

PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN ACTION

“ I work with young people who are leaving home in an unplanned way (running away/being forced out). I was referred a young person who was experiencing abuse by her extended family members. The abuse was extreme and on-going while the young person lived at her family home. I had great difficulty in obtaining the support of statutory services and therefore contacted Dundee Women's Aid for support. Women's Aid responded to the referral immediately, providing refuge accommodation for this young person. Without the support of Women's Aid at this time the young person would have had nowhere else to go.

Over the next 8 months a worker from Women's Aid and I continued to provide intensive support to this young person. We worked intensively and provided support during the day and at night in person and by phone. Hours were spent trying to support the young person to go to the police and seek medical attention for her injuries. Eventually we were able to support the young person to attend appointments with a psychiatrist who we would meet a few times per week.

The young person continued to be harmed and did not want to make a formal complaint to the police. Without this, the police and social work would not provide support. Still determined to help this young person, the Women's Aid worker contacted an MSP to explain the situation. This proved to be worthwhile as a meeting was arranged involving both social work and the police.

Throughout the work with this young person, partnership working between Women's Aid and myself has been extremely effective. We have maintained regular contact (at times daily) in order to ensure that we provide the most appropriate support for this young person. I believe that the qualities of the Women's Aid worker helped build a trusting relationship with the young person as she could see that the worker genuinely cared about her.

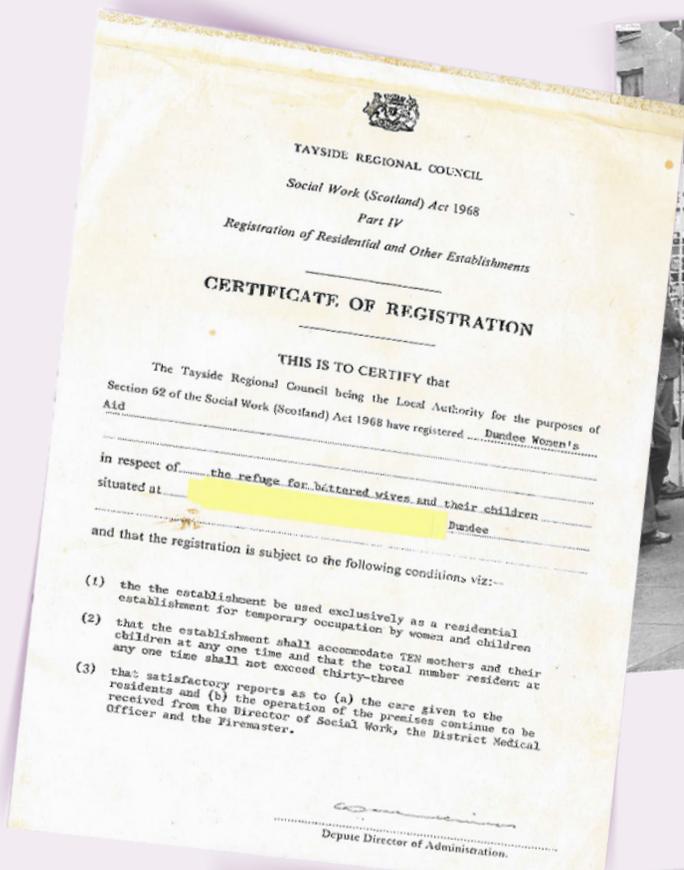
This was my first experiencing of partnership working with Women's Aid and I have been impressed by the commitment of staff in general. It would not have been possible to provide such intensive support to this young person without the help of Women's Aid staff and I hope to work closely with the team in the future”.

Teri Watson

Safe and Sound Project

(Shelter Scotland & Relationships Scotland)

“*The help I received was excellent.*”



“ I wasn't told what to do, only helped to decide what was best for me. ”

The 1st Annual General Meeting of the Dundee Women's Aid was held on Tuesday 9th September 1975 in the Tower Block, University of Dundee at approximately 7.30pm.

There were 20 members present. The Chairwoman opened the meeting by giving a short outline of the work of the Committee for the previous year, and put on record that D.W.A. was now a registered charity and eligible for charitable status. Mrs Rae asked if this also entitled cheaper postage charges, but the Secretary replied not as far as we were aware. The Chairwoman then asked if there were any nominations for office - none were made, so the Chairwoman stated that the present Committee were re-elected.

The Secretary then gave a resume of the tedious negotiations with the various local Authorities over the leasing of a house for the use as a refuge and concluded by saying the matter was now deadlocked between the Tayside Region Social Work Committee and the Dundee District Housing Committee. There would be further discussion on this at the Open Meeting following on the A.G.M. This being all the business and no further questions, the A.G.M. was then concluded.

The Open Meeting continued with a lengthy explanation of the reasons why so far the D.W.A. had been unable to lease a house. Much concern was voiced at the lack of initiative shown by the local Authorities to handing over the house although this has been agreed in principle as long ago as February 1975. The meeting then discussed various methods, such as publicity, demonstrations and canvassing of local councillors and M.P.s, to try to get a decision and after hearing from 2 Committee Members who had attended a Housing Committee Meeting as observers earlier in the evening, it was decided to raise a petition with as many signatures as possible, to be handed to the Lord Provost in approximately one month's time.

“ All is explained all the time and the ladies are wonderful at explaining again if need be. ”

1976
In 6 months 360 & 57 children stayed

unable to move in to permanent refuge because of RED TAPE

5 M.S.C. JOB CREATION WORKERS

SUMMER: Petition hits the streets demanding the key to our refuge.

22nd NOV. Signed Lease.

M.S.C. GRANTS FUNDING FOR 5 MORE WORKERS

meanime still negotiating with the powers that be for running costs.

THINGS START LOOKING UP...

TEMPORARY THEN PERM-ANENT REFUGE PAID WORKERS NO FUNDING FOR RUNNING COSTS.