



Annual *Report*



2010 - 2011



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Organisational Details

Charity Name: West Lindsey Women's Aid
Registered Charity Number: 1092913
Charity's Registered Address: Unit 2, 9 Lord Street, Gainsborough

West Lindsey Women's Aid is a company limited by guarantee, governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Trustees are appointed by application and selection by the board:

Office	Trustee Name
Chair	Hilary Bennett
Vice-Chair	Laura Taylor
Treasurer and Company Secretary	Michelle Allen
Director	Sylvia Morgan
Director	Liz Bainbridge
Director	Kelly Taylor
Director	Karen Hales
Director	Diane Rodgers

Members of Staff

1 Apr 2010 – 31 Mar 2011

WLWA Staff Roles and Responsibilities	Employee Name	Responsibilities
Project Manager	Celia Madden	Responsible for overall management of WLWA
Senior Project Worker	Marie Woods	Responsible for delivering floating and refuge support to vulnerable women
Senior Project Worker	Sandra Ellis	Responsible for delivering floating and refuge support to vulnerable women
Project Worker	Yvonne Huddleston	Responsible for delivering floating and refuge support to vulnerable women
Project Worker	Leanna Wilson	Responsible for delivering floating and refuge support to vulnerable women
Project Worker	Claire Cutts	Responsible for delivering floating and refuge support to vulnerable women and children. Claire has now been appointed as Senior Child Support Worker
Project Administrator	Caroline Cammack	Responsible for administrative support to WLWA staff and directors
Accountant/Payroll Administrator	Kim Breckons	Responsible for management of accounts and payroll

WLWA Staff Roles and Responsibilities	Employee Name	Responsibilities
Child Support Consultant	Lucy King	Oversees the work of the Child Support Service on a consultancy basis (ended 1 st June 2011)
Child Support Worker	Vanessa Robson	Responsible for delivering floating and refuge support to vulnerable children
Child Support Worker	Paula Wadsley	Responsible for delivering floating and refuge support to vulnerable children Employment ceased 12th July 2010
Child Support Worker	Samantha Rae	Responsible for delivering floating and refuge support to vulnerable children Employment ceased 2nd March 2011
Volunteer/ Child Support Worker	Cynthia Ringsell	Responsible for assisting Project Workers, Child Support Workers and providing support to vulnerable women and children
Volunteer	Tracey Wain	Responsible for assisting Project Workers, Child Support Workers and providing support to vulnerable women and children

Our Mission Statement

To restore hope to women and children who have suffered, or who are exposed to domestic abuse through promoting their well-being, dignity and self-respect.

"The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are to relieve the distress and suffering of women and children who have suffered or are exposed to domestic violence in particular but not exclusively by the provision of information and support."

This year the key areas of activity have been to sustain the service through partnership working:

- To continue to provide emergency accommodation for women and children who have been subject to abuse.
- To maintain at least 5 spaces in 2 refuges.
- To maintain delivery of 45 units of floating support.
- To provide support for children who have been involved in domestic abuse.

In addition, WLWA has explored the possibility of developing services:

- To provide refuge provision in other areas of West Lindsey.
- To broaden the client base to include men.
- To provide specialist services to high risk clients.

Activities and Achievements

West Lindsey Women's Aid (WLWA) delivers a high quality service to women and children who experience domestic abuse in West Lindsey.

Over the past year our key aims and objectives have been met through the activities of our staff however, some are on going as detailed in our three year Business Plan 2010-2012.

By working in conjunction with partner agencies, we provide an holistic approach to ensuring the safety of women and children subjected to all forms of abuse. Partner agencies include: Police; West Lindsey District Council; County Domestic Abuse Service (MARAC); ACIS Housing; Probation; Health; Social Care; Fire & Rescue and other Voluntary Sector Agencies.

Service Provision

We have a dedicated and hard working team consisting of ten employees: a Project Manager, five Project Workers; a Senior Child Support Worker; two Child Support Workers and a Project Administrator. All Staff are passionate about the service we provide; they bring a variety of experience, qualities and expertise that they bring to both the team and service.

We are predominately funded by Supporting People for the delivery of our services. In September 2009, we secured funding from Supporting People via a three year 'Steady State Contract' to provide a Floating Support service throughout West Lindsey.

Funding currently enables WLWA to provide one-to-one emotional support and practical advice to forty-five clients at any one time, offering 'outreach support' to women and children within their homes or a safe preferred location. This service continues to be extremely busy; we receive referrals from statutory and non-statutory organisations and voluntary sector as well as self-referrals.

As domestic abuse survivors, the women have been subjected to patterns of coercive control from their abusers, an options-based approach to safety and support planning allows them to choose what is best for them and enables their empowerment and self-protection in the long-term. Project workers work with each individual to formulate a safety and support plan and complete a needs assessment that takes into account all their options and minimises risk. The needs of individuals depend on their own unique experiences of violence and abuse and the level of risk they currently face; in many cases, women have been subjected to prolonged and systematic abuse.

Support plans are reviewed on a frequent basis to meet changing need, enabling survivors to make effective choices, thus changing the quality of their lives and those of their children.

Currently, Supporting People fund our refuge provision; allowing us to provide five bed spaces over two refuges; this is reviewed on an annual basis.

Refuge provision is established as a high quality resource for referrals, providing emergency and temporary accommodation for women and children. The refuge is a place where they can feel safe at home, intensive emotional and practical support is offered on a daily basis. Women are helped to claim benefits, access permanent housing, access legal advice, access health services and are supported to utilise other relevant services for themselves and their children. With the support they are able to begin to come to terms with some of the trauma they have experienced; the children are re-integrated into schools and are supported by our child support workers to overcome the impact the abuse has had on them.

Currently, funding for WLWA Children's Service is as follows:

- Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) up until 31st December 2011.
- Senior Child Support worker post part funded by Lloyds TSB over two years.
- Senior Child Support worker part funded by the Michael Cornish Foundation over one year.

The children's service supports children in refuge accommodation and through floating support. The service is open to any family, where the children are at risk due to domestic abuse, living permanently or temporarily in the West Lindsey area.

We accept referrals to support children and families from a range of agencies including Social Care, schools, Police and health professionals. Work is undertaken with families to rebuild relationships that have been damaged by domestic abuse through direct support sessions. This promotes the overall well-being of children, including working with them to build confidence and self-esteem and develop resilience through play activities and support sessions. The focus of these sessions is to enable children to express, recognise and understand their feelings around their experiences and find ways of coping with these feelings, including looking at ways of moving forward and learning that violence is not acceptable.

Partner Agencies

West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) supports WLWA financially by way of funding the rental cost of the Women's Centre. Unfortunately, due to the current economic climate, as of April 2011, this is being reduced over the next three years on a sliding scale with 75%, 50%, 25% of the cost being funded by WLDC.

We work closely with WLDC in the following areas:

- The provision of emergency accommodation to meet government targets and guidelines. Government guidelines currently recommend one-bed space per 10,000 population; with approximately 89,000 people living within West Lindsey, we are not meeting these targets. In order to address the shortfall we are seeking suitable refuge accommodation in a rural location. This would enable women fleeing domestic abuse in Gainsborough to access refuge locally whereas we currently have to access refuge outside of the County.
- Training – WLWA, WLDC, and County Domestic Abuse Services deliver training to partner agencies and front line staff in order to raise awareness of domestic abuse.
- We access support from WLDC & ACIS Housing to secure homes by target hardening properties by increasing security for anyone experiencing domestic abuse e.g. changing locks, security lighting, alarms, peep holes, providing a fire proof letterbox etc

Service User Involvement

The empowerment of service users is one of the core values of WLWA. We encourage them to become 'positively' involved in shaping our service, this is an important step in them re-building their lives on a more positive level and becoming an integrated member of society. WLWA offers a peer group support service; alternatively, women can attend internal courses or become volunteers within the organisation.

Multi-Agency Working

WLWA have four-trained Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVA) An IDVA or representative attends monthly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings. This is an arena for on-going risk assessment and safety planning for victims of domestic abuse who have been identified as 'high risk' being those at significant risk of serious harm or homicide. It involves a multi-agency approach to ensure a robust package of support to reduce the risk and likelihood of harm.

The Future

Our aim as a service is to build on the number of volunteers we currently have to create a 'tier system', which will enable people who are still receiving support to volunteer for WLWA and undertake practical tasks such as fund raising.

In addition, we are creating a Moving On Together (MOT) scheme, which has been designed for service users who require minimal support. We anticipate this that this scheme will offer a befriending service with WLWA volunteers continuing to provide support to women whose needs are at a lower level. This will hopefully assist in preventing women from entering abusing relationships in the future and enhance the package of support available from WLWA.

The implementation of the scheme would free up paid members of staff to begin supporting new service users who are in need of support at a higher level as part of the floating support service funded by Supporting People.

Our aspiration for the refuge services is to develop our cluster model across the West Lindsey area.

Currently, the most significant change for WLWA is that we are in the process of changing our constitution to enable us to work with men who are the victims of domestic abuse. In light of this, the name of the service will change to West Lindsey Domestic Abuse Service. Staff will be attending relevant training for supporting men who are victims of domestic abuse in June and July 2011.

Conclusion

With the support of our funders; Supporting People, Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), Lloyds TSB, Michael Cornish Foundation and West Lindsey District Council we are able to provide a robust and successful service.

West Lindsey Women's Aid has successfully managed to continue delivering a high quality service to vulnerable women and children who have experienced domestic abuse. We are continually trying to source funding to secure the future delivery of the service and prepare the ground for expansion of the services we provide.



Treasurer and Company Secretary's Report

I have prepared a draft budget for this financial year which is largely based on the figures for 2010/11. This once again shows a fairly break even position.

I am currently working on the following financial issues:

- Pension scheme review
- Bank account review
- Reporting to the directors on actual figures vs budgets

I am very pleased to be reporting a successful financial year and hope it continues for the foreseeable future

*West Lindsey Women's Aid
wish to thank
our major funders and helpers
for 2010 - 2011*

- Supporting People – Lincolnshire
- West Lindsey District Council
- The Police
- Michael Cornish Charitable Trust
- Lloyds TSB

And all others who provide

- Funding
- Donations in Cash
- Vouchers and/or goods
- And personal support and time



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