

**FALKIRK COUNCIL CORPORATE & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES  
FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND ANNUAL REPORTING STATEMENT  
2011/2013**

Organisation Name	Falkirk and District Women's Aid
Project	Domestic Abuse Support Services
Agreement Dates	1 April 2011 - 31 March 2013
Name of Lead Officer	Elizabeth Hood

## **A OVERALL ORGANISATION AIMS**

### Summary of Key Aims & Objectives

Falkirk and District Women's Aid provides a responsive service to women and children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse through practical and emotional support for those with often complex needs. The aim of the service is not just to ensure the woman is safe but also to understand the trauma that they have experienced to allow them to take charge of their recovery and that will ultimately lead a normal life and they will not return to an abusive relationship. The service is very much lead through a multi agency responsive ensuring that the service works closely with the Domestic Abuse Unit, Housing Service, Drug and Alcohol Services and other third sector partners.

Below illustrates the core aims of the service.

- Creating Safety for women and their children
- Establishing Care and Wellbeing including access to accommodation
- Establishing Routines of Daily Living
- Socialisation
- Children and Young People
- Provide Support and advice is to statutory and voluntary agencies and the wider community

### List of Agreed Outcomes

- Women have clear safety plans where risks are reduced
- Women are free from abusive partners
- Women are no longer roofless/homeless
- Children protection issues are addressed and resolved
- Parenting is improved
- Reduction in self harming & increase in self esteem
- Effective financial management
- Able to communicate effectively with partner agencies
- Reduction in contact with health services
- Healthy eating patterns
- Improved coping mechanisms
- Service is accessible regardless of age, belief, disability, ethnicity & sexual orientation

### Why Service/Project is Funded Externally Rather than by the Council

This is a specialist service that requires the coordination of a number of disciplines to deal with the complex issues that go alongside the experience of domestic abuse. Women's Aid is recognised throughout the country as an independent voluntary body that supports those affected by domestic abuse and campaigns for the end of domestic abuse in our society.

## **B ACTUAL PERFORMANCE vs. OBEJECTIVES / AGREED OUTCOMES**

### Summary of Key Achievements

Last year Women's Aid supported 123 children and young people and 294 women. During the year they have introduced a new case management system (CADA DASH) and support needs planning approach to ensure that they assess client's needs appropriately.

They have also introduced a number of new services that include the secondment of an addictions worker from Addiction Support and Counselling Forth Valley (ASC), a drop-in service at the Forth Valley Royal Hospital and Slamannan Health Centre, recruitment of additional volunteers, the re introduction of the out of hours telephone service.

The service is moving toward a more inclusive approach and is now open to women who choose to remain in a relationship with perpetrators and are also working towards the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Charter mark to allow them to demonstrate that the service is inclusive to all regardless of sexual identity and preference.

The board has approved a proposal to amend the organisations service model to move towards a 3 stage recovery model that will focus on

1. Trama – Dealing with the crisis situation and ensuring safety
  2. Recovery – the beginning of a process to move on effectively
  3. Recovery – looks at how women will move on complete and integrate with their community.
- It aims to move from existing to living.

The service is currently undergoing a restructure to accommodate this model within the current funding arrangements. Various positions have been filled by some of the current staff and the remainder will be advertised externally.

### Summary of Key Issues/ Challenges Facing Organisation

- As the instances of domestic abuse reporting increases and women have more choices to leave their abusive partners there may be an increase in the demand for the service
- The introduction of the new welfare reform regime will mean that universal benefits will be paid to on one named person in the household. This may deter women from leaving their abusive partners and they will have no resources. Women's Aid is vital in ensuring that they are able to support women through this difficult period without prejudice and also inform the community of how these barriers can be overcome.

<p><u>How has Organisation Contributed to Council/ Service Priorities</u></p> <p>FDWA contribute to the ongoing delivery of the GIRFEC model ensuring that children have access to the service and support that they require and participate in the MACIG.</p> <p>In essence they contribute to the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities and the aims of the community safety partnership.</p>
<p><u>List any Areas where there has been Shortfall in Performance</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p><u>How often are Review Meetings held with Lead Officer</u></p> <p>6 weekly attendance at board meetings and 2 monthly/regular officer meetings.</p>
<p><b>C FINANCIAL / RISK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW</b></p>
<p><u>Total Support Provided (Financial &amp; In- Kind Contributions)</u></p> <p>Grants and Donations (miscellaneous services) £244,170          Payments to the organisation are made through expenditure occurred which is paid on a quarterly basis.</p>
<p><u>Last Period of Submitted Audited Accounts</u></p> <p>2011/12. The organisation monitors its expenditure on a six weekly basis through board meetings with the Service Development Officer Attends. The organisation has been running under budget for the last 18 months.</p>
<p><u>Future Risks (Financial, Operational or Structural) Faced by Organisation</u></p> <p>There are two additional funding streams that the organisation applies for on a three yearly basis. This brings in an additional £61,000 to deliver services to Children and Young People and outreach services to women. There is continually the risk that these funding streams will be cut or not renewed.</p> <p>As the organisation goes through a period of restructure to implement their new service model there will be a period of unrest within the organisation. It is hoped however that this will not affect any current or future clients and will fundamentally ensure that the service delivers a proactive approach toward those who are experiencing the crisis of domestic abuse and those that are working through the effects of domestic abuse.</p>
<p><u>Overall Risk Rating (Low/Medium/High)</u></p> <p>Medium</p>

**D CONCLUSIONS**Summary/ Opinion of Organisations Overall Progress During Year

Falkirk and District Women's Aid has made significant progress in reviewing current practice in regards to meeting the needs of the community and is, as a consequence, reorganising its priorities to ensure that it can deliver a more responsive, accessible and service user led service. As part of this development they have taken into consideration latest research findings both national and international in regards to gender based violence , child abuse and neglect as well as recognising the changing complex needs of service users. These needs include sexual assault, stalking, sexual harassment, rape, childhood sexual assault, trafficking and "honour" based crimes.

The organisation has been through a period of unrest and instability over previous years. The establishment of a committed Board of Directors has allowed the organisation to reflect on the services that they provide and develop a new service model that ensures that the health, safety and wellbeing of women is at the core and that developing women's confidence to move on safely is fundamental to the service delivery.

**E COMPLETED BY**

<u>Name</u>	Joanna Stewart
<u>Designation</u>	Service Development Officer – Homelessness
<u>Date</u>	14/8/13