



# Annual Report 2011-2012

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

## Report of the board of directors 2011-2012

Our first full year as a board has been a pleasure with the excellent commitment of board members. We would like to express our recognition of the staff working under difficult financial circumstances.

GEWA demonstrates a willingness and ability to work with other agencies with an interpersonal approach which is very important in today's world.

As a board the learning curve has been very intense with fantastic commitment. All the board members bring a range of experience and specialist knowledge. Everything's gone well and we have good teamwork with the staff.

*We would certainly recommend it to anyone who feels they could make a positive contribution and who has the time to contact us about coming on board.*



## **Board office bearers 2011-12**

### *Office Bearers:*

Chair	Sandra Toyer
Vice Chair	Mary Hendry
Treasurer	Linda Williams
Company Secretary	Ruth Farquharson
Minute Secretary	Jackie Doyle

### *Members*

Alexandra Pigg Forbes  
Gillian Kierans

## Children's Work 2011-2012

Confirmation of funding for the year came just as they were about to take nine children on a residential trip with the organisation Hopscotch to Ardnamurchan. Despite some rain the young people had a fabulous time. Summer activities were busy with outings to Xscape, bowling, indoor climbing, cinema and Adventure Planet.

The majority of referrals now come from Social work including the parent and children team, although with ongoing and improved contacts with local schools there are now more referrals from education and also from women themselves. It's a sign of increasing awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on young people.

Another change has been the increasing access to children and young people on school premises which has greatly improved the service and is testimony to the good relations and trust between GEWA and local staff.

The stress of working under threat of redundancy has been difficult but GEWA is committed to continuing the ongoing support and in the Spring they produced the event 'Through the eyes of a child' writing and acting in their own play.



## Financial report

We had a good year, overall funding remained stable. Where there were cuts, we were very proactive in recouping these from alternative funding sources. (This involved many, many applications being submitted with many being refused however some were successful, if at first you don't succeed try, try and try again!)

Our major funders continue to be the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council. We were also successful in tendering for funding from CHP East to enable us to provide a comprehensive support programme to women, including the training of health visiting and nursing staff, on how to raise the issue of domestic abuse with women.

A big thank you to The Robertson Trust, they have provided us with some funding for the past 5 years. This enabled us to have a worker devoted entirely to supporting adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. We hope to continue this working relationship again in the future, The Robertson Trust continue to be one of our allies in tackling domestic abuse and its effects.

We have continued expanding our joint working in the East and North of the city alongside health and other agencies, all of which benefits our service users.

*Lynne Nixon*

# Our Finances

## *Summary accounts for year 9/5/11 – 31/3/12*

(Introduction of a Board of Directors on 9/5/11. The company is controlled by its governing documents, a Memorandum & Articles of Association dated 9/5/11 and constitutes a company, by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. It is registered as a charity with the Office of Scottish Charities Regulator)

	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	
<b><i>Incoming resources</i></b>			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income	74646	625011	699657
<b><i>Resources Expended</i></b>			
Charitable Expenditure	5833	516757	522590
Governance Costs		12911	12911
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Total resources expended	5833	529668	535501
Net Incoming (outgoing) resources	68813	95343	164156
Total funds brought forward	-	-	-
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<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>68813</b>	<b>95343</b>	<b>164156</b>

Auditor; Lorna Grey of Gerber, Landa & Gee, 11/12 Newton Terrace, Glasgow, G3 7PJ  
A full set of accounts are available from GEWA on request.

## **Internal Support and Resource Worker**

We are busier than ever as more people find out about the services we offer and because of the increasing connections we have with other agencies. The downside is that although more women, children and young people are using the service, it means that the waiting lists for 1:1, groupwork, refuge etc are on the increase too. Ironically that's the price of success and highlights the need for additional staff and resources.

***Maureen Bettley***

***“I have learnt so much from Dr Kaufman, he delivered an excellent presentation and provided lots of information I can use in my own practice on how to really assess the risk posed from perpetrators of abuse – thank you GEWA!”***

## Yearly Statistics

<i>Date</i>	<i>1/4/10-31/3/11</i>	<i>1/4/11-31/3/12</i>
Total Number of Contacts	5640	5995
Of which were Women	4169	4145
Of which were CH/YP	1471	1850
Women 1-1 Contacts-Sessions	1675	1447
Women Groupwork Contacts Sessions	131	175
CH/YP 1-1 Contacts	822	947
CH/YP Groupwork Contacts	541	685
Requests for Refuge	92	128
Women given Refuge Accommodation	11	9
CH/YP given Refuge Accommodation	12	9
Women not admitted due to lack of space	79	115
C/YP not admitted due to lack of space	87	85

## Womens Services 2012

Big change this year is groupwork following on from successfully previously run group work for women in the early stages of recovery promoting safety, empowerment, health, and well being.

This year moving into looking at trauma itself in groups because of the ongoing and increasing demands of referrals from different parts of the city which now include Maryhill, Possilpark and the Springburn area.

We work in conjunction with the NHS in Castlemilk to provide a service to women in the area which has not been served by Womens Aid. Similarly at Shettleston Health Centre.

Because of the high Social Work referrals and the complexity and urgency is increasing as, always our ethos is open ended and needs led.

We have ongoing links with the Princess Royal Maternity working with the vulnerable Mums doing protective and preventative work.

The combination of therapeutic and holistic therapies is proving invaluable and is demonstrated by the continuous reporting by women of increased and sustained recovery.



## Sessional / Outreach 2011-2012

Eleanor is currently working in a full time post with GEWA as a family worker. Last year she joined the staff as a sessional / outreach worker alongside Clare providing 1 to 1 support to women experiencing domestic abuse.

The work was varied depending on the needs of the individual woman. She offered support at appointments and with forms. Took women out for walks, swimming and other exercise, whatever the women liked to do Eleanor was up for it- no matter the weather! She would see them once a week for a number of months and really get to know them

Eleanor has practiced in Reiki which a number of women really enjoyed and helped them to relax. For a number of women it was the first time they had experienced Reiki and helped them sleep and be less anxious and was a very positive experience.

On the walks they would take pictures of safe spaces .One woman said ***'it allowed me to laugh because at that point my life was full of tears'*** for another woman she was able to cry for the first time and release the emotions that had been frozen inside her. Women felt listened to and accepted whether she had a black eye and had been recently assaulted , no one tried to make her feel bad. ***'It's always OK to come regardless of what is going on in your life.'***



Eleanor's now settling into her new post but she fondly looks back on her time as a sessional worker. 'I loved it, really really loved it'

## 2011-2012- Multi agency –Pamela

### *Funding once again proved a challenge.*

GEWA's allocation from the Violence Against Women fund was reduced by £8,000-a 15% cut and this put pressure on the service and impacted on the number of events we could organise and facilitate. However our strong partnership links, built up over the years with Health, Education, Police, Social Work etc really proved invaluable in maintaining the profile of the important work we do.

It also resulted in additional funding from Health and the Local Community Planning Partnership to make up the shortfall.

Multi agency work allows us to have our input into the strategic overview of local and national priorities regarding the delivery of services for women and children affected by gender based violence. This, joined up approach, is vital for the safety of women and children.

The highlights of the year included the visit of Michael Kaufman, from America, a world expert on perpetrator violence, who gave the key note speech at our conference attended by over 250 people including health and educational practitioners as well as service users.

We organised the very successful city wide discussion on Forced Marriage legislation as part of the '16 days of Action' campaign. This included a powerful and personal talk by Ann Moulds who experienced a prolonged campaign of stalking and harassment and how she worked tirelessly to change the law in Scotland to recognise and prosecute this crime.

Our training programme continues to be in demand including the 'Impact of Domestic Abuse on women and children' which is free to voluntary organisations with statutory services giving a donation.



## Refuge

### *'its my wee safe Hoose'*

With only 5 flats available for women and children at our refuge you can imagine the demand for accommodation is high with GEWA constantly turning women and children away.

With the demolition of much of the old housing stock in the east end and the coming changes in housing benefit there is a real fear that women fleeing domestic abuse will find it increasingly difficult to access safe and affordable housing, making her less likely to leave in the first place and perhaps more likely to return to her abusive partner.

But of course refuge is more than just providing accommodation the traditional Women's Aid motto of 'women helping women helping women' is still alive and well and refuge continues to be a warm and welcoming place where people understand and don't judge and women are given time to recover from the worst of the abuse and to reconnect with the wider world whether that be family, friends, workstudy.

Oh and refuge is about having a chat and a laugh making easter bonnets and Christmas tree decorations and that's what makes Women's Aid that bit special and all the staff at GEWA are determined to keep it that way.



# Maya Angelou-biog

Maya Angelou is a celebrated African American writer who grew up in the racially divided deep south. As a child she was sexually abused and became mute for 5 years. As a single mother she supported her son by waitressing, singing and dancing and began to write about her experiences. She's perhaps best known for her autobiography 'I know why the caged bird sings'.

## *Still I Rise*

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops.  
Weakened by my soulful cries.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

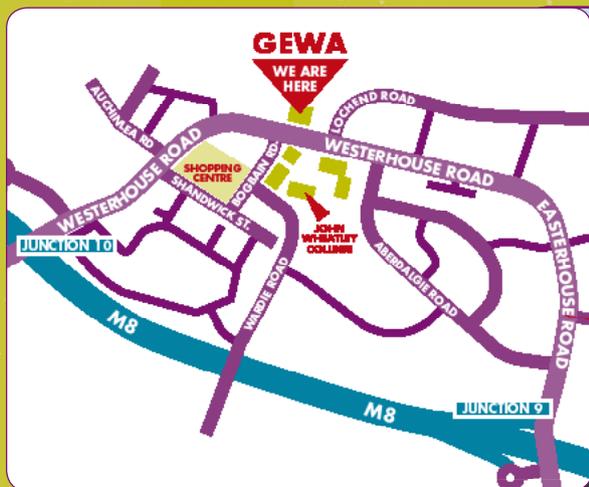
Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise  
I rise  
I rise.



# Glasgow East Women's Aid

*Working together to make a difference*

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Email: [collective@gewa.org.uk](mailto:collective@gewa.org.uk) Web: [www.gewa.org.uk](http://www.gewa.org.uk)



Formerly Greater Easterhouse Women's Aid. Affiliated to Scottish Women's Aid.  
Charity Number: SCO23938 Company Number: SC399133

