



2018/2019

WOMENCENTRE ANNUAL REPORT

womenCentre

WOMEN SAY.....

ABOUT WOMENCENTRE BY THE WOMEN WHO REALLY KNOW.....

Demi's Story Since starting with WomenCentre's Project 1325 with no confidence at all, I have learned so much about myself. I love helping, organising and being involved. WomenCentre has made a huge difference to my life, I like going out and about and meeting new people. I have now written over 25 songs and performed some at the open mic nights.

I am now a positive and creative person who is optimistic about the future. No matter how down I get, going to WomenCentre makes me happy.

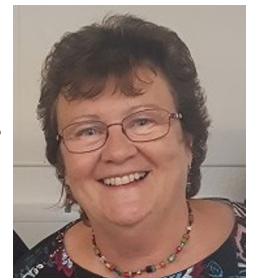
Carol's Story

I came to WomenCentre over 6 years ago at my lowest point. Since then I have attended wellbeing sessions, I now volunteer at WomenCentre every week.

It has given me a boost, I now enjoy helping other women through difficult times, it feels amazing to be given the opportunity to help others, this has really increased my confidence.

Message from CEO, Angela Everson

Testimonies from the women we support like Demi and Carol really highlight the difference our services and wider volunteer offer make. Thank you to everyone who takes the time and trouble to give feedback about the services we offer.



...and a few words from our Chair, Maura Wilson

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank all staff and volunteers for the dedication and commitment with which they work to provide all the many services WomenCentre offers.



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE....



Mayoral Visit

Cllr Christine Iredale, Mayor of Kirklees (17-18) visited WomenCentre in Kirklees to meet with the Women in Exile Service and the Connecting Opportunities Team.

The Walking Group

Supported by 2 amazing volunteers the group is going really well with 8 or 9 people attending every week. Stones are painted at the drop in and placed in special places along the walks. On the walk, the group always find a space to stop, focus on movement and breathing and to observe nature.

Awards

We were shortlisted for the National Diversity Awards 2018 in the category of 'Community Organisation Award for Gender'. Angela, our CEO was shortlisted for the Community Spirit Awards in Calderdale 'Outstanding Achievement Category' for contributions to the organisation and the voluntary sector over the last 30 years.

Staff & Volunteer Conference

There was a good turn out and we had a positive afternoon in Huddersfield. We had a creative co-produced session ending with a beautiful song written by us during the session and performed together.

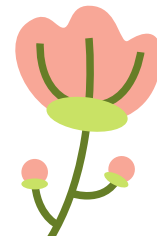
Giving Tuesday - Halifax Market

We promoted 16 days of activism, the Campaign to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. We had a secondhand toy stall which made over £100 on the day with online donations too.



THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

SOME OF THE FANTASTIC PROJECTS



Annual General Meeting

The AGM was on the 8th October. The event this year was sponsored by Ramsden's Solicitors who provided the funding for our annual report and the buffet. The Artist, Kate Radford performed and spoke about her valuable work with WomenCentre.

Winter Solstice Camp Fire Event

A great afternoon was had at the annual WomenCentre Winter Solstice camp fire event. There was singing and hot chocolate on a sunny but cold afternoon at the allotment.

Singing at Asda

The music group were fantastic and performed for an hour over the lunch period, raising £84.03. It was fantastic to see the singing lifting everyone's spirits.

Christmas Donations

We were once again overwhelmed by the generosity of others at Christmas; we received a large toy delivery from the Radio Aire Christmas Appeal, hundreds of shoe boxes from the Halifax Rotary Club Appeal and toy donations from Pulse Radio. Thank you to all.

POEM - BLOOM

FOR WOMENCENTRE
BY KATE RADFORD

the rain, it came
we bloomed
the sun, it burned
we bloomed
the spring, it sang
we bloomed
winter, took on
we bloomed
the cold, it stung
we bloomed
the heat, it hissed
we bloomed
we lost, some gone
we bloomed
we gathered, we trust
we bloomed
some wilted, some tended
we bloomed
against the odds, we bloomed
against the grain, we bloomed
when all was lost we bloomed
we bloom
bloom.
(or live trying)

(K.Rad.)





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2019 - JUST A SNIPPET OF THE EVENTS

"Strong Women & the shoes they walk in!"

We united strong women and arranged our shoes at the Piece Hall as part of our International Women's Day Celebrations. A fantastic turn out with some great photos.

Vagina Monologues

The show at Hebden Bridge Town Hall was a sell out on both nights. Raising £1663.50 plus £263 on our stall selling knitted goods from the women at the knitting group in our Huddersfield base.

Battle of the Sexes

Great evening sponsored by Holly Lynch, Halifax MP and the Mayor of Calderdale, Marcus Thompson joined us on the night. The film at Square Chapel raised £350 for WomenCentre.

Music Events

Sound Women, one of our biggest annual events at Small Seeds in Huddersfield showcased some outstanding local talent by some amazing, strong women and girls. Northern Quarter Huddersfield was a great evening of female talent, celebrating International Women's Day.

International Women's Day

One of our board members held an afternoon tea with Jill Liddington: editor of the Anne Lister diaries who spoke on: What did Anne Lister do - in 1832, raising £396.

Huddersfield Town Womens Football Club

Dedicated a match to WomenCentre. We are hoping to do more work with the team and the Huddersfield Town Foundation in the near future.



SOCIAL MEDIA & FUNDRAISING

2,151

TWITTER
FOLLOWERS

1,056

FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS

50K+

ENGAGEMENT -
RETWEETS &
SHARES

273

MEMBERS

£19K

FUNDRAISING



Our reach is gaining momentum across Calderdale and Kirklees and our membership has increased to over 270 from 40 in late 2017.

We have increased activity and engagement on Twitter and Facebook.

We have increased fundraising activity both internally and externally and we are engaging the wider community. This year we have increased unrestricted income to £18-19K from the previous year of £8-9K.

Our links with local business are developing and we are giving more talks about our Corporate support packages across Calderdale and Kirklees.

A massive THANK YOU to everyone who raised funds for us this year, it makes a huge difference and we really appreciate your support!

STATISTICS

93

girls supported by
Project 1325

6800

volunteer hours
equates to value of
£88,450

217

referrals to
Calderdale
Counselling
Service

1,119

people supported by
Calderdale Domestic
Abuse Service

950

supported by Kirklees
Mental Health &
Wellbeing Service

100

women supported
by Women Making
Changes Project

600

students added over
600 days capacity to
WomenCentre

CALDERDALE SERVICES

Staying Safe, our Domestic Abuse Service has continued to work with victims at all levels of risk. The service also provided domestic abuse support to children and young people but due to funding cuts this will not continue beyond July 2019. 1,119 adults and 56 children were supported by the service over the year. 87% of adults supported reported improvement in their overall situation.



Women Making Changes Our National Lottery funded project has helped vulnerable and marginalised women in Calderdale to have financial security, suitable accommodation and social support to live better lives and avoid future hardship. 100 women were supported through 1:1 casework and drop-in's.

Wellbeing courses and counselling continue to have a significant impact on women's wellbeing and lives.



KIRKLEES SERVICES

Mental Health and Wellbeing Service

This year the service was busier than ever, supporting 950+ individual women over the year. We organised a Labels, Learning and Hope Workshop in May 2018 to challenge the use of labels and the stigma of poor mental health and in September 2018 our "Women of the World" (WOW) Co-creation Group organised a "Working Together Side by Side" workshop. The day was shaped around the 6 Ways to Wellbeing and enhanced by powerful performances from Playback Theatre.

We continue to offer the Syrian Resettlement Programme to women who go on to access drop-in and wider support. In early 2019 we started a Safer Women Project (Agenda and



Mind Funded), where we take a women-centred approach to the mental health and wellbeing of women seeking asylum, refugees and new migrants in Kirklees with peers working alongside women within mental health services.

CONNECTING OPPORTUNITIES

WomenCentre's specific role is to provide women-centred training, advice and support to the 9 other delivery partners on the Leeds City Region wide project, aiming to embed women-centred ways of working with women migrants across the project.

Our activities have contributed to ensuring that gender equality and equal opportunities are championed. Some examples of the work undertaken include inducting new Project staff to women-centred ways of working, co-facilitating focus groups, identifying 6 key principles of women-centred working and developing a report on applying the principles working with women migrants, which will be published and launched in June 2019.



PROJECT 1325



Across Calderdale & Kirklees the 1325 Girls and Young Women Project funded by the National Lottery has continued to offer a range of early intervention approaches to support empower and enable young women to move forwards in their lives. The University of Huddersfield is evaluating the work of this project.

BRADFORD SERVICES

We deliver Bradford Maze (the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme) which aims to increase the safety of victims (female and male) and children by working with perpetrators of domestic abuse we provide both group and 1-1 sessions to perpetrators who take responsibility for what they have done and who are motivated to change.

Before I came here, I'd just keep all my thoughts and feelings in my head they wouldn't go away but now I feel I can be honest and tell people how they have hurt my feelings and why

Partnerships - We continue to work positively with many local partner agencies across Calderdale & Kirklees including Verde de Gris arts, Kate Radford, CAB, solicitors who offer free legal advice, GLINT horse therapy, VCS, Mental Health Partnership. This is not an exhaustive list.

Crisis Funds - Grants and donations from a range of local trusts, businesses, members and individuals have provided WomenCentre with additional funds to offer financial support for food, utility costs and essential sanitary products to many women who access our services across Calderdale and Kirklees.

New Video Link To Court - Funded by the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. The first live video-link to Court session took place in February 2019. The facility enables the most vulnerable victims of domestic and sexual violence to give evidence safely and more confidently and is having a positive impact on reducing attrition and increasing convictions.

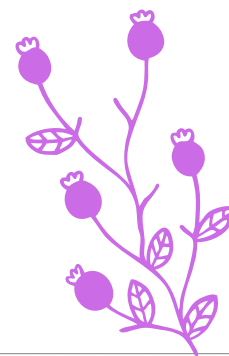
New Developments - During year we began to take forward our WomenCentre Homes Housing Initiative with grant funding from the Longleigh Foundation and the Community Foundation For Calderdale (CFFC). The initiative has been gathering momentum and we hope to take possession of our first properties within the next financial year.

Quality for Health - WomenCentre's Level 2 accreditation was successfully renewed for a further 2 years in January 2019.

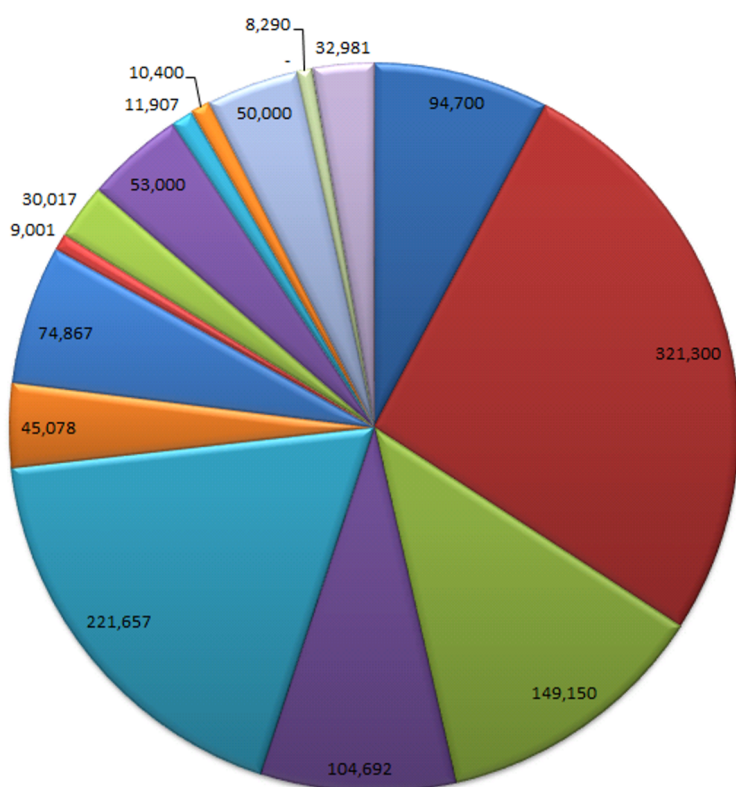


FINANCIAL REPORT

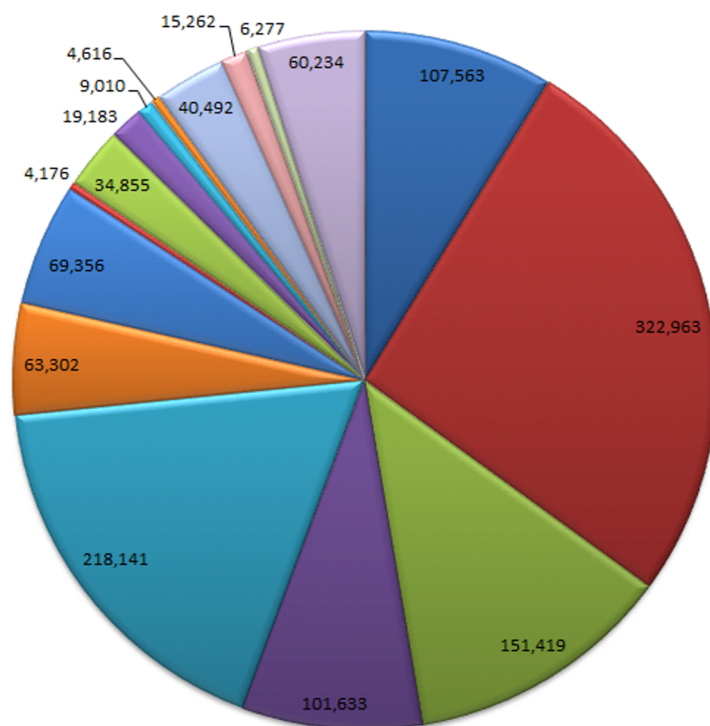
A BRIEF OVERVIEW



INCOME 19/20



EXPENDITURE 19/20



- BRADFORD MAZE DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION
- CALDERDALE STAYING SAFE
- 1325 BIG LOTTERY GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN
- WOMEN MAKING CHANGES BIG LOTTERY PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS
- WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING PROJECT
- OTHER DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES
- OTHER WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELL BEING SERVICES
- OTHER WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES
- MIGRATION YORKSHIRE
- LONGLEIGH HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
- LEARNING & WELLBEING CALDERDALE
- SMALL GRANTS FOR WOMEN
- COMMUNICATIONS AND CORE COSTS FUNDED BY TRUSTS
- DEVELOPMENT OF VIDEO LINK ROOM & OTHER CAPITAL
- CONSULTANCY & TRAINING
- OTHER UNRESTRICTED INCOME

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Charity Number 1118366
Company Number 06084795



Calderdale Clinical Commissioning Group
Greater Huddersfield Clinical Commissioning Group
North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Group



Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group
Bradford City Clinical Commissioning Group
Bradford Districts Clinical Commissioning Group

The
Courtts
Foundation

