

Grampian Women's Aid Children and Young People's Service Information Booklet



The Children and Young People's Support Service

Grampian Women's Aid (GWA) Children and Young People's (CYP) services (for CYP in primary school up to 18 years) believe in providing high quality child centred support for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse. We work in a non-judgmental, flexible and holistic way to provide children and young people with a safe space in which to explore their feelings and any issues while helping them to address their experiences appropriately.

The importance of supporting mothers is recognised, however, we place emphasis on the need for a confidential service for children and young people which respects and advocates for their rights.

We pride ourselves on having a staff team who demonstrate the qualities and values required to provide this service.

Our Children and Young People's Support Worker has had PVG checks, relevant qualifications, and attends regular training to keep up-to-date with legislation, policies, procedures, and practices – especially with regards to Child Protection Issues!



What we can do for your child/children:

All support is available to CYP accessing our service through refuge, follow-on, and outreach services.

Refuge: For CYPs who move into refuge with their mother/carer

Follow-on: For CYPs who are moving out of refuge and into their own homes with their mother/carer.

Outreach: For CYP who are still living in their own homes, or elsewhere, but are not in refuge.

The types of support we offer CYP in refuge, follow-on, and outreach services are:

One to one support – 1:1 support involves building a trusting relationship between a named key worker and your child to cover more in-depth work around any issues your child may have. The aim of supporting a child is to enable the child to become a resilient, happier child who is more confident and able to learn and achieve. These sessions may take place in school as this is often the safest place and a neutral environment.

The child has to feel safe in the knowledge that they are believed, and that they are understood. This support is not to be confused with psychiatric or counselling support which would be provided by specialist agencies - but what has been recognised through research and experience is that if a child is given the opportunity to talk confidentially in a safe environment they become much happier children, as they have 'let it out'.

Group work – We provide group work for children of Primary School age and above up to 18 years.

Groupwork programmes are run to address particular issues in relation to CYP's experiences of Domestic Abuse and is therefore offered where a CYP will benefit from peer support.

The children and young people who attend programmes have said that they find the groups helpful as they offer the time and space to socialise with peers who have had similar experiences to themselves. This in turn helps them relate to and understand each other's feelings and related issues.

Groupwork programmes can create a sense of responsibility and inclusion, to foster respect for others and their experiences and encourage CYPs to identify and form healthy relationships.

All of the groups are designed to be good fun as well as supportive.

Partnership working – We provide advocacy support and can liaise with other agencies on behalf of your child. By building open and honest relationships with the CYP's needs at the centre, staff are able to look for appropriate support to meet these needs. This involves working in partnership with other agencies, and appropriate referrals can be made following discussions with yourself or your child, where age appropriate.

Family support – This involves supporting you to re-establish relationships and boundaries with your child / children, or provide opportunities for siblings to have healthier relationships. This support may involve other services such as the Homestart, Children First, etc.

School Holidays – During the school holidays, your child / children will continue to be supported in 1:1 sessions where it is safe and appropriate to do so. They do not have to participate during these times and support can resume at the start of the new term.

Information Sharing

When staff from different agencies are working together to arrange the services and support your child requires, they may need to share some basic information. This is to ensure that your child receives the best support possible, cuts down on the number of times you are asked the same questions and makes sure everyone is working together for the benefit of your child. Only information which is relevant will be shared and only with other professionals that genuinely need to know. We will ask you during the registration process who you give consent for sharing information with and who you would prefer us not to discuss information with.

In certain situations it is permitted to share information without consent. If staff believe that a child's safety or well-being is at risk, there is a duty to share information about that child in order that any potential situation e.g. child protection, can be dealt with quickly and efficiently, in accordance with Grampian Women's Aid Child Protection Policy and procedures.

Key Worker

Each child and young person supported by Grampian Women's Aid will be assigned their own key worker. It is the key worker's responsibility to ensure that the children and young people feel welcomed and supported by GWA by:

- Maintaining regular contact as agreed during the assessment process
- Ensuring all records and files are kept up-to-date
- Providing feedback to mothers/carers as required
- Conversing with other workers within GWA, as appropriate, to ensure a service that meets your child's needs, and to ensure a holistic family approach is maintained.
- Meeting or conversing with outside agencies, and advocating on behalf of your child as required.
- Respecting the rights and wishes of your child / children

The following gives an outline of the process staff will follow in order to provide a quality service for your child:

Registration Process:

Gather basic information about the child and family and to share information about the organisation and the services we can offer:

- Basic information – gender, DOB, address, telephone
- Ethnicity
- Additional needs
- Allergies
- External agency involvement
- Risk assessment
- Consent forms

Assessment

The assessment looks at three areas of your child's life

- How they grow and develop
- What they need from the people who care for them
- And their wider world.

This will enable us to gain as full a picture as possible so we can offer appropriate support for your child. The assessment takes place over six sessions and will then determine whether there is a need for support to continue.

Support Plan

During the assessment process we will begin to devise a support plan for your child. This will show clearly what we are going to do, when we plan to do this by, and who is responsible for doing so. The support plan will be reviewed regularly and senior staff members are involved where necessary.

Personal Safety Plan

We will discuss and complete age appropriated safety plans with your child to ensure they understand their own safety issues as well as the safety of others, both within the home and in the wider community.

Should you have any queries regarding the service, or any part of your child's support please do not hesitate to contact your child's key worker or:

Alison Hay
Manager
Grampian Women's Aid

Contact details:
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Complaints can be addressed to:

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