

About Welwyn Hatfield Women's Refuge & Support Services

Welwyn Hatfield Women's Refuge & Support Services is an independent, local voluntary agency providing specialist services for women and their children who have lived with domestic violence and abuse. The organisation, started in 1990, is run solely by women, for women. We are a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation and a full member of the Women's Aid Federation England (WAFE). Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council have demonstrated their support for the organisation since the beginning.

Our Aim

The aim of Welwyn Hatfield Women's Refuge & Support Services is to support women and children who have experienced domestic violence or abuse.

Our Activities and Services

Welwyn Hatfield Women's Refuge & Support Services can currently provide safe, temporary accommodation, information, advice and support for up to ten women and their children. Families stay in the Refuge for up to four months during which time they can receive help with welfare benefits, resettlement, solicitors, Courts and the law, immigration issues, and services for children amongst other things.

We run a comprehensive Outreach service for women in the community who are living, or have lived, with abusive relationships. We run two drop ins each week during school term time – one in Welwyn Garden City and one in Hatfield – where the same level of advice, information and support is offered to women in the community as is offered to women staying in the Refuge house. Women can access the Outreach Service via the Women's Helpline.

Children represent approximately two thirds of our client group and present with their own particular difficulties as a result of living with domestic violence and abuse. Our children's service is based in the Refuge and provides children with play activities, space and time to start their recovery from their experiences. Our Child Support Workers also advocate for children in the community who have lived with domestic violence and abuse.

We also provide training and awareness sessions on domestic violence, the work of the Refuge and good practise for statutory and voluntary agencies and groups.

We are members of key groups concerned with domestic violence, both locally and nationally.

Please visit our website – www.whwr.org.uk - to find out more.

Our Team

Welwyn Hatfield Women's Refuge is governed by a Board of Trustees with skills and experience relevant to the women's voluntary sector, including a nominated representative from Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council. All Trustees volunteer their time and skills.

The current team of paid workers consists of a Refuge Manager, a Refuge Worker/Deputy Manager, two Refuge Workers, two part time Child Support Workers (total 40 hours per week), an Outreach and Resettlement Worker and a cleaner.

We also have a team of dedicated volunteers who help us deliver our services and without whom we would not be able to function quite so effectively.