



# Annual Report

2021-2022



# A message from our CEO



In this our 38th year we have been as busy as ever with 3500+ referrals into our services across Calderdale, Kirklees and Bradford.

Many of the women we support are presenting with wider needs impacted by the increased financial pressures on family life and concerns about food and fuel poverty.

Our role here at WomenCentre remains to support women as best we can with our starting point always being listening and helping them to find the best responses to whatever challenges they are facing. The strength of our approach is also supported by the strong multi-agency partnerships we have across the districts.

WomenCentre has welcomed the focus on Women and Girls Safety by the newly elected Mayor for West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin.

WomenCentre has strong and reliable staff, volunteers and board members who work closely together to ensure that we always do our best no matter what challenges we face.

*Angela Everson*

CEO



I hope you enjoy our annual report that will give you an overview of our work over the past 12 months.

The work and reach of the organisation has grown with new funding streams secured to develop our operational work and for capital investment in the Calderdale building owned by WomenCentre. We finally have a new roof and there are plans for wider refurbishment in 2022-2023.



The board has also continued to oversee the development of our sister charitable company WomenCentre Homes.

I would like to express my thanks to all our staff, volunteers, members, funders and wider supporters for continuing to invest in our work.

*Maura Wilson*

Chair





# ..... the year at a glance



## **Volunteers Week**

We celebrated by thanking all our volunteers on social media. We held a picnic in Greenhead Park for our Huddersfield volunteers, and we dedicated our blog to volunteers.

## **Mental Health Awareness Week**

The theme was 'nature'. WomenCentre shared stories from staff, volunteers and women to show the benefits of being outdoors.



## **Refugee Week**

WomenCentre celebrated Refugee Week on social media and in person with a socially distant picnic in Greenhead Park and making bunting together. Women, volunteers and staff have been creating artwork and a banner too.

## **Kathryn's 60th Birthday Coast to Coast Walk**

One of our board members Kathryn raised funds for WomenCentre. She sent some fantastic pictures at the half-way point in Swaledale.



## **Staff and Volunteer Conference**

55 staff, volunteers and board members attended the in person event in November 2021.

## **#16DAYS #ORANGETHEWORLD**

The 16 Days of Activism is an annual international campaign running from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. 2021 global theme: "Orange the World: End violence against women now!"



We shared facts, figures and comments from our domestic abuse support service, Calderdale Staying Safe, to raise awareness and asked people to support their local WomenCentre by donating, being a member or fundraising.

# .... this year cont...

## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

The Rotary Halifax has made a generous donation to us to buy Christmas presents, JCI, RevoPlas, Tesco's, Argos, Sowerby Bridge Rotary, and many other organisations donated cash and gifts.

## GLAXO SMITH KLINE AWARDS

We were honoured to be one of the top 20 charities and whilst we did not finish in the top 10 this was still an achievement for WomenCentre.

## VISIT FROM WEST YORKSHIRE HIGH SHERIFF

Angela met with the High Sheriff and Mrs Lloyd, Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire to tell them about our services. The High Sheriff later tweeted: "A privilege meeting the wonderful Angela Everson, it was inspirational to hear about the domestic abuse support, mental health and well-being and other pioneering work. A great team with a great leader."

## TRACY BRABIN - Mayor of West Yorkshire

The new WY Mayor Tracy Brabin visited the centre in March to find out about our work with women and girls at WomenCentre. She has put women and girls at the heart of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan. WomenCentre will be involved in future discussions about this at a West Yorkshire level. We also supported a piece of research about the safety of women and girls in parks.



*"It was great hearing about your journey . It was fascinating to listen to your expertise and knowledge and how you have shared it to improve outcomes across the sector"*

quote from the National Lottery





# Kirklees

Over the year 530 women were supported as part of the Women's Mental Health and Wellbeing Service. This included person-centred counselling, Creative Therapies, Dance & Movement, Music & Art, Drop ins and activity groups. Referrals are received from GPs, Mental Health Services, Housing Providers and Probation Services; but most referrals come from women who have used our services, word of mouth and other Voluntary Sector Providers including our Working Together Better partners.

Creative Minds funding added value to our service offer and was used to deliver a range of workshops and weekly pause videos with women also participating in one or more outdoors workshops and/or editing sessions.



## Tackling the Taboo (Menopause Project)

The Menopause Project that started in March 2021 helps to improve the wellbeing and mental health of women. We aim to improve knowledge, awareness and understanding about the menopause symptoms and how to manage these. The project was launched in person at the Lawrence Batley Theatre in October 2021 with 17 women attending.

## Stage

Since January 2022 collaborating with other women's organisations WomenCentre has been able to continue to support women affected by historical CSE in Kirklees with new funding from the National Lottery Community Fund for the Stage partnership. This allows for the continuation of direct work with women as well as trying to influence national approaches.



# Calderdale

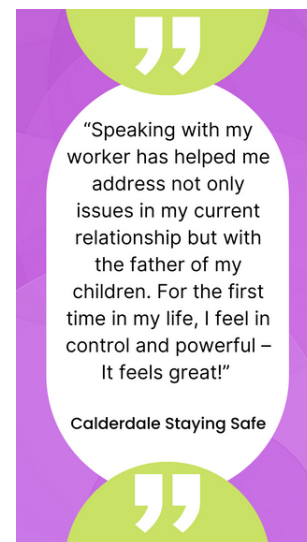


**Calderdale Staying Safe** - Domestic Abuse Support Service has continued to successfully provide a comprehensive SafeLives accredited Domestic Abuse Support Service working with adults (male and female aged 16 years+) across all risk levels.

Over the year additional funding has also been added to support the contract from the Ministry of Justice via the West Yorkshire Mayor's Office and the Fidelity Foundation. This year the service received 2145 referrals and 937 individuals accessed the service. The Domestic Abuse Freedom Programme was accessed by 70 women.

The team has also provided a range of briefings and training around domestic abuse for a wide range of multi-agency frontline workers.

**Counselling** - During the year 137 referrals were received with a total of 97 clients receiving counselling. Women accessing the service continue to present with a complexity of issues including trauma, anxiety, domestic abuse, bereavement and self-harm.



## Women Making Changes Project



The Women Making Changes (WMC) Project, funded by the National Lottery's Help Through Crisis grant, finished at the end of June 2021 with 99 women supported in the final year. A final evaluation report was completed by the Sarah E. Frost Associates the independent evaluators.

The service continued with bridging grants from the National Lottery Community Fund and The Community Foundation for Calderdale, and with a 3-year grant from the Henry Smith Charity.

## Bradford

Working in partnership with Family Action and Staying Put as part of the Survive and Thrive contracted service WomenCentre delivers Bradford Maze the Domestic Abuse Behaviour Change Perpetrator Programme that is RESPECT accredited and the DA and SV counselling service.

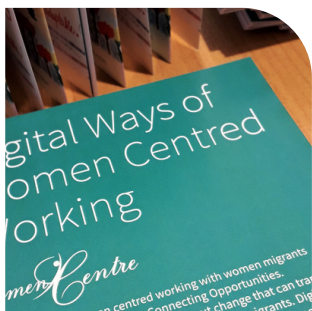
There is also additional funding from Bradford Council and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, for the culturally sensitive behaviour change programme for the South Asian community and the Specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioner role.

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence counselling service as part of Survive and Thrive received 561 referrals.



Delivered by WomenCentre, Staying Put and Family Action

# Connecting Opportunities – Digital Ways of Women Centred Working



In July 2021, WomenCentre launched the report Digital Ways of Women Centred Working. Please have a read through our report and watch the elevator pitch that summarises the key learning. Explore the resources that are available on the website and get inspired by learning from women migrants about the transition and adaptation of support services into digital and online spaces.

## Common Threads - Mothers Apart - Letterbox Project

Threads of Connection is our letterbox project with Lancaster University alongside The Common Threads Collective. It aims to encourage regular and more thoughtful letterbox exchange with mothers apart from their children and to understand how this affects the mental health and wellbeing of mothers of adopted children. Jointly they will co-create resources for adopters and adoption teams. The resources will be launched in 2022-2023.



## Project 1125



WomenCentre's Project 1125 is funded by the National Lottery's Community Fund for 3 years. It provides girls and young women aged 11-25 years living in Calderdale and Kirklees, with a range of early intervention approaches focussing on times of distress and significant transitions in their lives. Frontline delivery is provided by two full time Project workers and in the year 64 women and girls were supported.

## Liaison & Diversion

WomenCentre has continued to have three seconded staff working with women referred into this service. Over the year 215 women were supported across Calderdale (70) and Kirklees (145).



*"I feel more confident. Feel I am getting out more. People have noticed the change. I have the courage and confidence."*

# International Women's Day



## **#IWD2022 #BREAKTHEBIAS - 8TH MARCH 2022-**

The theme for International Women's Day 2022 was #BreakTheBias. Imagine a world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all #BreakTheBias. Below is a small sample of the activities for IWD 2022.

### **L4N – Ladies Network Event**

We hosted the Calderdale business network event in March at our Halifax office. This event was successful on many levels: increasing awareness of WomenCentre, attracting new members making new contacts and supporters who will spread the word about WomenCentre.



### **University of Huddersfield**

The costume department made anti spiking 'huddies' for drinks, profits to WomenCentre for International Women's Day. They are still available to buy.

### **Kirklees Mental Health Partnership Event**

Staff and volunteers attended the celebration event with key partners including s2r, Hoot, Carers Count, CLEAR, and more. Zenebu, from Women in Exile at WomenCentre, gave a talk about the work.



### **Dark Woods Coffee**

Donated 2KG of fresh filter coffee for staff and women at WomenCentre.

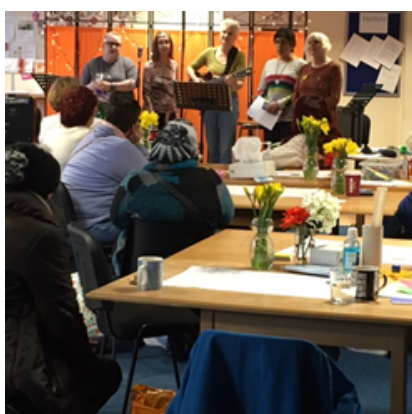
### **Northern Quarter**

Held their annual event for International Women's Day on Friday 11th March. The evening of music and celebration raised over £100 for our Huddersfield office.

**Parfitts Cash and Carry** – Collected toiletries for WomenCentre and made 100 emergency bags for women. They also raised £500.

### **Sound Women Light**

34 women gathered for a small Sound Women event held at our Dewsbury Centre. This was our first big indoor event since lockdown and for many, it was their first experience of socialising in a larger group for two years.







# Matrons, Membership & Corporates

## WomenCentre Matrons

We are proud to welcome WomenCentre Matrons:

**Jill Liddington** - Writer and historian, has been a supporter of WomenCentre since the very beginning. In July 2021 she joined us as an official Matron.

On accepting the role, she said:

'I am delighted to support WomenCentre. Providing a safe space for women has never been more vital, and I know the Centre will continue to help women support other women'.

**Ellie Sax** -Saxophonist and performer Ellie Sax is our newest matron, joining us this summer. On accepting the role, she said, "I am honoured to be supporting WomenCentre. As women, we need to stand together and support each other in times of crisis, and WomenCentre supports local women in Calderdale and Kirklees in times of crisis.

## Membership

Our membership continues to grow with 340 of you supporting us. Our membership fee increased at the AGM to £15 or £20 after a consultation period. Please continue to encourage friends and family to join us as members.

## Corporates

We would like to thank our Corporate Supporters for their continued support. If you would like to join us please see our website [www.womencentre.org.uk/corporate-supporters](http://www.womencentre.org.uk/corporate-supporters)

**Gold Supporters:** Towngate PLC; Switalskis; Harveys of Halifax

**Silver Supporters:** Stowe Family Law

**Bronze Supporters:** Freight Link Europe; Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union at Suma Food Elland



**Legacy** - WomenCentre received a legacy from the estate of the late Doreen Pickles. Doreen was a truly inspirational woman who grew up in Shelf and who was described by her friends as a true trail blazer.

She became the first female shop steward and union leader in the country.

# Statistics & Impact



**530**

**Kirklees Mental Health Service**  
women supported online/phone  
(groups, courses, walks) &  
counselling



**70**

women accessed  
the Freedom  
Programme in  
Calderdale

**937**

individuals offered  
support from  
Calderdale Staying  
Safe Domestic Abuse  
Service

**215**

women accessed  
Liaison & Diversion  
Service across  
Calderdale and Kirklees

**2528**

volunteer hours  
from 44  
volunteers

**441**

referrals to Bradford Maze  
Project

**99**

women supported  
by Women Making  
Changes Project in  
the final year

**64**

girls and young women  
were offered casework  
support over the year by  
Project 1125

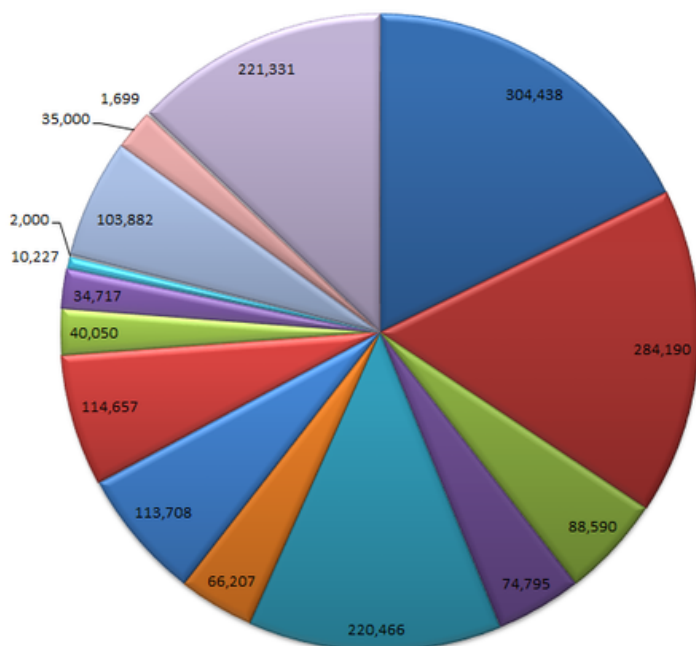


# Financial Report

## Brief Overview

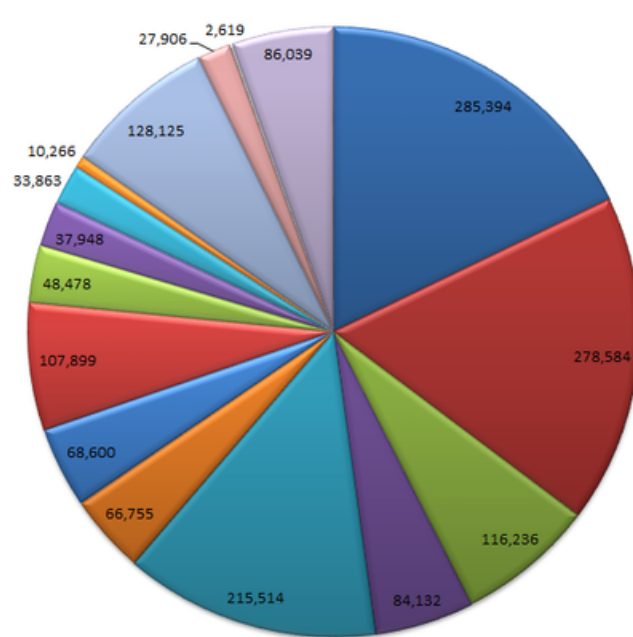


**INCOME 21/22**



- BRADFORD MAZE DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION & COUNSELLING
- CALDERDALE STAYING SAFE
- 1125 BIG LOTTERY GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN
- WOMEN MAKING CHANGES PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS
- WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING PROJECT
- OTHER DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES
- OTHER WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELL BEING SERVICES
- LIAISON & DIVERSION SERVICE
- STAGE (SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL EXPLOITATION)
- MIGRATION YORKSHIRE
- HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
- SMALL GRANTS FOR WOMEN
- COMMUNICATIONS, REPAIRS AND CORE COSTS
- VIDEO LINK ROOM, IT & OTHER CAPITAL
- CONSULTANCY & TRAINING
- OTHER UNRESTRICTED INCOME

**EXPENDITURE 21/22**



- BRADFORD MAZE DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION & COUNSELLING
- CALDERDALE STAYING SAFE
- 1125 BIG LOTTERY GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN
- WOMEN MAKING CHANGES PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS
- WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING PROJECT
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*"Thank you for your beautiful songs and your brave words; such a lovely expression of love and courage, both alone and together. Much appreciated!"*

*Sound Women Light*





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Company Number 06084795



Ministry  
of Justice



The  
Coutts  
Foundation

