



Wirral Women and Children's Aid is the Refuge on Wirral providing a place of safety and protection for women and their children escaping domestic abuse. It provides advice, information and support within a relaxed and friendly environment and aims to support and empower the women and their children to start new safe lives.

The Refuge is a bright modern building that can accommodate 12 families at any one time, this includes 2 self-contained flats for larger families, one of which is wheelchair accessible. It is staffed by fully qualified Project Workers 24 hours a day every day and the Ofsted registered playroom is staffed by trained Children and Young People's Workers who run daily play sessions alongside The Butterfly programme which specifically works with children aged 5 to 11 around the impact of domestic abuse. There is also a Youth Club run at external premises that supports children aged 11 to 18 who have been affected by domestic abuse and looks at running sessions around relationships, keeping safe, art sessions etc. We also try and give the children and women experiences they may not have had including trips out.

A Charity shop in Moreton was opened in 2014 to assist in funding the Refuge.

We work holistically to offer the best support to the families we work with and link closely with social services, housing departments, health, drug and alcohol services and mental health services. A health visitor visits weekly to offer the mothers one to one support and advice

During the past 2 years the Refuge has been working with more complex cases. The women we are working with can have a variety of different needs including mental health problems, drug and alcohol addictions, previous offending behaviour alongside very low self-esteem and self-confidence. We also accommodate women from 16 and there has been a notable increase in the number of referrals we are receiving for younger women experiencing domestic abuse. A Complex Needs Worker and a Young Person's Worker have been taken on in a temporary capacity to assist with this work.

In line with our work with these difficult and demanding cases, we would like to use any cash donations made, to develop a therapeutic garden space. We would love to be able to give the children a safe, secure and fun environment which allows them to play and develop emotionally. The space would increase their motor and manipulative skills in a positive outdoor environment.

Alongside this, we would love to create a space the women can develop into an adult area with plants, their own vegetables and room to relax and thus have time and a space to work through some of their own emotions.

The Women's Refuge is a 'stand alone' Charity on Wirral, all monies raised go directly to working with, and supporting our women and their children.

Thank you for considering us for your charity support project.



Patrons:

Dame Lorna Muirhead DBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside;
The Rt. Hon. Frank Field DL MP;
[REDACTED] Esther McVey;
Dr. Katy Kidd

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