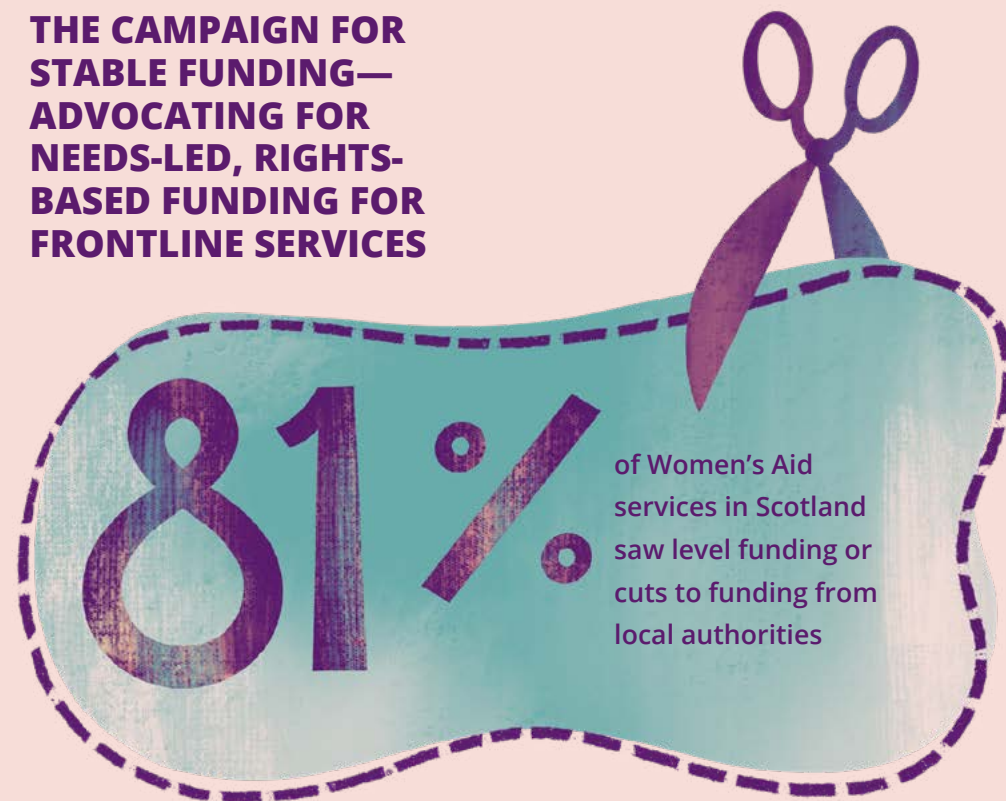
## ANIMATIONS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

While children and young people were in lockdown, our group of young experts **Yello!** Raised concerns that messages being sent about “home being safe” were confusing and isolating for those who live with domestic abuse. To reach out and encourage children and young people to speak to trusted adults and to know that they were not

alone, **Yello!** Created two animations with Media Co-op. These animations were made for children and young people and were promoted in a targeted campaign on social media. The animations received half a million views on you tube within the first 3 weeks of their launch. **You Are Not Alone** and **If Home Is Not Safe**



## THE CAMPAIGN FOR STABLE FUNDING—ADVOCATING FOR NEEDS-LED, RIGHTS-BASED FUNDING FOR FRONTLINE SERVICES



As we look back over yet another year of reduced local funding for our grass-roots services (81% of Women's Aid services in Scotland saw level funding or cuts to funding from local authorities), the need for a new structure for supporting services is increasingly urgent. Scotland's Equally Safe Delivery Plan includes a commitment to reviewing funding for frontline services, but little progress has been made because of pandemic-driven capacity issues.

SWA has both local and national strategies for driving change, from media work showcasing good practice (and bad) in local commissioning to speaking in Parliament for a sense of urgency for the review.

Change at the margins in the form of short-term fixes at national or local levels is not good enough. Real, lasting change requires bold vision. Our petition calling for change was a key part of our 16 Days campaign.

# PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Partnership working is fundamental to how we work. Our partners include the 36 Women's Aid groups from across Scotland, who are our members, as well as the broad range of organisations referred to in each area of work, and we thank them all for their contributions and support.



**Action against Stalking and the Scottish National Stalking Group**  
**ASSIST** **Barnardo's** **Care Inspectorate** **Carers Scotland**  
**Centre for Research on Families and Relationships**  
**Chartered Institute of Housing** **Children & Young People's Commissioner**  
**Child Poverty Action Group** **Children 1st** **Children in Scotland**  
**Close the Gap** **Community Care Providers Scotland** **COSLA**  
**Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service** **Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance**  
**Engender** **Fife Domestic & Sexual Abuse Partnership**  
**Glasgow Women's Library** **Homelessness Action Scotland**  
**Housing Support Enabling Unit** **Human Rights Consortium Scotland**  
**Judicial Institute of Scotland** **Law Society of Scotland** **LGBT Youth Scotland**  
**Local Authorities and Housing Associations**  
**Network of Women's Aid groups across Scotland** **NUS Scotland**  
**Police Scotland** **Positive Action in Housing** **Poverty Alliance**  
**Queen Margaret University** **Rape Crisis Scotland** **Respect** **Safe Lives**  
**Save the Children, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations**  
**Scottish Campaign on Welfare reform** **Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations**  
**Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service** **Scottish Housing Regulator**  
**Scottish Legal Complaints Commission** **Consumer Panel**  
**Scottish National Stalking Group** **Scottish Refugee Council**  
**Scottish Government's Homelessness, Social Security and Violence Against Women Teams**  
**Scottish Government Improvement Service** **Scottish Legal Aid Board**  
**Scotland's Commissioner for Children & Young People**  
**Shelter Scotland** **University of Glasgow**  
**Victim Support Scotland** **WAVE** **Welsh Women's Aid**  
**Women's Aid England** **Women's Aid Federation northern Ireland**  
**Women's History Scotland** **Zero Tolerance**

## YOUNG WOMEN'S PROJECT:

We launched a partnership project with YWCA to understand the views of young women in Scotland around what a healthy relationship looks like, and what domestic abuse is. We will explore where young women and girls look for support and advice when they are faced with abuse from someone they are in an intimate relationship with, and how Women's Aid can help them in that situation.

## TEACHER'S RESOURCE:

We worked in partnership with Education Scotland to produce and publish a new resource to help teachers tackle domestic abuse. At least one child in every school class will have experienced domestic abuse. As young people returned to school after summer, it was a vital time to support those who have experienced domestic abuse at home during lockdown.

## LICKETYSPLIT:

We are working in partnership with this organisation to develop a Women's Aid's project. Lickety split is a project that is drama-led play sessions that are delivered by actor pedagogues, and rooted in children's rights, community engagement, and a belief in the power of inter-generational, drama-led play.

## RESEARCH INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK:

the four Women's Aid federations from Scotland, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland came together to publish a framework to show the quality of research on domestic abuse. Developed with, and endorsed by, academic researchers,

this framework provides decision-makers with clarity on the merits of different types of evidence and research, and the principles of ethics and integrity relating to research on domestic abuse.



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:

We partnered with BASW and hosted a discussion with Professor Jane Monckton-Smith, who talked about her research around her 8 Stages Model for risk assessing potential for intimate partner homicide. Our Chief Exec Marsha Scott also presented at the event on some of her European work, linking this to learning for the Scottish workforce.

## POVERTY + INEQUALITY COMMISSION:

We were commissioned by the P&IC to conduct some focus groups with women about their experiences of accessing finances and resources during the pandemic. This resulted in their voices being included in recommendations to the Scottish Government on how inequality of access was further marginalizing women; also highlighting the intersections of domestic abuse, poverty, housing and mental health.

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT COVID-19 COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP GROUP ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES – ENGAGEMENT WITH SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE:

In early 2021, the Covid-19 Collective Leadership Group on Children and Families sought to engage with vulnerable children and young people and their parents to better understand their experiences in the pandemic. SWA worked with workers in four Women's Aid services who facilitated 60 women, children and young

people who had experienced domestic abuse in giving their views. An analytical report on the responses given by domestic abuse survivors, and other vulnerable CYP and their families, has since been published by the Scottish Government, and will be used by the group to develop recovery work.

REPORT

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

|                                                              | Unrestricted<br>funds | Restricted<br>funds | Total<br>2021    | Total<br>2020    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                                              | £                     | £                   | £                | £                |
| Income from:                                                 |                       |                     |                  |                  |
| Donations and legacies                                       | 404,845               | 3,536,902           | 3,941,747        | 872,946          |
| Charitable activities                                        | 60,900                | 352,034             | 412,934          | 404,407          |
| Other trading activities                                     | 15,408                | -                   | 15,408           | 25,092           |
| Investments                                                  | 244                   | -                   | 244              | 1,020            |
| <b>Total income:</b>                                         | <b>481,397</b>        | <b>3,888,936</b>    | <b>4,370,333</b> | <b>1,303,465</b> |
| Expenditure on:                                              |                       |                     |                  |                  |
| Raising funds                                                | 562                   | -                   | 562              | 424              |
| Charitable activities                                        | 51,483                | 4,005,674           | 4,057,157        | 1,405,195        |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                                     | <b>52,045</b>         | <b>4,005,674</b>    | <b>4,057,719</b> | <b>1,405,619</b> |
| <b>Net incoming/(outgoing)<br/>resources before transfer</b> | <b>429,352</b>        | <b>(116,738)</b>    | <b>312,614</b>   | <b>(102,154)</b> |
| Gross transfers between funds                                | (14,521)              | 14,521              | -                | -                |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>                                 | <b>414,831</b>        | <b>(102,217)</b>    | <b>312,614</b>   | <b>(102,154)</b> |
| Reconciliation of funds                                      |                       |                     |                  |                  |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2019                                | 226,362               | 265,561             | 491,923          | 594,077          |
| <b>Fund balances at 31 March 2020</b>                        | <b>641,193</b>        | <b>163,344</b>      | <b>804,537</b>   | <b>491,923</b>   |

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.





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**womensaid.scot**

Scottish Women's Aid  
2nd Floor, 132 Rose Street,  
Edinburgh, Scotland EH2 3JD  
Tel: 0131 226 6606



@scotwomensaid  
[womensaid.scot](http://womensaid.scot)

Charity No. SC001099  
Company No. 128433