

*Meath Womens Refuge & Support Services*

## **Annual Report 2017**

## Introduction by the Chairperson

2017 was again a busy year for Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services. We worked with 445 women and we supported 82 children across all our services working with limited resourcing and a growing demand on supports and services.

We had several **key achievements** during the year relevant to our work and the development of the organisation, namely,

- We provided the level of services and supports within our current funding allocation, without the continued support of donors, local community support and fundraising we could not have reached these levels
- The completion of a feasibility study and beginning our plan to develop a new purpose-built refuge and support services building
- The development of our new strategic plan for the next three years 2018-2020 which will be completed in early 2018
- The celebration and acknowledgement of 30 years of our work from humble beginnings by a group of organised women with a huge ambition
- Adding to our staff compliment with one new full-time staff member and three relief workers who bring new skills and experience to the organisation
- The new directors on our board who again have brought additional energy, ideas and commitment to the organisation

## Challenges

We have continued to meet our resourcing and staffing levels in our organisation and we are in discussions with our core funders Tusla on a regular basis with whom we have a service level agreement or SLA through a commissioning process. Our strategic review process which was undertaken by an external consultant identified the following issues facing the organisation:

- The need for a restoration of a full time childcare worker for the organisation to ensure the level of supports children who are affected by domestic abuse require is equal to the supports provided to women
- An additional outreach worker to meet the year on year growth in demands for support in the community. This would facilitate us to undertake risk assessments, safety planning and ongoing one to one support for women we are working with in the community which is the biggest growth area of our work
- Additional refuge support staff to ensure a two staff compliment between 9 am to 9pm to meet the needs of our helpline which dealt with 1,224 calls in 2017 and to be effective and efficient in meeting the complex needs of women in refuge.

We believe our new strategic plan; our track record and expertise will assist us in rising to these challenges over the coming years.

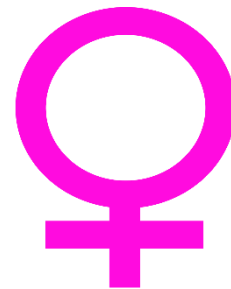
We would like to thank each person, donor and agency we have worked with in 2017 and especially want to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and dedication of our staff and board.

Chairperson  
Sinead Gogan

**At a glance.... the numbers in brief for 2017 in MWRSS**



**We worked with 32 women and 60 children in providing refuge accommodation and supports**



**We supported 345 women in our outreach service**

**We provided childcare supports to 82 children**



**We provided education and peer to peer support programmes to 56 women over 44 weeks of the year including the Pattern Changing Programme, Arts and Crafts and the Peer to Peer support group**



**We dealt with 1,224 help line phone calls seeking information or in crisis and we made 891 calls on behalf of women experiencing domestic violence to advocate on their behalf**

## **History of Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services**

In 1985, a group of young women in Navan formed the Navan women's forum and undertook research on issues facing women living in Meath, one of which was the issue of violence against women. From the work of the group, which included campaigning, awareness raising and fund raising the group established the Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services in 1987 and acquired a building through the generosity of the St. Vincent de Paul. Initially, the work was supported by the commitment of volunteers and their families and the wider community who gave time, energy and support to the work and the refuge began by providing refuge accommodation to three families staffed by volunteers. Further fundraising and campaigning resulted in the current building officially opened to families by President Mary Robinson on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1992 and a new kitchen and childcare facilities were added in 1995. While the women's forum dissolved, the establishment of MWRSS is a legacy to their work.

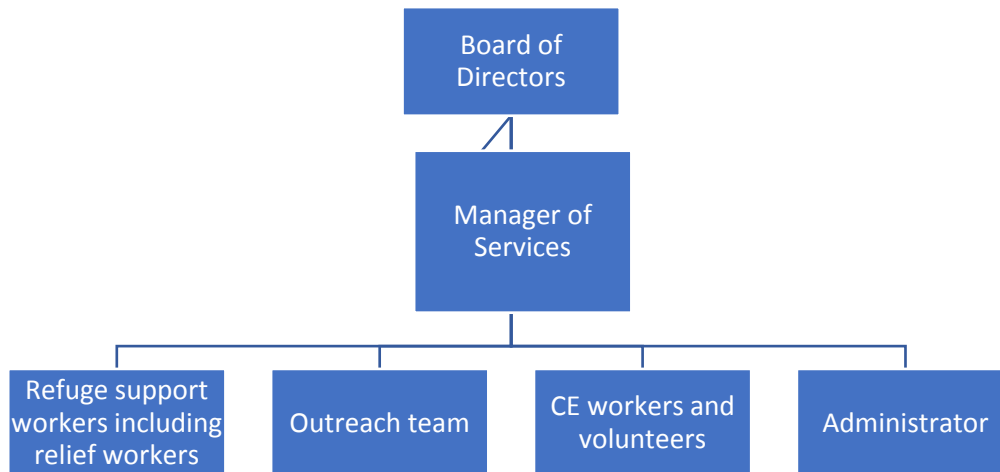
The organisation celebrated 30 years in existence in 2017 and we hosted an evening event to remember our past and to look to the future. Our work includes the provision of refuge services, outreach services including court accompaniment, a helpline, referral supports, a support group, the MOVE programme and education programmes with women who have experienced violence. In marking 30 years of our work, our ambition to develop a new purpose build refuge and support service over the course of the next three years is a key goal of our new strategic plan.

## **Organisational Structure: Board**

The organisation is governed by a board of directors who oversee its governance and strategic direction. The current board is made up of eight directors and includes a chairperson, company secretary, treasurer and ordinary directors. The board meets monthly and is responsible for the governance and strategic and the manager reports into the board. In 2017, the board will oversee a review of governance policies and procedures to ensure the organisation in line with our obligations as a company and registered charity. In 2017 the board met on eleven occasions and an AGM took place in June 2017.

## **How we work**

On a day to day basis, operational management is undertaken by two joint managers of services on full time basis who job shar. Financial administration is managed on a day to day basis by the organisation's part time administrator. The organisation has 24-hour management of the refuge by refuge support workers on a rota basis. We also have an outreach team who work with women in the community and manage the Pattern Changing Programme, Support Group, court accompaniment and paper work with women in refuge and in the community. In total, we currently employ seven whole time equivalent positions (a total of 14 staff members) including relief workers. We have two CE workers, one undertakes maintenance work and a second person who assists refuge support staff We also rely on volunteers to manager our charity shop and to support our fundraising activities.



***Organisational flow chart***

**Current Context and Environment in which we work**

MWRSS are part of a network of organisations that provide domestic violence services in Ireland and we are a member of Safe Ireland, the national membership body. We have a county wide remit and work with a range of stakeholders including Tusla social work services, department of social protection local office, Meath County Council and other statutory, community and voluntary organisations in the county.

Our core funding is provided by Tusla, the Child and Family Agency through its Domestic, Sexual and Gender based Violence Programme and we work in collaboration with other domestic violence services also, including Safe Ireland, the umbrella body for domestic violence services. This strategic plan takes cognisance of the current context but also as cited earlier a broad number of policy and legislative developments which will impact on our work over the next three years e.g. the upcoming new Domestic Violence Act, the Victims of Crime Act, the National Action Plan for Ireland towards ratifying the Istanbul Convention will all have ramifications for our work on the ground.

We will work through this strategy to ensure the organisation can maintain and grow its resources in line with the needs presented to us to be positioned to meet the needs of the women and children we work with into the future. To do this, the organisation will ensure that its governance and accountability structures are robust and developed in line with the resources we are managing to ensure that those who fund our work, donate to our organisation and support us are confident in the management of their investment in our work.

**Resourcing our work**

MWRSS receives its core funding from Tusla, the child and family agency through a service level agreement and we would like to acknowledge their ongoing support for our work and commitment to the issue of domestic violence. We would also acknowledge our gratitude for the ongoing support of the court poor box, local companies and businesses, community organisations and the

wider community in Meath which has supported our fundraisers and who have donated generously to our work over the years.

Whilst recognising that we are coming out of a deep recession, the level of cuts applied during austerity have had an impact on the work of domestic violence services. Our funding which includes core funding, capitation funding previously funded through the local authority and funds from grants has experienced reductions due to austerity by 32% since 2008 and the organisation has worked hard to ensure this has not had a negative impact on our supports and services and we have sought to mitigate this through fundraising, cuts to some services e.g. funding for counselling services, the provision of a full-time child care worker and huge demands on our outreach service are acute issues and continue to be an ongoing focus of our work to address these issues in 2018.

## **Work Activities in 2017**

**The remainder of this report provides a summary overview of our activities in 2017.**

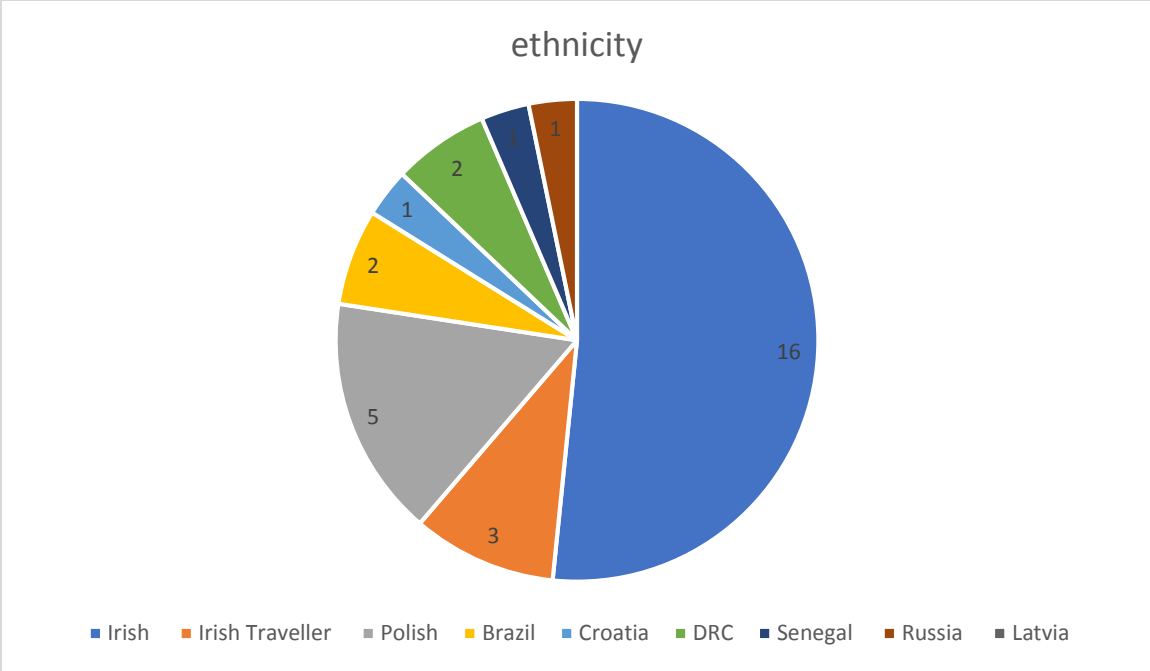
### **Profile of Women who access MWRSS refuge services**

The organisation has seen a demographic shift in the numbers of migrant women coming into refuge on an annual basis, in line with the changing demographics of Meath and Ireland. Women who experience domestic violence come from a wide range of socio economic backgrounds and are diverse in ethnicity, age, status etc. The changing demographic requires us to be able to respond to the needs of women, where these needs may not be catered for e.g. language issues, cultural competence in work practices, wider social inclusion issues for women such as migrant or Traveller women in accessing supports and services e.g. discrimination. In terms of the breakdown of women who accessed the organisation in 2017 is broken down as follows

Statistically, in terms of intake: of admissions to refuge we worked with 32 women and 60 children in 2017. In percentage terms 50% of women in refuge were Irish nationals and 9% were Irish Traveller women, the remaining number of women were 41% were ethnic minority women.

The breakdown in terms of ethnicity of women is as follows:

- Irish Nationals 16
- Irish Traveller 3
- Polish 5
- Brazil 2
- Croatian 1
- Democratic Republic of Congo 2
- Senegal 1
- Russia 1
- Latvia 1



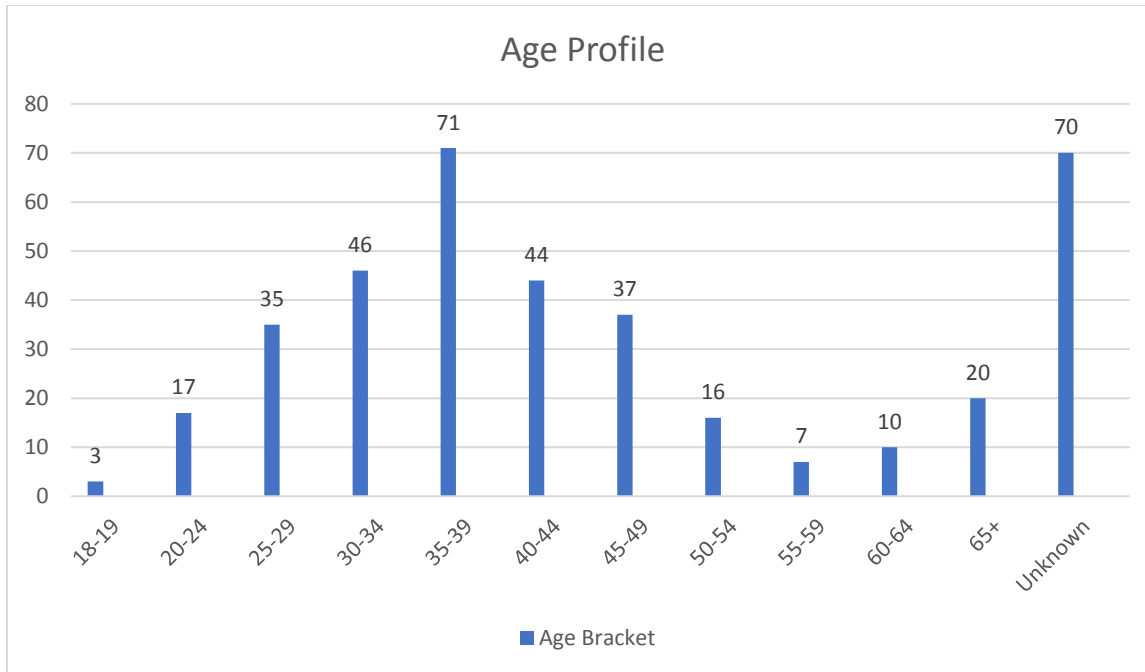
**Ethnicity of women engaged in our outreach services in 2017**

The outreach service worked with a broad range of women from Ireland and countries all over the world including EU member states but also women outside the EU. The outreach team worked with 345 women in 2017. This took in more than countries. The outreach service engaged 245 Irish women (71%) of all the women they worked with and 90 ethnic minority women (26%) including UK nationals women who represented with ethnic minority women represented as one in four women who we worked with, this is in line with our statistics from 2016. Only 3% of women did not disclose their ethnicity. The numbers of ethnic minority women who access outreach services is approximately 1.5 less than those who access refuge is contrast to the higher numbers of migrant women who access refuge services and may reflect the fact that for many migrant women, access to family and wider social support networks to go to where domestic violence occurs is limited given the fact that many are in Ireland without their family and close friends.

**Age profile of women we worked with in refuge and outreach in 2017**

The age profile of women we worked with is represented below with the main median age group between years, which is reflective of the fact that most women who access refuge services are parents of young children. Of the 377 women we worked with in refuge and through the outreach programme, the breakdown below illustrates the trends:





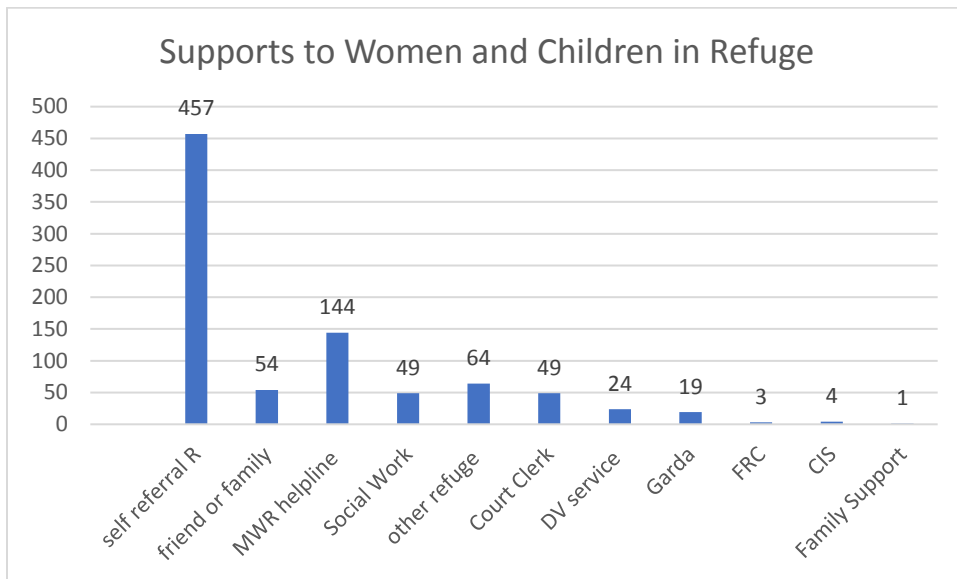
As can be clearly seen 192 women or 50% we worked with in refuge and through outreach were between the ages of 25-44. A worrying trend is the numbers of young women and older women 5% of women who received support were under 24 years of age and 10% were aged 55 years or over respectively and highlights that domestic violence occurs at different stages in the lives of women and in many cases begins when women are very young.

### Confidential 24-hour telephone line

The helpline is managed by professional refuge support workers and in 2017 we received 329 crisis calls and 895 information calls to the organisation. In addition, we made 891 advocacy calls on behalf of women in refuge to a wide range of agencies and organisation including the local authority, social welfare, gardai etc. This is a total of 2,115 calls dealt with by MWRSS.

### Emergency Accommodation

In 2017, we accommodated 32 women (total number of women admitted) and 60 children throughout the year. In total, 1384 sessions of support were provided for children in refuge and 8950 supports were provided for women in refuge plus 156 accompaniments which included 23 court supports to women, other accompaniments included the provision of transport, Gardai, medical and the CWO. In breaking down the statistics for supports provided for women in refuge we can illustrate a better picture of the broad range of services and supports provided. The supports and services provided included a high level of interagency working and advocacy given the needs of women in refuge settings to access the following; medical supports, solicitor, public health nurse services, social work, psychology services, gardai, community welfare officer, legal aid, housing, other supports and key working. The breakdown of these services is highlighted below:



It is important to note the high level of medical support needs at 126, housing supports 58 which has reduced since last year due to the challenges in the housing market and moving women onto secure accommodation and social work at 124 contacts which is double the amount for 2016. In 2017, 200 one to one sessions of key working took place with 32 women which is lower than 2016 where 260 sessions were provided as the numbers of women accommodated was higher. An important component of our work is key working with women in refuge in keeping with the development of care plans which are done in partnership with the woman who is supported to determine what supports she needs while in refuge. Risk assessment and Safety planning forms part of the care plan development. Key working sessions takes place on a weekly basis which each woman in refuge and follow up work on care plans happens daily.

In addition, other supports accounted for 8119 sessions of other support with women in refuge settings, illustrating the wide range of needs women and children have. As noted in the policy context, 58 contacts with women related to housing issues, again illustrating the challenges women in refuge face when seeking to move away from abusive relationships. This is a complex area that is resulting in longer stays in refuge for women who do not have the means to afford private rented accommodation or if they do qualify cannot access accommodation in the current market. In terms of the length of stay in refuge, on average

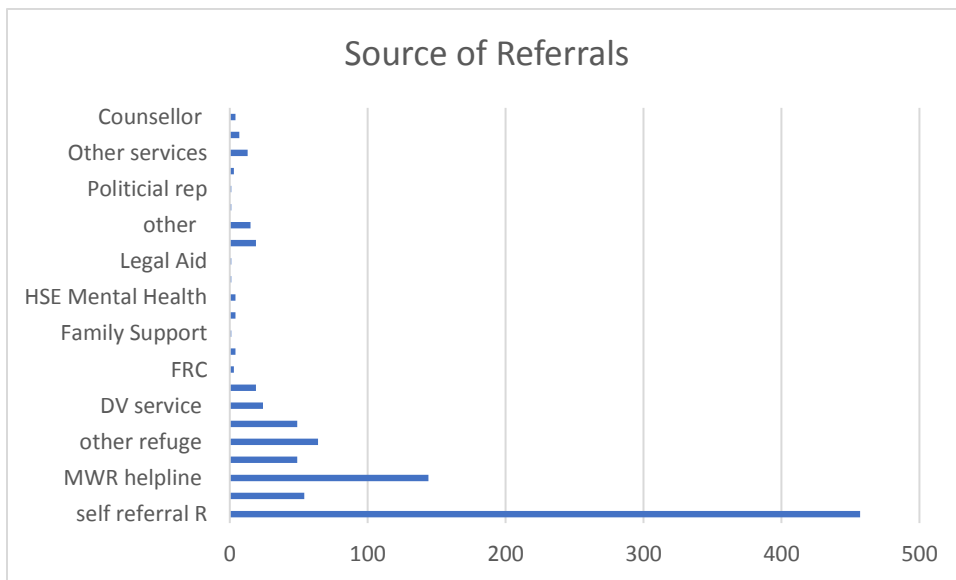
### **Length of stay and leaving refuge**

Just over one third of women and children who came into refuge stayed for more than 60 days before leaving refuge. Given the challenges of finding accommodation in Meath, this can place pressure on the organisation in ensuring we can meet capacity demands at times. In terms of post refuge one in four women moved into private rented accommodation making the break from their partner, with just under 1/3 returning home. The remainder went to family, emergency

accommodation, another refuge, another area and one family who came into refuge in 2017 remained.

## Referrals

In 2017, the organisation received a total of 941 referrals to refuge and outreach with 596 referrals to refuge and 345 referrals to outreach respectively in relation to women accessing our services and supports. In an analysis of where these referrals came from in the main women are referring themselves with 457 women or 48% just under half of all referrals were self-referrals to refuge and 144 or 15% were referrals from MWRSS helpline calls into the outreach team. This illustrates the high levels of awareness of our work among women in the county. A further breakdown of the remaining referrals illustrates that other referrals made to the outreach came through our helpline (144 referrals (15%) i.e. this means that 27% of women self referred to outreach) out of 941, with family/friends (54) referrals and 49 referrals from social work, with 47 Tusla social work referrals. Other referral sources are highlighted below:



## Women turned away from Refuge in 2017

In line with refuges across Ireland, MWRSS has had to turn away women at different periods throughout the year due to a lack of capacity. Coupled with this is lack of social and affordable housing for women who do not have the financial means to compete in the housing market and who as a result are remaining in refuge for longer average periods. Given the fact that Ireland's current refuge space is only 1/3 of the EU recommended levels, this is not surprising, and it mirrors the experience of other refuges. With one in five women experiencing domestic violence (Fundamental Rights Agency report 2012) it is vital that Ireland has robust service provision for women who require refuge accommodation. In addition, due to the increasing levels of homelessness in the county, we also had to refer women and children to relevant homeless services.

## Length of Time in refuge

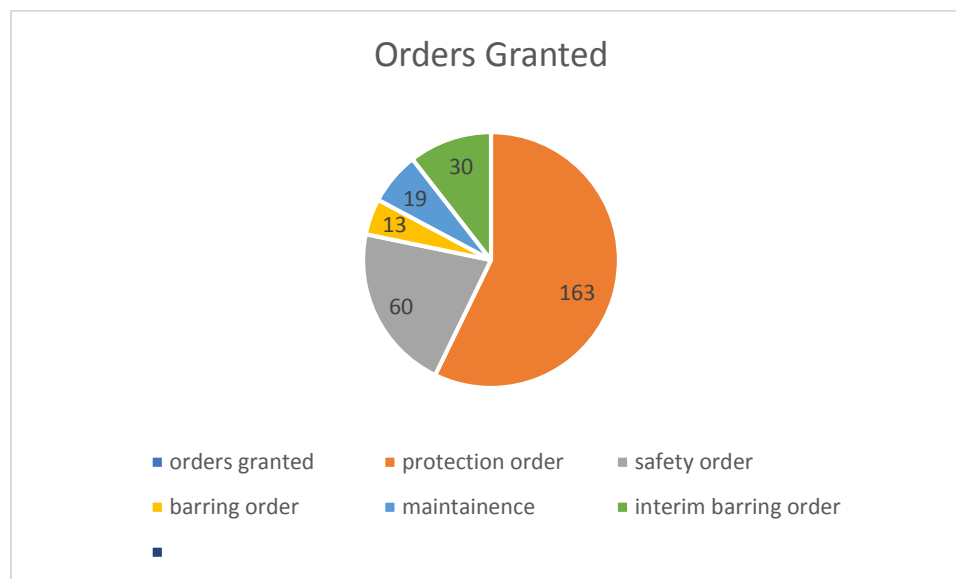
Due to the challenges in the current housing market and given the proximity of Meath to Dublin, the length of time women who cannot return home are staying in refuge is longer than it should be. In 2017, 11 out of 32 women and their children or 34% of women in refuge stayed more than 60 days in refuge accommodation. Out of the 11 families, five families or 15% stayed 100 days or more. Given the number of referrals we received in 2017 for refuge this represents a challenge to the organisation in terms of the provision of supports and services.

## Transitional Housing

The organisation currently manages four transitional housing units in Windtown, Navan and tenants are supported by the refuge worker with responsibility for this area. Weekly contact is made with tenants and the organisation supports the maintenance of the accommodation and a safety review and assists tenants in setting up systems for the payment of utilities. The changeover to an approved housing body was due to take place in 2017, it will now take place mid-way through 2018.

## Outreach work

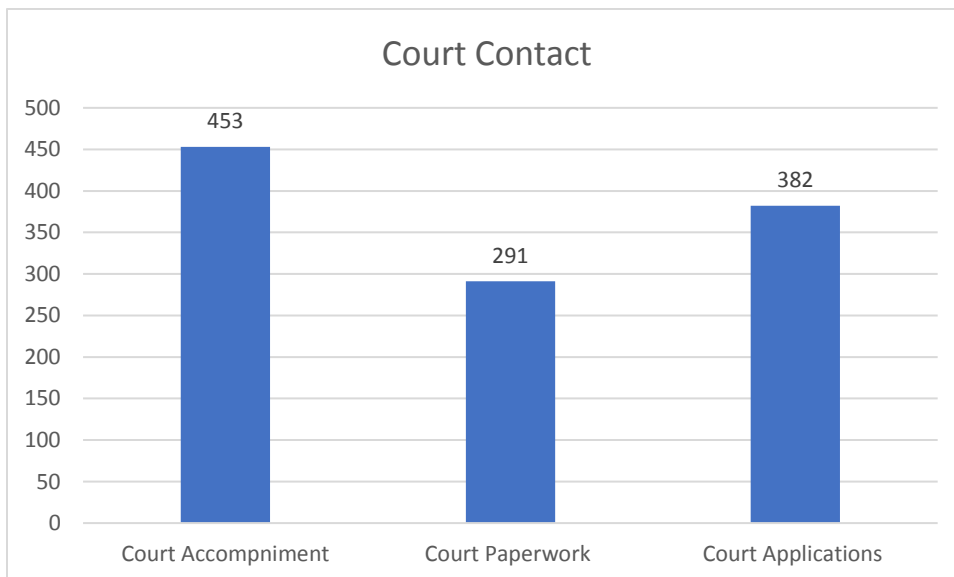
Outreach work forms a large part of the work of MWRSS and this work has grown year on year and reflects the changing needs of women and children. At present the equivalent of just under two full time workers operate as an outreach team providing a wide range of supports to women which is broken down in the grid below for 2017. In terms of court work which is supported by funding through our core funding from Tusla and the Victims of Crime office the outreach team had 1,208 contacts with 345 women in 2017 in total of which % was made up of court accompaniment, % was supporting women to complete court paperwork and % were court applications and % was one to ones with women in the community. Our outreach workers work with women attending court in Navan and Trim. In terms of court orders granted to women, the breakdown is illustrated below.



As can be seen, out of the total number of orders issued (285 in total), 163 orders that were issued were protection orders (57%) which are emergency orders for women who require immediate protection; 21% were safety orders and 11% were interim barring orders. Barring orders (5%) and maintenance orders at 6% made up the remaining balance.

The growing demands on the outreach service are evidenced through the statistics below with 345 referrals in 2017 which included ongoing clients. Since 2003 when our initial outreach work began we have grown exponentially from working with 80 women to 345 women an almost four-fold increase in the number of women with reduced levels of resources. In 2018, the organisation will reduce its court work as the resources available to us do not match the demands we are facing with a small staff compliment and our other areas of work in outreach require our attention. The organisation will focus on supporting women to access protection orders only and will not attend return dates but will seek to support women through one to one work and group programmes. Given the fact that enactment of the Victims of Crime Act has taken place, we will explore where potential additional resources for court work may be available from.

The demands of court support are high in Co. Meath and a breakdown below demonstrates the assistance we provide not only to women who are victims of domestic violence but the court service in Co. Meath. The organisation has a strong presence in court and this can be seen from the number of court accompaniments we made.



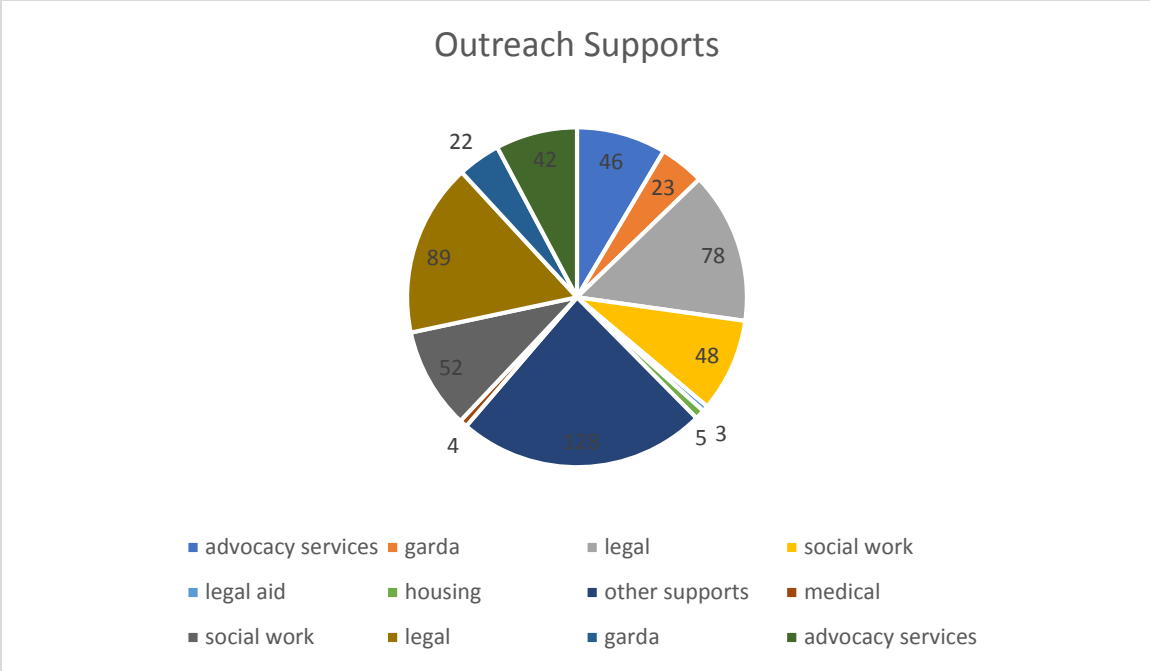
An area of work we want to grow is our one to one face to face work with women in the community. In terms of our phone contact with the outreach team (which is separate to the helpline) we dealt with 8 crisis calls, 654 information calls and we made 211 advocacy calls, a total of calls. The majority of the calls, almost three quarters were for information (73%), with 24% advocacy calls and 3% crisis calls.



**Outreach work in the Community and Follow Up**

Our work with women through the outreach programme has a strong focus on legal protection and the demands here have grown since 2008. The outreach team undertook 62 one to ones at base and 457 contacts in the community and 871 contacts part of their follow up work with women who have linked in with the outreach programme on issues such as court paper work, dates for court appearances, preparation for court, linking into relevant programmes in the organisation etc. This includes phone calls, face to face meetings etc

In addition, the outreach team provided a wide range of supports to women experiencing domestic violence which is described below in terms of advocacy and accompaniment to agencies outside of court accompaniment.



**Pattern Changing Programme**

In addition, the outreach team also delivered the Pattern Changing Programme which is an educational programme developed by Goodman and Fallon (1995) for women who have experienced an abusive intimate relationship. The programme has been running since September 2008. Given the limited resources the organisation has at its disposal, it was decided to run the Pattern Changing Programme only once in 2018. Twenty-One women participated in the two programmes (as one programme ended in early 2017 and the next programme began in October 2017).

**Peer to Peer Support Group**

Thirty-five women participated in the weekly peer to peer support group facilitated by the outreach workers over forty-two weeks in 2017. In terms of the weekly session numbers this accounts for 263 contact times women attended the programme. Women who participated in the programme included women engaged through outreach, women who have been in refuge and women who have participated in the pattern changing programme. It is also inclusive of women who are currently in or have been in abusive relationships.

**Supports for Children**

In 2017 1384 sessions of support including childcare were provided to 60 children of women in refuge and 159 sessions to 22 non-resident children of women who accessed other services e.g. the support group, court accompaniment and the arts and crafts group.

## **Child Protection**

The organisation continues to work to best practice principles following our child protection policy and procedures. We work closely with Tusla and women and children who engage with our services and ensure that women are aware and informed of when we are making a child protection referral. The organisation works to report child protection concerns in a timely and professional manner always and undertakes follow up work when we re engage with women and children post referral where appropriate. In 2017, we developed a new child guarding policy and a set of procedures. We also attended a number of training sessions to prepare for our new mandated role under the Children's First Act. All new staff will undertake the Tusla on line universal training. All mandated staff will undertake this also and all new recruits will be Garda vetted as has been our practice to date. All board directors will also complete universal child protection training.

## **MOVE programme**

The MOVE programme is a programme that the organisation has been involved in since 2009. In 2017 several changes to the operation of the MOVE perpetrators programme took place. These changes included: the development of a new programme all year round; a changed role for steering groups for MOVE, new local co-ordinator roles and training for programme facilitators and partner support contact workers. A member of the outreach team works on the MOVE programme. Funding from MOVE Ireland resources the partner support work that the organisation undertakes, however in 2017 this funding was cut by just over 40% for partner support contact in Meath, which has reduced the resources to the organisation. Similar cuts took place across the country.

The partner support work includes meeting each partner completes an assessment of the history of the relationship with the woman with the support worker at an initial meeting and a weekly meeting/phone call is made to the woman partner of the MOVE programme. The support takes place over all year around during and post programme completion. If court accompaniment is required, the other outreach team worker provides these. In 2017 46 one to one partner contacts were made with women whose partners were on the MOVE programme.

## **Arts and Crafts**

The arts and crafts programme takes place once a week for residents and non-residents and is a non-threatening way to engage women in discussion on the issues affecting them as result of abusive relationships. It is facilitated by a tutor who has experience in counselling and facilitating groups using the arts for therapeutic supports. Childcare supports were provided for women who attended. The aim of the programme is to build self- esteem through the medium of arts and works to promote the participation of women with low levels of literacy and limited English language skills.

## **Counselling services**

Due to limited resources, counselling services were provided at a minimal level in 2017. The organisation will work to roll out additional counselling support services to women we engage with in 2018 and will look at how donations can support this work as it's a vital core element of what we do.



## Savvy Chic Shop

The Savvy Chic shop was managed in 2017 by a group of dedicated volunteers. A key challenge is maintaining volunteer numbers and ensuring that the shop can be operational on a three-day week. Given our location we must work to raise awareness of the shop as it is located off the main street thoroughfare which affects the footfall.

## Fundraising and Donations in 2017

A special acknowledgement is due to the Central in Navan which provides a room for the shop to operate in free of charge, this support means the shop has a space and can open from Thursday to Saturday with our volunteers.

Church gate collection: Again the Meath Dioceses very generously facilitated us to fundraise in July, August and September in three parishes in the county, namely Navan, Trim and Kells. A group of volunteers supported the collection of funds over a number of weekends.



## Churchgate Collection

### 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary event

The organisation celebrated 30 years of our work with a night of celebration and music. We had invited guests and speakers and the venue for the event was provided free of charge by The Central Navan. We sold tickets to the event and held a raffle for spot prizes and raised funds too.

Marks and Spencers Christmas bag pack: On Christmas week with the support of two of our board directors who organised and worked with Marks and Spencers Navan, 50 volunteers were recruited to undertake a bag pack over 5 days before Christmas. This event raised much needed resources for the organisation and demonstrated the support the organisation has from the local community.

Supervalu in Johnstown again supported us with a bag pack and volunteers assisted us with this over a weekend.

The Christmas donations of hampers, food, fuel supplies and vouchers from local communities, schools and businesses ensured the organisation was able to support 70 families that we have worked with over the Christmas period. Financial donations were also received during this period.

A special acknowledgement is also due to Generali Insurance who funded a number of events for children where we went out on excursions and funds towards our play therapy work in 2018.



**Dunderry Ladies Group members presenting a cheque from their fundraising event to MWRSS joint manager Deirdre Murphy**

## **Governance**

In 2017 the board oversaw changes in our governance structure. As per the new requirements of company law, the organisation adopted a new constitution and became a company limited by guarantee. We also developed five new policies relevant to our governance including:

- An updated admissions policy
- We updated our staff handbook
- A board induction pack setting out the governance role of directors and responsibilities
- A new volunteer policy
- A new procurement policy and a set of procedures

## **Feasibility study towards the development of a new building**

In 2017 the organisation completed a feasibility study on the potential development of a new purpose-built refuge and ancillary services building. The work on this project was overseen by an architect. The organisation met with Meath County Council to discuss the study and the possibility of working with MCC towards the development of a new refuge building. We also attended the Strategic Policy Committee on Housing with Meath County Council seeking the support of elected members in our goal and the possibility of a site being made available by MCC to realise this goal. Our work will continue this in 2018.

## **Workshop in October**

In October we hosted a morning workshop with local community, voluntary organisation in the county on our work and the supports and services we provide. Seventeen local organisations attended the session and the feedback was positive on it.

## **New Strategic Plan**

Throughout the year the organisation focused on the development of a new strategic plan. We contracted a consultant to carry out a review of our previous strategic plan and to work with us towards the development of a new one. The work undertaken included a desk top review, facilitated sessions with staff and the board of directors, a focus group with women who access the services and a review of organisational documentation. The new strategic plan will cover the period of January 2018 to December 2020 and will be completed in early 2018.

## **Training and Staff Development**

In early 2017, all staff and relief workers undertook a full day's Child protection training with Tusla. The joint managers also undertook additional training in preparation for the implementation of the final part of the Children's 2015 Act in terms of mandated reporting and new child safeguarding procedures and policy.

In 2017 the organisation recruited 2 additional relief workers and one additional part time refuge support workers to support our work and add to the team experience and expertise.

## **Working with funders and regulators**

The organisation registered with the Lobbying register and makes returns on a quarterly basis.

We also made a return on our 2016 Annual report and audited accounts to the charities regulator and companies office in line with our obligations.

Small grants were received from the local community development committee in 2017 to replace a bath in the refuge and to fund a new PC for the outreach programme, the Meath County Council community grants programme to host a workshop and finally the HSE national lottery programme resourced an updated alarm and smoke system.

## **Networking and Policy Work**

In 2017, the organisation participated in a wide range of networks relevant to our work including:

- The Child and Family Support Network
- The Mid East Homeless Consultative Forum
- The Safety Sub Group of the Children and Young People's Services Committee
- We are also active members of Safe Ireland
- We sit on the management committee for Navan EDP

### **Maintenance and Upkeep of the Building**

Ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the building is paramount for health and safety reasons and to ensure our building continues to be fit for purpose. In some cases, we fund this work through fundraising and where a grant is available we apply for same.

- A new boiler system was installed in early 2017 and the cost of this was high to the organisation but it was imperative that it was replaced.
- A new smoke alarm and alarm system was installed in late 2017 and this was funded by a grant received from the HSE national lottery, this facilitated us to upgrade our systems.
- Finally, a new bath for the refuge and a new PC for the outreach team was resource via a grant received under the Local and Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2017.

Other small-scale repairs were also made.

### **Conclusion**

This report is reflection and summary of our work in 2017, we continue to strive to work to meet the needs of women and children who experience or are at risk of domestic violence and to ensure that we are well placed to do so in 2018 and beyond.

### **Acknowledgements and Thanks**

**Finally, the board would like to thank all our funders including Tusla, Department of Justice and Equality, COSC, HSE National Lottery Fund, Meath County Council, small grant providers, donors and fundraisers in the local community, staff, CE workers, volunteers and supporters, without whom we could not have supported women and children to the level that we did in 2017.**

**Meath Women's Aid Housing Association CLG**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)**  
**Income & Expenditure Account**  
**Financial year ended 31/12/2017**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Income</b>	495,169	461,303
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Gross surplus	495,169	461,303
Administrative expenses	(505,876)	(488,078)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Operating deficit</b>	<b>(10,707)</b>	<b>(26,775)</b>
Other interest receivable and similar income	62	1821
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Deficit before taxation</b>	<b>10,645</b>	<b>(24,954)</b>
Tax on deficit	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Deficit for the financial year</b>	<b>(10,645)</b>	<b>(24,954)</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Meath Women's Aid Housing Association CLG**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 31/12/2017**

	<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>	
	€	€	€	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets	327,196		<u>326,662</u>	
		327,196		326,662
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	8,225		1,860	
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>222,182</u>		<u>229,327</u>	
	230,407		231,187	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due</b>				
<b>Within one year</b>	<u>(28,138)</u>		<u>(17,739)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>202,269</u>		<u>213,448</u>	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	529,469		540,110	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due</b>				
<b>after more than one year</b>	(158,717)		(158,717)	
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>370,748</u>		<u>381,393</u>	
<b>Capital and reserves</b>				
Members' funds				
Revaluation reserve		15,981		15,981
Income and expenditure account		354,767		365,412
<b>Members Funds</b>		<u>370,748</u>		<u>381,393</u>

**Meath Women's Aid Housing Association CLG**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)**  
**Statement of cash flows**  
**As at 31/12/2017**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	€	€
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Deficit for the financial year	(10,645)	(24,954)
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible assets	5,606	14,723
Other interest receivable and similar income	(62)	(1,821)
Accrued expenses/(income)	1,978	5,495
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(6,365)	1,415
Trade and other creditors	8,421	(7,038)
Cash generated from operations	<u>(1,067)</u>	<u>(12,180)</u>
Interest received	62	1,821
Net cash(used in)/from operating activities	<u>(1,005)</u>	<u>(10,359)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of tangible assets	<u>(6,140)</u>	<u>(5,859)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(6,140)</u>	<u>(5,859)</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(7,145)</b>	<b>(16,218)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year</b>	<b><u>229,327</u></b>	<b><u>245,545</u></b>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u>222,182</u>	<u>229,327</u>



***MWRSS, working to end violence against women***