



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

It has been another busy year at WomenCentre with over 4,500 referrals received across all services, many new staff recruited at all levels and volunteers and students supporting our work across the 3 districts.

We have continued to offer a wide range of interventions via 1-1 casework and group work across all service areas.

Our partnership work has continued locally, regionally, and nationally. We have continued to raise key issues that are impacting on the lives of the women and girls we support at every given opportunity as part of national consultations, influencing groups and at strategic and operational meetings.

I would like to thank all the women we support for your kind and appreciative words about our staff and volunteers. As one woman recently said to me “The support I received has been brilliant”.

Angela Everson, CEO



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR



The work of the organisation has grown over the year with some new funding streams secured to develop our work and recruitment of two new staff members to the senior management team to reflect the increase in our service provision.

The Board also supported the mammoth fundraising task to secure capital funding for new windows in the Calderdale Building via a local crowd funding campaign along with investing in bid writing expertise to secure capital grants.

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank Coutts Foundation who provided core funding to WomenCentre for 7 years. Without their support we would not have grown in the ways in which we have.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank all staff, volunteers, members, supporters and funders for their commitment and investment into the lives of the women /clients we support.

Maura Wilson, Chair

A year at a glance

Building Investment

Thank you to everyone who supported our crowdfunding campaign 'Light-up our Summer' to help us raise funds for new windows in our Halifax Building. In the year we also installed a new fire exit.

Glaxo Smith Klein Awards

WomenCentre was runner up in the Glaxo Smith Klein Awards in London. We were inspired by all the amazing organisations involved.

Victims Commissioner

We shared our views and concerns on issues facing women with Dame Vera Baird the National Victims Commissioner.

Supporting our Music Therapy

Thank you to the Scott Johnson Foundation for the drumkit donation to enhance our Music Therapy offer to women and girls.

West Yorkshire Mayor's Annual Third Sector Conference

WomenCentre was represented and our CEO spoke at the Conference where the Safety of Women and Girls Strategy for West Yorkshire was launched by the West Yorkshire Mayor and her Deputy.

Mental Health Awareness Week

The Women's Mental Health project celebrated with an afternoon of singing, sharing and coming together to discuss loneliness.

Mandala Movement

In June we held a Mandala Movement workshop in Greenhead park, the group did some gentle yoga movement, mindfulness and created a wool mandala. A mandala is a geometric circle representing the universe and calm.



*I learnt coping strategies,
I learnt self worth and
self esteem. I can live
better and cope better
through the day.*

A year at a glance

#16DaysOfAction

The annual campaign in November/December is an important opportunity to raise awareness and call for changes at an international, national and local level to end violence against women and girls.



#ItsNotOK

Staff attended the demonstration organised by Kirklees, Calderdale and Wakefield RASAC along with Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership in St George's Square.



Christmas donations

As always thank you to everyone for the generous donations at Christmas. Organisations include, Halifax rotary, JCI, Revoplas, Lloyds Banking Group, Staff at Eureka, Cash for Kids, Fuchsia Hair and Beauty, splat training, Moko Loko, Ramsdens Solicitors and many more.



Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association

Maxine attended and spoke at the Baitul-Atta- Mosque in January to celebrate the International Day of Education.

Soroptomist Donation

Beautiful handbags for women filled with useful gifts and toiletries as part of the 'Love Grace' campaign were donated.



Living Wage Employer

We are pleased to inform you that we are now accredited.



The impact WMC has had on my life has been so good, you have really changed my life and I would not know how I would cope without your service."

Calderdale

Calderdale Staying Safe Domestic Abuse Support Service continued to successfully provide the locally commissioned comprehensive SafeLives accredited Domestic Abuse Support Service working with adults (male and female aged 16 years+) across all risk levels. Over the year additional grants were received from the West Yorkshire Mayor's Office to support the work and the team also contributed fully to the review and implementation of the new DRAMM and MARAC processes in Calderdale.

The service received 2209 referrals of which 1081 accessed service. The Freedom Programme was accessed by 117 women and the new Own My Life Course which aims to educate and empower women subjected to abuse to regain ownership of their own lives was attended by 27 women.

A service user group was also established.

<https://calderdalestaying-safe.org.uk/>



Women Making Changes

Funded by the Henry Smith Charity, in the first year to December 2022 140 women were referred, with many women needing urgent food parcels and links to be made with the food bank for ongoing food support as well as help with utilities. 65 women also received more intensive 1-1 support with wider issues impacting on their lives.



Calderdale Counselling & Moving Forward

93 women received 1-1 counselling during the year and many reported improved outcomes at the end of their counselling.

In the year the Moving Forward group continued and, 6 courses were offered with a total of 40 women attending the groups.

Greener Together

The project started in Calderdale in June 2022 and concluded at the end of March 2023. It has been a partnership project working with Newground Together, Calderdale Council, Halifax Opportunities Trust. The project sought to address the Green Economy knowledge, skills and needs gaps in Calderdale. WomenCentre delivered group work and 1-1 interventions.

Womens Mental Health & Wellbeing Service

The service supports women aged 18 years and over who experience mental ill-health to access opportunities that promote, protect, and improve their mental health, physical and emotional wellbeing and recovery. Referrals are received from all agencies, but most come from women who have used our services, word of mouth and our Working Together Better partners.

Over the year 601 women were supported via a range of support groups and activities including person-centred counselling, Creative Therapies and much more.

In the year we also worked alongside PDAP on a Domestic Abuse and Children related project and Creative Minds developing a range of workshops and weekly pause videos with women.

A new project funded by The National Foundation for Youth Music provided grant funding for our Tuning in Project. Those participating engaged in the planning and running of an 'open mic' event. All the activities were geared towards mental wellbeing and musical learning, gaining new skills, producing new music and performing original and prewritten material.

<https://womencentre.org.uk/test/kirklees/>



Women Making Changes

This new service was successfully modelled on the service offered in Calderdale to help and support vulnerable and marginalised women to live better lives and avoid future hardship crisis.

In the year, the team received 110 referrals from a wide range of sources with 107 women being supported with multiple issues including housing, domestic abuse and the impact of the cost of living crisis.



Menopause Project

The Tackling the Taboo Menopause Project aimed to raise awareness of the menopause, provide information and share learning working alongside women and their families. The project has been successful in setting up a fortnightly menopause café at the Hive in Huddersfield.



STAGE

WomenCentre collaborates with other women's organisations across the North of England. We have been able to continue to offer support to women, aged 16 and over, to address and overcome experiences associated with sexual exploitation and grooming in Kirklees. Our case worker provided personalised trauma-informed 1:1 and group-based support to help women achieve their personal goals. Our work has also been to influence policy at a national level alongside the wider STAGE partners.

Bradford

WomenCentre is part of Survive and Thrive partnership alongside Staying Put and Family Action. Our service has been delivered from a new office base in Bradford City Centre since mid-2022 providing safe spaces for counselling to take place as well as offering the behaviour change group work programme. In November, we came together with the full Bradford Survive and Thrive partnership teams who offer wider services including accommodation, 1-1 support and work with children impacted by DA.

<https://womencentre.org.uk/bradford-survive-thrive/>



Project 1125 Calderdale & Kirklees

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.

In the year we worked with a total of 135 girls and young women offering a range of support including 1-1 trauma informed casework. The length of the support ranged from a few weeks, to over one year.



Connecting Opportunities

WomenCentre's Connecting Opportunities (Migration Yorkshire) team concluded our 7 years of involvement in March 2023. As part of this work WomenCentre launched a series of co-produced publications about our work on this project all of which can be viewed on the WomenCentre website. The project worked with significant numbers of women and massively over-achieved on the original targets and objectives. [Women Centred Gallery](#) | [WomenCentre Calderdale and Kirklees](#)

Liaison & Diversion

WomenCentre had 2 seconded staff working with women as part of the L and D contract across Kirklees and Calderdale with 14% of women referred into the WomenCentre for counselling or wider other support. The most common needs identified were mental health, abuse, housing, and alcohol misuse.



Threads of Connection - Letterbox Project

Threads of Connection encourages birth parents and adoptive families to write letters to each other, based on mutual respect and empathy. All the children are different, as are their families. The common threads can help both families to weave their own unique connections. Mothers Apart: Common Threads Collective (WomenCentre)

WomenCentre Homes

The WomenCentre board has continued to support and oversee the development of our sister charitable company WomenCentre Homes and we have jointly produced a working agreement between both charitable companies. The charity is developing well and will host a separate AGM in November 2023 to share it's work in 2022-2023.

Volunteering

Using the legacy funding from the late Doreen Pickles, we have recruited volunteer coordinators and will be developing our offer in 2023-2024.

Membership, Matrons, & Ambassadors

We always welcome new members if you want to join us and find out more about our work on a regular basis, membership is just £15-£20 per year, you can join on our website. <https://bit.ly/WomenCentreMember>

We are looking for some new Matrons and Ambassadors to support our work and increase our profile. If you are interested then let us know.

Our social media presence has continued to grow ensuring that we share our achievements widely.

Corporate support

We are happy to welcome more Corporate Supporters. This year Switalskis Solicitors have joined us as a Gold Supporter, along with Harveys of Halifax. Freightlink Europe support WomenCentre .. If you want to get involved please see further information on the website.

<https://bit.ly/WCCorporate>



Someone who actually listens and understands, without fear. I am thankful for my counsellors help

International Women's Day (IWD)

The theme this year was #EmbraceEquity and we thank you all for your support.

Happy Valley Event

Holly Lynch MP organised a Happy Valley Event with Jess Phillips MP, Mollie Winnard – actress from Happy Valley and Lisa Farrand, the police advisor to the show, a great evening raising £1,200.



Kirklees Women+ Employee Network

We gave a talk about WomenCentre's work in Kirklees and produced a podcast on the theme of #EmbraceEquity for IWD. This was sent out to all Kirklees employees.

Dark Woods Coffee

On 8th March, Dark Woods Coffee in West Slaithwaite held an event for IWD for the businesses they supply. They organised presentations from women staff members and invited businesses to donate to WomenCentre.

Kirklees Unison Donation

Kirklees branch chose WomenCentre as their charity for IWD and donated £1000.

IWD event at the Kings Centre

We attended the IWD event organised by Halifax Central Initiative at the Kings Centre in Halifax. Our stall was attended by over 100 people. We talked to attendees about our work and gave away free sanitary products to local women.

Wild Swimming Calderdale

Nicola and the Calder Valley women walked to Gaddings Dam and took a cold water swim in the snow. An invigorating time was had by all raising over £180 for WomenCentre.

Staff and Volunteer Conference

Over 60 members of staff, volunteers and board members came together for our annual staff and volunteer conference. We discussed the issues faced by women at every point in their lives. It was a very inspirational day and good to see so many women shaping the future of WomenCentre as we grow and move forwards.

Dewsbury Event

To celebrate IWD, women, volunteers and staff were invited to enjoy a morning of music, singing and movement and connecting with others. It was an inspirational and moving event with such talented and courageous women.

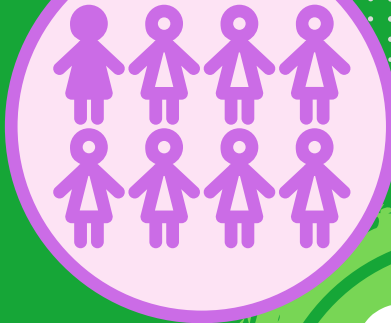
So many other organisations were involved this year, Calderdale Council, Eclipse, Greenhead College, Tesco Extra Batley, Suma Wholefoods, Morrisons Waterloo, Phoenix Radio, Brighouse Town and District Inner Wheel, Halifax Rotary Club, Printout Halifax and more.

“Working with WomenCentre saved my life. Doing the Freedom Programme got me to think about the abuse and understand it.”

STATISTICS

4500

Referrals into all services



217

Women supported by the Liaison and Diversion Service across Calderdale and Kirklees

1081

Individuals supported by the Calderdale Staying Safe Domestic Abuse Service



515

Individuals offered counselling across Kirklees, Bradford & Calderdale

117

Women accessed the Freedom Programme in Calderdale

2736

Hours by 46 volunteers equating to a value of £44,451

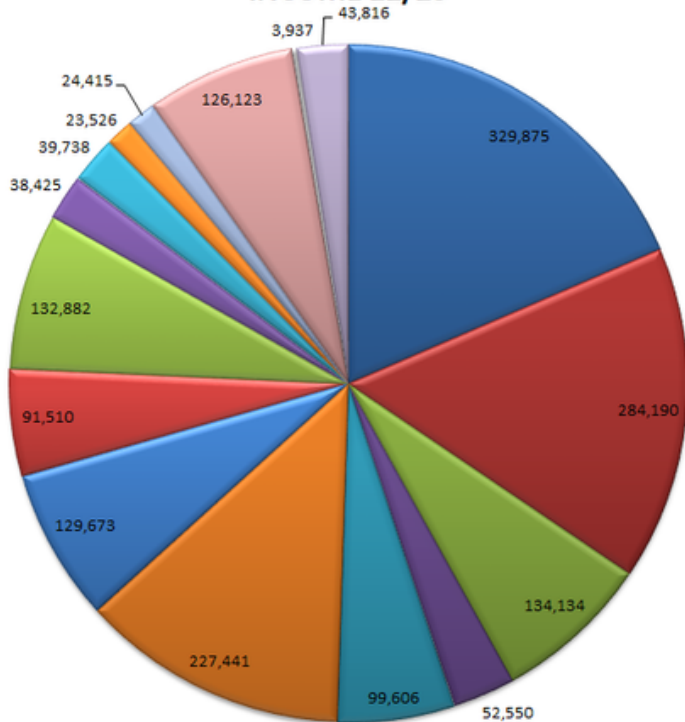
601

Women Supported by Kirklees Mental Health & Wellbeing Service

“WomenCentre is a wonderful place to be. I volunteer because it is amazing to see women grow and move forward”. A volunteer

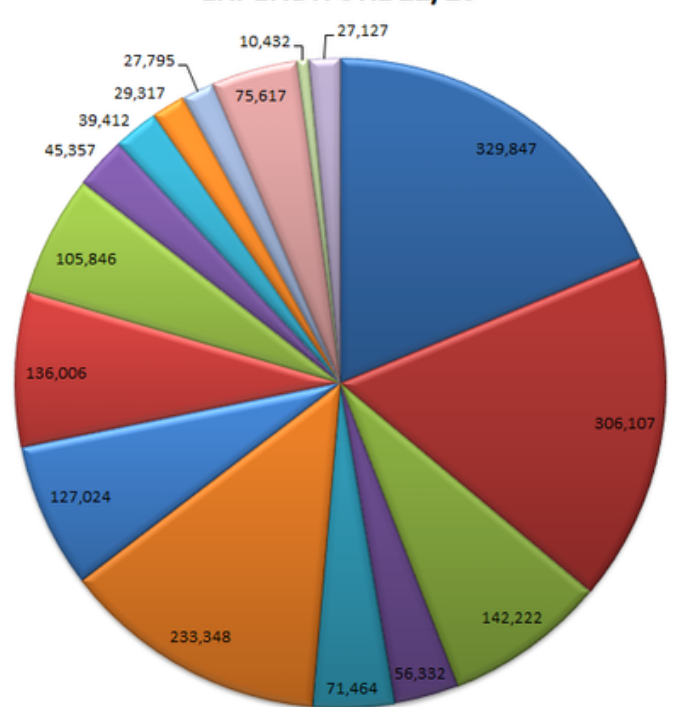
FINANCE

INCOME 22/23



- BRADFORD MAZE DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION & COUNSELLING
- CALDERDALE STAYING SAFE
- 1125 BIG LOTTERY GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN
- WOMEN MAKING CHANGES PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS IN CALDERDALE
- WOMEN MAKING CHANGES PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS IN KIRKLEES
- 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 PROJECT
- SMALL GRANTS FOR WOMEN
- BUILDING, IT AND CORE COSTS
- CONSULTANCY & TRAINING
- OTHER UNRESTRICTED INCOME

EXPENDITURE 22/23



- BRADFORD MAZE DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION & COUNSELLING
- CALDERDALE STAYING SAFE
- 1125 BIG LOTTERY GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN
- WOMEN MAKING CHANGES PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS IN CALDERDALE
- WOMEN MAKING CHANGES PROJECT FOR WOMEN IN CRISIS IN KIRKLEES
- WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING PROJECT
- OTHER DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES
- OTHER WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELL BEING SERVICES
- LIAISON & DIVERSION SERVICE
- STAGE
- MIGRATION YORKSHIRE
- HOUSING PROJECT
- SMALL GRANTS FOR WOMEN
- BUILDING, IT AND CORE COSTS
- CONSULTANCY & TRAINING
- OTHER UNRESTRICTED INCOME

We thank the following for their generous capital funding towards the windows

Albert Gubay Foundation, Clothworkers Foundation, Bernard Sunley Foundation, Beatrice Laing Foundation, Liz and Terry Bramall Trust, Community Foundation for Calderdale.

The Garfield Weston Foundation and The Ministry of Justice provided WomenCentre with grants from Jan 2023 towards core costs.

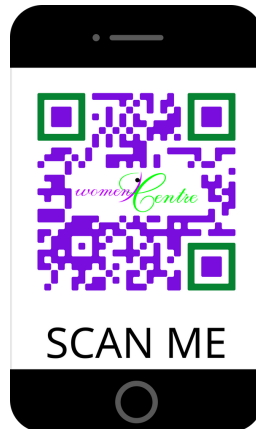


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Ministry
of Justice



The
Coutts
Foundation

