

GUERNSEY WOMEN'S REFUGE

ANNUAL REPORT (1 September 2010 to 30 September 2011)

Guernsey Women's Refuge is a registered charity and was opened by Lady Coward at its present address on the 18th September 1998. It provides safe temporary emergency accommodation for women and their children escaping physical, emotional, psychological and/or sexual abuse together with an Outreach Service to support women in the community. The Refuge is affiliated to Women's Aid Federation England (WAFE), which is a national organisation helping to coordinate the work of individual refuges, provide training and raising awareness of domestic abuse.

Accommodation

The Refuge can accommodate five women including those with children who can come into the Refuge at any time of the day or night. The Refuge has a bedroom, toilet and shower with disabled facilities if needed. Women can stay for as little as an hour or as long as is necessary, this may be weeks or months. A woman may come in overnight for safety in a crisis or may extend her stay in order to give her time to consider her options and seek advice from agencies and professionals who may be able to assist her.

The Refuge provides a safe and supportive environment for women at a time of crisis. The team of trained caring staff and volunteers offer advice and support in a non-directive, non-judgemental way so women are able to make their own, informed choices. The staff also offer help and support to women in their dealings with agencies that may be able to further assist them.

Outreach Service

The Outreach service is continuing to develop. A member of staff can meet women, who are not staying at the Refuge, at an agreed place to talk and support them. Some women may not wish to come into the Refuge whilst others may wish to find out more about their options before making any decisions. The meeting place can be in a café or a walk along the beach, appearing to outsiders as two friends catching up. The Refuge can also continue to support women once they have left the Refuge through this service. If required our staff will attend Court dates, the Police Station and other agencies as support.

Inter-Agency Activities

The Refuge maintains close working links with all agencies involved in tackling domestic abuse including but not limited to Education, Probation, Housing Association, Police, Health Visitors, Social Workers, Relate, Samaritans, Citizens Advice Bureau, Victim Support, Sarnia Housing Association, Maison St Pierre, IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser).

Options

A Refuge representative continues to be a member of the inter-agency group Options.

Options also supports the White Ribbon Campaign which helps to further raise the profile of domestic abuse.

Training

All staff and volunteers attend the Options training day entitled "Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising" which is a multi-agency training day. Training in the following areas has also taken place this year:-

Child Protection;
Drug Awareness; and
Data Protection.

MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

MARAC is a regular meeting that brings professionals together who are working with victims and their children experiencing domestic abuse. The purpose of having MARAC is to provide support to those people through professional agencies working together. The Women's Refuge is one of three referring agencies who will bring to the attention the dangers and fears the victim faces, to all other agencies represented. Our aim is to protect the victim and anyone else involved by agreeing what action and support can be provided, to ensure safety.

Fund Raising/Awareness Raising Events

A group of volunteers put on a Posh Frocks event at St Pierre Park, an auction of new dresses was held together with a sale of nearly new dresses ready for the Christmas events.

A Flag Day was held at Checkers on the 11 December 2010, with further Flag Days being held on 19th March 2011 at Forest Stores, Co-Op St Martins, Marks and Spencers L'Islet and St Martins and also on 17 September at Le Friquet, Alliance and B&Q.

The Refuge decorated a Christmas Tree at the Annual Town Church Christmas Tree Festival which is proving to be a popular annual event.

January 2011 kicked off with the "Alliance Waist Minimisation" sponsored weight loss event.

Car Boot Sales are held throughout the year from May to October by kind permission of Specsavers on the first Sunday afternoon of every month weather permitting.

Reach for a Star was kindly put on once again in September by Specsavers at Beau Sejour showcasing local talent. This is always an extremely popular event which is often sold out before advertising takes place.

Mike Smith of Crimestoppers held a kayaking event raising funds for the Refuge among other charities.

Police Officer John Walker partook in a sky dive raising funds for the Refuge.

Leon Howard ran the Paris Marathon raising further funds for the Refuge.

Donations/Assistance during Financial Year 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011

Bill Mead of Vision Network assisted the Refuge greatly with the Digital Switchover which took place on 17 November 2010, together with a generous donation from Channel Island Loss Adjusters and discounted goods from Colourcare we were fully prepared for the digital changeover which took place.

The exterior of the Refuge building was painted.

The Variety Club of Jersey kindly donated a rubber matting surface for the outdoor children's play area and the Rotary Club kindly donated a climbing frame.

Barclays Wealth have been extremely supportive once again providing funds for the refurbishment of the kitchen in the Refuge. Brian Ferbrache, electrician donated his time free of charge for the electrical installations.

Graham Scott & Co donated some blinds to the Refuge.

List of Thanks (in no particular order)

The Guernsey Women's Refuge would not be able to keep running without the financial and practical support given to us from many individuals and organisations and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them once again for supporting the work of the Refuge.

Bill Mead, Vision Network
States Housing Department
Channel Island Loss Adjusters
Colourcare
Variety Club, Jersey
Specsavers
Avant Garden
Les Camps Methodist Church
L'Islet Women's Institute
Wesley Church
St John's Church
St Martin's Mission
Forest Methodist
Castel Church
Barclays Wealth
Alliance Cash and Carry
Sir Charles Frossard House
Grammar School
Leo Club
Itex Walk
Rotary Club
St Joseph's Church
Curves
Graham Scott & Co
Brian Ferbrache, Electrician
Haute Capelles School
Guernsey Inner Wheel

Guernsey Petanque Club
St John's WI
Specsavers
Soroptomists
Island FM
Mrs Trudi Clark
Waitrose
Betley Whitehorne
Mourant Ozannes
Royal Bank of Scotland
Young Business Group
Mr F Setters
AFR Advocates
Guernsey Arts Commission
Guernsey Prison
Chamber of Commerce
Hambros Trust

In addition we would also like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to those who have had made donations anonymously and the numerous businesses that kindly support the Refuge by allowing collection boxes to be placed on their premises or donate harvest boxes throughout the year.

The Volunteers who give tirelessly their time and energy in support of the Refuge.

The Staff, Management and Fund Raisers for all the hard work and events put on which has raised the much needed funds towards the running costs of the Refuge.

Annual Statistics
(1 October 2010 to 30 September 2011)

During this period Guernsey Women's Refuge has accommodated 15 women and 13 children, five women and five children were repeat residents over a collective period of 761 nights.

In addition there have been 113 contact telephone calls and 79 ongoing calls.

Age of Children:

0-2	seven
2-4	five
5-7	one
8-11	four
12+	one

Age of Women Accommodated:

16-18	one
19-25	five
26-40	nine
41-50	two
51-64	two
60+	one

Time of Arrival:

Week day	ten
Week night	seven
Weekend day	two
Weekend night	one

Nationality:

Guernsey	eight
British	three
Latvian	five
Thai	three
Zambian	one

Referrals From:

Police	twelve
Social Worker	two
Self	five
Family/Friend	one
MARAC	forty three

Length of Stay:

1 day	three
1 day to 1 week	two
1 week to 2 weeks	two
2 week to 1 month	five
1 month to 2 months	four
2 months to 3 months	
3 months +	four

Destination of Residents:

Returned home	three
Home/Perpetrator Left	one
Sarnia Housing	three
St Julians House	one
Friend/Relative	four
Repatriated to Own Country	two
Private Flat/House	three
Hospital/Care Home	one
States House Allocated	two

Guernsey Women's Refuge Limited**Board of Directors**

Chairman: Mrs Mary Lowe

Company Secretary: Mr Darren Stephens**Treasurer:** Mrs Trudi Clark**Management Team**

Chairman: Mrs Anne Watt

Staff and Volunteers**Co-Ordinator:** Mrs Stefanie LeCheminant