

In Ireland on the 4th November 2011

770 WOMEN AND CHILDREN RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE.

Of these...

429 WOMEN WERE ACCOMMODATED AND/OR RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICE

429



341

341 CHILDREN WERE ACCOMMODATED AND/OR RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICE



127 HELPLINE CALLS

WERE RECEIVED FROM WOMEN

127



499 WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE LIVING IN A REFUGE OR SUPPORTED HOUSING

499



10 WOMEN AND 11 CHILDREN WERE ADMITTED TO REFUGE ON THIS DAY



10 WOMEN COULD NOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN REFUGE BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH ROOM

10



10

10 WOMEN RECEIVING SUPPORT WERE KNOWN TO BE PREGNANT



11

11 WOMEN WHO RECEIVED SUPPORT WERE OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE



One woman we are supporting today has signed her house over to her son and his family. She is experiencing ongoing emotional and financial abuse. Our support service has liaised with social workers engaged with working with elder abuse on her behalf. We provide ongoing emotional support when she requests it.

While supporting a woman today we looked at options with her such as counselling to deal with 40 years of ongoing domestic violence. She said she felt supported and believed in a safe confidential space.

It was great to be able to provide a safe place for a woman fleeing her partner and also to help her organise a Garda escort to collect her daughter and belongings.

New to the service, this lady was very nervous in general, very prepared with a list of issues and kept apologising for using the time. She minimised the abuse and felt she was taking up staff time.

One emergency call from a woman reporting elder abuse. She was referred to a specialist social worker. This woman is in institutional care. Another woman has disabilities. She is seen in her home because of this. She receives ongoing weekly support because she is recently separated. She also attends our support group which has helped her understand her experience and decreases her self blame, guilt and isolation.

A woman was admitted to our service in 2006 having been referred by Gardaí because of domestic abuse from her husband. She returned to her husband 7 months later because she needed to renew her greencard. As she had come to Ireland under the family unification scheme her option was either to return to her husband or return to country of origin. The woman was again admitted the following month because of domestic abuse and returned to him 3 months later. She was admitted again earlier this year having been referred by Gardaí because of ongoing verbal, emotional and financial abuse from her husband. She has received ongoing support and advocacy from staff in relation to challenges she faced. The woman has now applied for citizenship and is attending third level college and hopes to source her own accommodation in the future. Woman said, "I'm so grateful staff have helped me in every way, this would only happen in Ireland, people care".

One of our residents had a personal milestone making a decision to go and stay with a relative – she was lacking confidence just a few weeks ago. It was brilliant to see this happening.

New woman to the service, she left home but now feels a sense of independence and a brighter future. She hopes to find accommodation for herself.

I wish I could go home but not if my dad is not nice to my mam, being here is good cause no fighting is allowed.

Being alone will be hard but better than being with him.

The playroom is deadly, I love (staff member) but I am not allowed to use bad language or fight.

I feel stronger day by day in refuge, to make the choice to not go back to the abuse. I could not have done this without your help and care.

Thank you very much for listening to me today. Thanks a mil for everything.

I have been out of my home for 18 months because of my husband's abuse. I have stayed with family members and friends but could not get any help from agencies I went to. No-one believed what had happened to me. I have only been here (in refuge) a week and staff have helped so much.

Ya know I would still be getting beaten if not for the refuge. The refuge saved my life.

If I'd known about the refuge I would have come here ages ago.

On the 4th of November 2011, 770 women and children accessing SAFE Ireland domestic violence services needed a range of supports including emotional support, information, advocacy, accompaniment to legal, social and health services, referral services, counselling, safe refuge accommodation, transitional housing, child care services, after care services and group support.

Staff in these services worked tirelessly and professionally to meet women and children's diverse needs and linked the women and children to other supports in the community as required. No one service can operate in isolation, our strength is our capacity to reach into the community for all the services that women need and to support her and her children to access these services – to access a skilled circle of support, protection and understanding.

SAFE Ireland currently has 39 members throughout Ireland. If you or someone you know needs support there is free and confidential support available.

See www.safeireland.ie or download our iPhone App for details of your local support service.

