

Leeds Women's Aid



35 TIMES, 35 YEARS.

On average, a woman is hit 35 times prior to seeking any help.

Leeds Women's Aid celebrates 35 years of changing women's lives in 2007.

Who are Leeds Women's Aid?

In **1972** Leeds Women's Aid set up its services to help women and children who were suffering from domestic violence.

Our aim is to protect women and children in Leeds from the damage that domestic violence can inflict on their lives. We do this because we believe that all women and children have the right to live their lives free from fear and harm. We achieve this by providing women with choices from a range of services including temporary safe housing, outreach support, telephone support and floating support.

In Leeds Women's Aid's view, domestic violence is physical, sexual, psychological or financial violence that takes place with an intimate or family-type relationship and that forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. Domestic violence is repetitive, life-threatening, and can destroy the lives of women and children. One in four women will suffer from domestic violence at some point in their lives irrespective of social class, age, lifestyle, disability or race.

In 35 years LWA has grown exponentially and last year helped shelter 108 women and 188 children. A further 691 women were helped by our various community support programmes.

What are we doing to celebrate?

In 2007 we will be holding a series of events to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Leeds Women's Aid, aiming to raise funds, public awareness and our charity profile. We shall be holding street events and a lecture by Richard McCann.

These events will culminate in the autumn with a Gala Ball being held on November 22nd 2007. Tickets are on sale now and cost £50 with all profits going directly to women and children affected by domestic violence.

We will also be holding a performance of Hear My Voice, a play created by residents in conjunction with the theatre company: Interacting. Information of this can be found at <http://www.interactingonline.co.uk/>
The play tells the real stories of women who have lived through domestic violence.

Finally, we are very excited that Corinne Bailey Rae will be doing a performance at the Warehouse, Leeds under the banner "Peace begins at Home" Leeds Women's Aid will be one of the charities lucky enough to be benefitting from this unique gig.

It is a very exciting time for us and although we don't have a website at present you can contact us in a variety of ways to keep abreast of our exciting line up.

You can contact Jackie Offord, Event Coordinator on 07876 226 584.

You can email jackieo@leedswomensaid.co.uk

You can write to PO Box 427, Leeds, LS7 9AN

Or if you would just like to show support you can join us on Facebook, that great networking tool, in the groups section, "Leeds Women's Aid 35th Anniversary" or you can follow the link:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5072038685>

Thanks for your support and if you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact us.