

Lochaber WOMEN'S AID

HERE FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN

SERVICE BULETIN OCTOBER 2021-MARCH 2022

OUR SUPPORT

Women supported
during the period

100

CYP supported
during the period

58

Women's support
files currently open

65

CYP's support files
currently open

35

OUR TEAM

During this period, we said goodbye to a long-standing member of staff, Shirley.

We welcomed a new member of staff, Carol, onto the Women's Service team. The team will continue to grow as we recruit for the last support worker position in the coming months.



WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICE

In October, the Women's Service team began facilitating an evening art group with a small group of service users. The group runs every second week and has been a fantastic opportunity to get creative and socialise.

We were really pleased to be able to open up our Own My Life course to women in our community starting in February. These sessions are being run weekly online and aim to help women who have been subjected to abuse regain ownership of their lives.



click to check out
more artwork



AWARENESS RAISING

Awareness raising sessions have included:

LHS Health and Wellbeing Days

We took part in Lochaber High School's Health and Wellbeing event. We ran workshops for 505 pupils over three days and had the opportunity to speak to young people, hear their experiences and educate them on healthy relationships. Our workshop featured an interactive, online quiz and case studies.



LHS 2nd Year Awareness Sessions

During this period, we ran 2nd-year awareness sessions at Lochaber High School. The session looks at healthy relationships and used a group activity and case study conversations to create a class discussion about physical attributes versus characteristics.

CYP SUPPORT SERVICE

Our CYP workers have been undertaking training with Licketyspit, Scotland's national drama-led play specialists. Licketyspit are collaborating with Scottish Women's Aid affiliated groups to deliver Women's Aid Storyplay Scotland, an in-depth training programme in the Storyplay approach. The training will allow our CYP team to run drama-led play sessions that foster and encourage confidence and imagination.



click to read our
blogpost on CYP
Storyplay training



Our CYP support service have been running a Climbing Club at a local climbing centre. During this period we ran 4 6-week sessions and introduced 42 children and young people to indoor climbing.



click to read our
blogpost on
climbing club



DEVELOPMENT WORK

We have developed the skills within our team by undertaking the following courses: Understanding Domestic Abuse, Feminism Introduction, Live Life to the Full for Young People, First Aid, Case Note Recording, Feminist History of Women's Aid, Gmabling Awareness, Intimate Partner Femicide and Child Protection.

OUR BOARD

We continue to have an open and ongoing recruitment campaign for our board. We welcome new trustees who have a passion for helping us support the women and children in Lochaber who need our help.



click on the
logos to check
out our social
media



CAMPAIGNS

International Women's Day

08 March 2022

This year's IWD theme was "Break the Bias" and called us to imagine a gender-equal world; a world that is diverse and inclusive and where difference is valued and celebrated. We celebrated IWD with a range of activities:

Launch of New Branding



Our new logo is a part of ongoing changes happening in the evolution of LWA. It reflects a more modern and colourful look and it's launch marked the start of our IWD celebrations.

Launch of New Website



click to see our new website

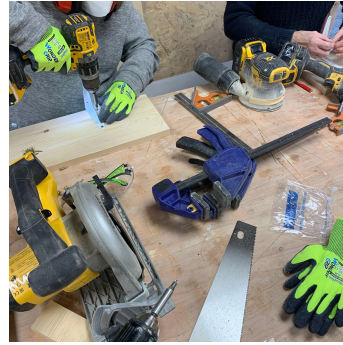
We were delighted to announce the launch of our new website. The website provides an informative, user-friendly experience that clearly expresses what LWA does and stands for. Alongside improved visuals, we have new safety features in place that ensure a quick exit and cover strategy for users.

Agency Meeting

We hosted an agency meeting, welcoming representatives from health, social work & education. We presented our new branding and website, listened to presentations and had great discussions on how LWA can be utilised by local agencies.



'The Workshop' Session



click to watch a video of our activity

IWD Artwork

We asked Anitha, the facilitator of our Art Group, to create a piece of artwork for us to celebrate IWD. She came back with this amazing canvas which has now been put up in our Women's Service room.



16 Days of Activism

25 Nov- 10 Dec 2021

Between 25th November-10th December, we took part in the global 16 Days of Activism campaign. We partnered with the Highland Violence Against Women Partnership and other organisations across the Highlands and Islands to urge our local communities to take a stand against gender-based violence.

We promoted the campaign across our social media:



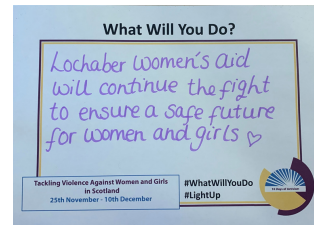
Reach- 848 accounts



Reach- 650 accounts

And got involved by taking a pledge to make change using our collective #WhatWillYouDo message cards.

click to see more message cards



We visited The Workshop- a woodworking social enterprise at Lochaber Hope. Our service users and staff were given the opportunity to learn practical DIY skills using materials, tools and guidance provided by The Workshop.

CHRISTMAS AT LWA

We were completely overwhelmed by the support for our 2021 Giving Tree and the generosity of all those in our community who purchased gifts. Special thanks to Caol Laundrette for once again hosting the Giving Tree and to Alvanice Aluminium for fulfilling the 24 envelopes left.



Thank you to the following organisations who helped make Christmas special for our service users: The Granite House, TSB Bank, Highland Soap Company, The Highland Bookshop, Caol Laundrette, Lochaber Women for Independence, Alvanice Aluminium Group, Howdens, Louise, Sarah, and Lauren from 'Supporting families in Lochaber, KidsOut, Fort William Tyre Service, MacPhee & Partners and The Sarwar Foundation

OUR CONNECTIONS

We have been in contact with other local organisations during this period, including Voluntary Action Lochaber, Lochaber High School, The Workshop, and The Caledonian Project.

We held our AGM in October and welcomed attendees to find out about our work over 2020-2021 and our hopes for a future free from Domestic Abuse.

CONTACT US



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9am-5pm Monday-Thursday

9am-2pm Friday



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