

WOMEN'S THERAPEUTIC COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Again in 2015/2016, Glasgow City Council through their Integrated Grants Fund provided GEWA with the funding which allowed us to continue to offer a much needed service to women and their children who have or who are experiencing Domestic Abuse.

Both Janice Hannaway and Anne Smith our Project and Development Workers provided a diverse range of services to include, crisis interventions where practical and emotional support was offered to assist women with the difficult transition of fleeing violence. We also provided the following services; rehousing, advocacy, 1:1 therapeutic counselling, group work, legal advice, benefit advice, court support, representation at child protection case conferences and children's hearing system.

In conjunction with ongoing service provision we facilitated therapeutic 1:1 counselling and group work which also empowered women with their recovery process by increasing self-awareness, promoting safety and reducing social isolation. All aspects of these services were replicated throughout the North East Sector of Glasgow.

Our therapeutic counselling service to women was delivered on an office based and outreach basis which ensured that harder to reach marginalised groups received an inclusive service. We worked in partnership with Quarriers Family Resource Centre and delivered a therapeutic group work programme on their premises to women who utilise Quarriers services. Also through our partnership work we also represented women and their families at various statutory and voluntary organisational meetings. For example, Police, Health, Education, Social Work, Housing which provides a co-ordinated multi agency response and therefore protects families from violence, abuse and sexual crime.

Furthermore we provided advocacy for woman reporting historical abuse to the Police. Through this process we supported a woman's psychological health and wellbeing, as well as equipping her with the necessary skills to maintain her personal safety from the perpetrator.

We have continued to support an all-inclusive service by breaking down additional barriers, such as working with women in addiction, PTSD/ mental health, women from BME and other ethnic communities, lesbian, transgender and women with disabilities.

Also a main objective for the project was to ensure early intervention which has an impact on reducing the risk of

vulnerability, as well as prevention from further gender based violence. We therefore provided training on the issues and prevalence of gender based violence to statutory and voluntary organisation as part of the process of preventative work.

COMPLIMENTARY THERAPIES



We were lucky enough to receive several smaller donations that gave us enough money to fund this this marvellous service for another year. Geraldine and Claire are a valuable asset to GEWA. They offer massages, facials, reflexology and waxing. Women value the time that they have to themselves where they have the opportunity to relax and enjoy the benefits.



POSTCODE LOTTERY

What a great success this project was, our families attended regularly, they planted from seeds, and with the sun and rain watched as the produce grew. Children were able to eat home grown- strawberries, rhubarb gooseberries, garlic, kale and a variety of herbs. Unfortunately the funding came to an end and we lost our key worker Lyndsey Docherty. Families are still welcome to tend the garden and to share the produce.

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

♀ Glasgow East Women's Aid
Working together to make a difference

753 Westerhouse Rd, Easterhouse, Glasgow G34 9TB
Tel: 0141 781 0230 Crisis Line: 0141 773 3533 Fax: 0141 771 4711
Email: collective@gewa.org.uk Web: www.gewa.org.uk



In this year GEWA answered 7502 enquiries from our partner agencies regarding the women, children and young people we work with. There were 479 women and 128 children registered with GEWA in this period.

There were 89 requests for refuge and we were only able to accommodate 11 families. This is due to lack of social housing for our families to move to.



Children & Young People's Service

Our Children & Young People's Service continues to provide one to one therapeutic support and group programmes to children and young people between the ages of 4-18 years who have experienced domestic abuse. Our service is provided at our refuge and on an outreach basis and is delivered by Gemma, Karen, Gillian, Tricia and Agnes with our newest member of staff Louise covering Gemma's maternity leave.

We recently consulted children and young people using our service about changes they'd like to see happen in the children's room at the main office and in our refuge. The children's views were gathered and informed the redesign of these rooms which are now brighter and more child friendly.

In line with the National Practice Model GIRFEC, we have updated and enhanced our children and young people's assessment framework which explores the holistic needs of the child, risks/resilience factors and identifies areas of support required.

The service continues to grow and develop and this is highlighted by the continued high level of referrals received from children's mothers, young people, Social Work, Health, Education and other organisations. Partnerships with these agencies continue to be strong to promote a multi-agency approach to children's overall wellbeing.

The service provides support around issues such as personal safety, healthy relationships and positive re-attachment, expression and managing of emotions/ feelings and relationships and how that impacts on behaviours. Our workers advocate on children and young people's behalf to ensure their views and opinions are central in their Care Plans.

We worked in partnership with Clyde One radio station and Cash for Kids to undertake a media drive to highlight the impact of domestic abuse on women, children and young people and the links with poverty. This involved a group of mothers and their children consulting with Clyde One presenters/Cash for Kids staff who visited GEWA. Some of the mothers and children were featured on the radio during the campaign which raised awareness of poverty, domestic abuse and the effects on children and young people.

In 2015/16 we secured 3 years funding from Big Lottery to continue with our family development service. We were also awarded 3 years funding from Comic Relief to provide support to women, with a particular emphasis where financial support is required. We continue to receive funding from Glasgow City Council and Scottish Government at the same levels. In this year we also received funding from The Postcode Lottery which enabled the set up and provision of a gardening project. We were again supported by Scottish Power Energy Peoples Trust to provide financial support information to vulnerable families. Our holistic therapies service was also granted 3 years funding from The Volant Trust - Foundation Scotland. We are incredibly grateful to each and every one of our funders for their continued support.

A full copy of our audited accounts is available by emailing collective@gewa.org.uk.

REFUGE

Demand for refuge continues to outstrip our very limited supply. However, due to ongoing financial support, built up over the decades, from both of the Scottish government and Glasgow City council, who are facing their own financial difficulties, we are able to offer high quality support to the women and children who stay in our 5 self-contained refuge flats. We also recognise the importance of keeping good relations with local housing providers and the community at large where our kids go to school, nursery and local clubs and organisations. GEWA has been part of a changing community for over 10 years and it's a true saying that it takes a village to raise a child. Many of the women who have lived at refuge put down roots in the area and are now bringing up their families and living their lives in the local area. The positive experiences that families take from being in refuge mean that the local community is a more positive and safe environment to live in; women helping women, helping women.

SUCCESS STORY

We received a lovely e-mail from a young person who had accessed support a few years ago to thank GEWA for supporting her through difficult family times when she was younger. She is now a mentor for Looked After and disadvantaged children, has won Woman of Influence Award 2013, has been attending college and has now been accepted to do Adult Nursing at university.

A lovely success story of how young people do recover from abuse in childhood and go on to achieve their dreams.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT POST

In May 2015 we were delighted to be awarded 3 years funding from the Big Lottery Fund Scotland - three years funding is hard to come by these days! This funding enabled us to employ a second Family Development Worker Livvy, however she moved back to England in January. We recruited Allison in May 2016 who has hit the ground running with referrals from a range of statutory and non-statutory partner agencies.

The FDS uses a needs-led approach informed by service users and as a result is responsive, busy and varied. Support takes many forms with both individuals and family groups. It can involve emotional and practical support, advocacy, education around the effects and impact DA has on family members, stress reduction, confidence building, safety planning, links into community resources, managing unhelpful coping mechanisms, parenting support and support through child protection procedures and court processes.

An integral part of the new funding application was a group-work programme; this included a parenting group facilitated by the Women's Support Project (focusing on talking to your children about sexual abuse, online safety and mothering after domestic abuse), cooking on a budget with Clarity Nutrition and a weekly yoga and stress reduction class.

The Family Development Workers were also involved in organising a summer trip to M and Ds for all families and a 16 days of action tea party. This was very well received by all that attended.

