

Guernsey Women's Refuge  
& OUTREACH Annual Report 2006/07



& OUTREACH



PO Box 115  
Envoy House  
St Peter Port GY1 3EY  
Telephone 01481 721999

## Guernsey Women's Refuge & Outreach Annual Report (1st October 2006 to 30th September 2007)

The Guernsey Women's Refuge was opened by Lady Coward at its present address on the 18th September 1998. It is a registered charity that currently runs one Refuge and an Outreach Service.

We are affiliated to Women's Aid Federation England (WAFE), which is a national organisation, helping to link together and co-ordinate the work of individual refuges, to train and to campaign on behalf of women and their children experiencing domestic abuse.

### Providing Accommodation

Guernsey Women's Refuge provides temporary, emergency accommodation for women and their children experiencing physical, emotional, psychological and/or sexual abuse. Women and their children can come to the Refuge at any hour of the day or night. The Refuge can accommodate five families.

Women can stay for as little as an hour or as long as two months, and extended stays can be arranged under special circumstances. A woman may just come in overnight for safety in a crisis; she may decide to stay a few days if she needs space to think; she may decide to stay in the Refuge while she takes legal proceedings or she may decide to stay until she is re-housed into temporary or permanent accommodation.

During this period, Guernsey Women's Refuge has accommodated 40 women and 46 children.

### Access for women and children with disability

Our Refuge has a downstairs toilet and shower with disabled facilities and the ability to have a downstairs bedroom if needed. To date we have not needed to use these facilities.

### Support for Women

The Refuge provides a safe and supportive environment for women at a time of crisis. Staff members offer advice and support in a non-directive, non-judgemental way, so women are able to make their own choices. The Staff offer help and support to women in their dealings with all relevant agencies.

Advice Line Tel. 01481 721999

In addition to the provision of emergency accommodation, women can phone the Refuge for advice and support any time. This phone call is operated 24 hours a day.

During this period there have been 69 contact calls.

## Outreach

In addition to providing emergency accommodation, Outreach support is offered to women experiencing domestic abuse who are not living in the Refuge. Some may not wish to become resident or need to come into the Refuge; some may wish to find out more about their options before making any decisions. In addition, women who have left the Refuge may still need and seek support and this can be provided via 'resettlement' outreach support.

During this period 34 women have accessed this service

OUTREACH has continued to work in schools with lessons being offered in the PSHE & Citizenship curriculum and are mainly aimed at Year 10 students. The work of the Refuge is also incorporated into the police training programme and the Options training course. There has been excellent coverage from all areas of the media and presentations have also been given to various voluntary and statutory groups.

The joint protocol with the police continues to be used and there is a very positive working relationship with the Police Domestic Abuse Officer.

During this year we have supported 6 women through difficult visits to Court, Police Station and other agencies. We've also provided 5 women with resettlement support.

## Alderney & Sark

During this period, a team of volunteers have taken part in Domestic Abuse Awareness Training. This group are now ready to support women on Alderney who may be experiencing abusive relationships. There has also been work covered in St Anne's School and with other statutory and voluntary groups on the island.

A Sark resident has also completed the training and is now available to offer her support.

## Fund Raising

Our fund raising committee continue to work very hard to raise funds for the Refuge. The highlight of the year was the gala evening "Reach for a Star". We were delighted the Lieutenant Governor Sir Fabian Malbon and our patron Lady Malbon were able to join us for the highly successful evening.

In addition, volunteers manned the car park for the Donkey Derby in August (despite the inclement weather) and raised a substantial sum for each car parked. There have also been two successful quiz nights held.

## Options

The Refuge has two representatives on the Options Policy group; one representing the Refuge and one as Chairman of the Volunteer group.

We work closely with all the agencies affiliated with Options including States Departments, Education, Probation, Health Visitors and Social workers, Relate, Samaritans, NSPCC, Citizens Advice Bureau and Victim Support.

The Options phone continues to be answered by Refuge Staff.

## Children

The NSPCC have provided a training session to introduce Refuge staff to good practice methods to benefit children who stay with us. There are plans for the NSPCC to develop their services for children who have experienced domestic abuse and we have been invited to find out more about the part we may be able to take in this project. This should be an exciting development in our work giving children a voice to be heard.

## Training

Most of the staff and volunteers have now been through the training day that Options provide entitled 'Domestic Abuse Awareness Training'. This is a one day multi agency training looking at the issues including:

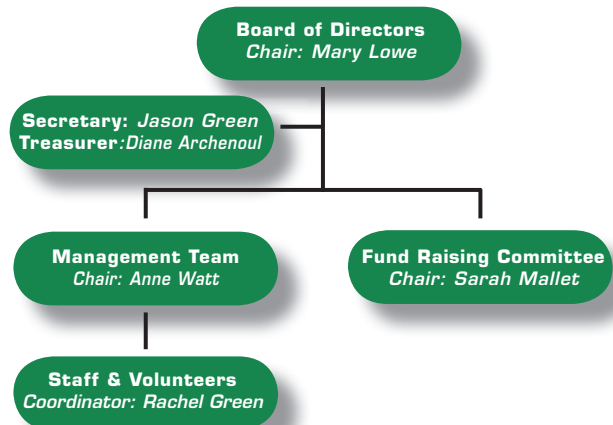
- The different categories of abuse
- Why women stay in an abusive relationship
- How children may be affected by domestic abuse
- Good practice and interagency working.

The course gives an overview of domestic abuse and challenges commonly held beliefs, attitudes and assumptions about women and abuse.

One member of staff has completed training in 'Domestic Abuse – the impact on children and young people. This has enabled them to understand the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people and to link this to current research and practice and identify referral pathways for therapeutic intervention.

Refuge staff have also attended an awareness raising session with Drug Concern who helped to increase our knowledge of drug abuse and misuse and how we can support any of our residents who experience difficulties with such substances.

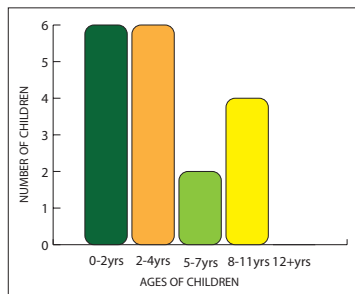
New harassment laws came into place in July 2006 and training has now been provided to help staff and volunteers understand how these may further help to protect women suffering domestic abuse.



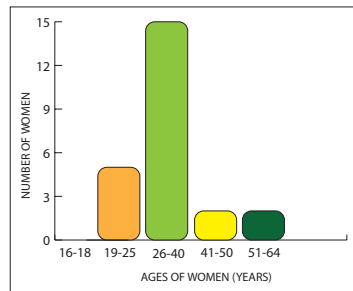
Statistics 1st October 2006 – 30th September 2007

During this year the GWR has accommodated 24 women and 18 children.

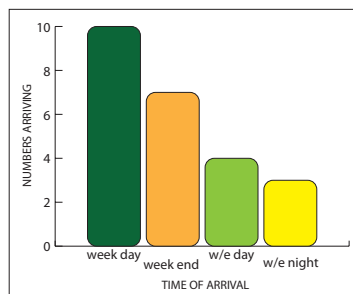
Ages of Children:



Ages of Women Accommodated:



Time of Arrival:



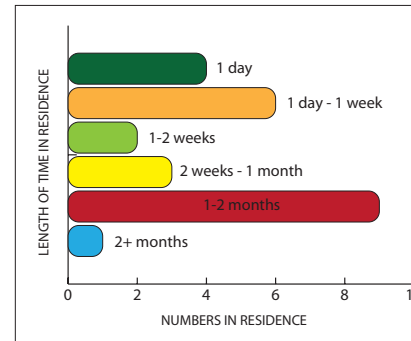
Residents Country of Origin:

Local	England	Portugal	Argentina	Latvia	South Africa
14	4	2	1	2	1

Referrals from:

Police	Victim Support	Health Visitor	Self	Family/Friend	Advocate	Probation	Other
10	0	0	9	0	0	0	5

Length of time in residence:



The total number of days stayed by 24 women was 671 days making the average length of stay 28 days.

Destination of women leaving The Refuge:

Returned Home	9
Home / perpetrator left	0
Sarnia Housing	4
Maison St Pierre	1
Friend / Relative	3
Repatriate to own Country	2
Work accommodation	0
Private Flat / House	1
Hospital / Care Home	1
Returned to the UK	3

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would not be able to keep running without the financial support given us from many sources and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their generous donations.

Lloyds TSB  
Vale Church  
Parish of Alderney  
Northern Trust  
The Grammar School  
Miss M C Pearson  
HBOS Insurance (PCC) Guernsey  
Image Group  
BWCI Charitable Trust  
Credit Suisse Trust Ltd  
Institute of Directors  
Guernsey Council of Churches  
Guernsey Methodist Womens Network  
LaserWash (CI) Ltd  
N M Rothschild Guernsey

We would also wish to express our grateful appreciation to those who have also made donations anonymously and the numerous businesses that kindly support the Refuge by permitting charity tins to be placed on their premises.

The Volunteers.

The Fund Raising Committee which have rasied thousands of pounds towards the Refuge.

And last but by no means least, a heartfelt thank you to the many churches, organisations and individuals who have donated clothes, toys, harvest festival boxes and household items throughout the year.