
Foyle Women's Information Network

Annual Report 2020 – 2021



FWIN

*FWIN's Vision Statement:
"A society where women's potential has
been realised and all are equal."*

Contents:

| | |
|---|----|
| FWIN Chairperson's Report | 3 |
| FWIN Coordinator's Report | 4 |
| FWIN's WICT / RISP Project Officer's Report | 6 |
| Financial Report | 8 |
| FWIN Management Committee & Staff 2020-2021 | 10 |

FWIN Chairperson's Report

One of the biggest changes we all faced during 2020 was lockdown. However, despite the many challenges posed by the pandemic, FWIN has shown great resilience to the crisis as they adapted to using a range of online platforms for a host of activities and events to meet the needs of our members. For members not online, isolation packs were posted every two weeks to help support them throughout these difficult times.

This year, we produced our 2nd book "*Your voice, your stories, from behind the mask*". The book contained individual stories from women of the challenges faced during lockdown and how this was impacting on their physical and mental health. Many stories acknowledged the vital support they received from FWIN to help them through some of the most challenging times.

Again, this year our Christmas appeal was a great success in reaching and supporting many communities and relieving the financial stress on families.

FWIN relies on a cocktail of funding in order to facilitate and support the needs of women in our community. This is an ongoing challenge for the organisation however I have no doubt staff will continue to work together to ensure and secure, the vital funding needed to continue the fantastic work throughout the coming year.

As part of FWIN's ongoing planning process for its next strategic plan, a survey was undertaken in 2020 to assess how member's and key stake holders, valued it programmes, services and activities. The surveys questions where strongly focused and largely organised to that end. Findings from the survey provided valuable feedback which has helped FWIN to identify key strategic priorities for the future.

At this point, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the hard and ongoing work from the board members of FWIN. I would also like to acknowledge, thank and praise the staff of FWIN for the dedication, commitment, care and team work displayed throughout the year to help support women in our communities especially those most vulnerable in society.

Marie Coyle

Chairperson

FWIN Co-ordinator's Report

FWIN was established in 1994 by Derry City Council who recognized that women were working away in their local communities however there was no cross over or engagement between or across the divide and thus the network was established to bring women together to build relationships and begin the road to reconciliation.

The focus of the charity's work is to provide a supportive place for women and women's groups to meet from all the different neighborhoods and venues over Derry/Londonderry. Such gatherings have provided opportunities for women to discuss health issues, educational matters and politics. Women are also given the platform to try new ideas, make new contacts and friends and to offer and exchange information.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

April 2020 – March 2021

A lot of our activities have been moved on-line to our Facebook page and we have posted daily events since April 2020. Our on-line tutors have been delivering the following

- Dance and movement
- Cookery
- Exercise
- Yoga
- Meditation
- Well-being
- Make up
- Music
- Crafts
- Flower arranging
- Lecture series
- Around the world
- Quizzes
- Bingo
- Book Club

We also had a live '*Chatty Women*' Programme on our Facebook page every Thursday with chat on topical issues, banter and an inspirational speaker every week. I would like to thank all our guests who took part.

There was an audience of approximately 2,000 women every week and if the programmes running for 48 week's we will have engaging with 96,000 women in total.

Women Involved in Community Transformation Programme:

This programme is funded by Department for Communities via the Fresh Start Programme B5 and it aims to increase the participation and influence of women in community development / community leadership and in tackling community issues.

The executive programme for women in community development designed to enable women's organizations to continue to carry out transformative community development work in our communities but also to ensure that women are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to take on more leadership roles in public decision-making.

This program of work is being delivered in 26 areas across Northern Ireland with our partners TWN, INTERCOMM and Cooperation Ireland.

One area of focus in the North West has been developing women in the justice system partnerships with local women's groups and organizations within the justice system for example the Prisons, Courts, probations service etc.

PACT Project

FWIN will enable 600 women to undertake an online questionnaire devised by Queens University which will determine what modules they need to undertake regarding increasing their peace and reconciliation capability.

The project milestones are:

600 women recruited ✓

500 women to undertake assigned training from online questionnaire ✓

150 cross-community training sessions ✓

75 cross-border training sessions ✓

Creation of a toolkit for women that will leave a legacy ✓

We also held a series of lectures every Friday for women to engage in and discuss. ✓

RISP - Consortium for regional support for women in areas of disadvantage and rural areas.

FWIN are one of the 7 partners involved in the consortium which engages with a range of key decision makers and funders on behalf of the women's sector, provides support to groups and distributes information and provide bespoke training, carry out research and have better evidence of issues which impact women. RISP Conference via zoom was held with great input from the Pink Ladies in the North West talking about the role and strength of campaigning.

Information, communication and engagement is a big part of this programme

FWIN send out weekly information bulletins every Friday to over 700 women online.

Since the start of lockdown FWIN post out monthly news sheets to 150 women in hardcopy and 700 online via Mailchimp = 850 women per month. Our reach is wide and we have a Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram account and an up to-date webpage. We have also been sending out isolation packs to 150 women per month who do not connect with us via the internet. This can be a barrier for them and we are devising a programme of 1 to 1 coaching on internet activity and a how to go digital to encourage them to go online.

FWIN also provided two special event themed weeks: one for Halloween and one for Christmas with activities and programmes showcasing the time of year.

Christmas Appeal

FWIN supported over 250 children this year in our campaign and we would like to thank those involved for their support and generosity during these most difficult times. We partnered with Downtown Radio Cash for Kids Christmas Mission.

Other Activities

Our AGM was held via zoom. During these very strange times we are living in FWIN have decided to ask our members to write stories or poetry and take pictures of their time during Covid so as we can compile a short story book capturing the effects on women of the pandemic. We have been working in small bubbles delivering creative writing classes, craft classes, book club, bingo evenings, etc, to keep engagement going. This has proved difficult due to Government guidelines and hopefully this will improve soon.

FWIN were guest editor of Holywell Trust's Fingerpost magazine for International Women's Day March 2021. The publication focused on women's issues. FWIN also carried out a postcard and letter writing bubble group during this time to encourage us all to keep up the art of writing and to keep people connected during the pandemic.

Finally, we would like to thank our funders who have worked with us during this time to tailor our programmes to suit the needs of our members

Thank you.

Catherine Cooke

FWIN Coordinator

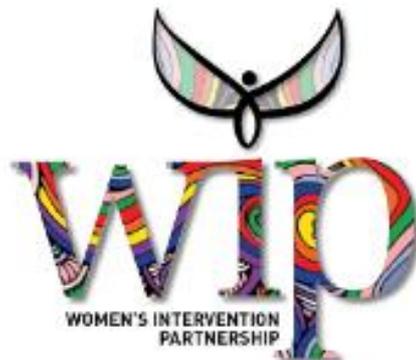
WICT & RISP Project Officer's Report

WICT - Women Involved in Community Transformation

The pandemic posed significant challenges to the ongoing delivery of the WICT programme. The immediate impact of the lockdown was the enforced closures of venues where the WICT training took place. However, this did not lead to a cessation of WICT programme; instead, online contingency plans were designed to continue with the delivery of the programme *via* a digital interface so participants could continue to make progress in their course.

It is also worth noting that during this period many WICT participants played a key role in their communities by delivering shopping and food; including home cooked meals they themselves had prepared, to those most vulnerable people within their area.

Funding for the Women Involved in Community Transformation Programme is due to end in September 2021 but as yet no decision has been made about the next phase of the project despite September representing the end of a second three-month extension to allow time for the decision to be made. Consequently, FWIN was heavily involved in lobbying MLAs to ask for support and help in getting some clarity regarding the future of the WICT programme beyond September.



WICT & RISP Project Officer's Report

RISP – Women's Regional Consortium

- Attended quarterly Consortium meetings and quarterly Outcomes Framework progress meetings.
- RISP report for the period April – Sept 2020 submitted 6.10.20. This report includes considerable detail and includes FWIN's Covid-19 Emergency Outputs as requested by the Dept (introduced in May 2020).
- Continue to submit articles for newsletters/e-zines.
- Have met all RISP requirements in terms of engagement with women.

Attended the following online events

- Women Peace & Security Zoom Meeting.
- UNSCR1325 Transitional Justice Virtual Roundtable 6th May
- NIWEP Achieving a Gendered COVID-19 Recovery
- Dealing with the Past and the Stormont House Agreement 24th June
- The 'New Normal' A Virtual Summit for the Community & Voluntary Sector 23 July
-

On line discussions:

- Dr Ciara Fitzpatrick (UU) Live chat on FWIN Facebook 'Benefits and Support' advice
- Dr Eli Davies (UU) - Live chat on FWIN Facebook Politics and culture of domestic space.
- Little Penny Thoughts Motivational Speaker

Face to Face meeting with Henrietta Norton and WICT participants (15th September 2020)

AMANDA LEIGHTON

Project Officer



Financial Report

FOYLE WOMENS INFORMATION NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

| | Note | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | Total Funds 2020 £ | Total Funds 2019 £ |
|---|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| INCOMING RESOURCES | | | | | |
| Incoming resources from generating funds: | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 3 | <u>5,613</u> | <u>181,606</u> | <u>187,219</u> | <u>165,546</u> |
| TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES | | | | | |
| | | <u>5,613</u> | <u>181,606</u> | <u>187,219</u> | <u>165,546</u> |
| RESOURCES EXPENDED | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | 4/5 | (4,559) | (171,094) | (175,653) | (144,656) |
| Governance costs | 6 | (-) | (1,946) | (1,946) | (1,681) |
| TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED | | | | | |
| | | <u>(4,559)</u> | <u>(173,040)</u> | <u>(177,599)</u> | <u>(146,337)</u> |
| NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR | | | | | |
| | 7 | 1,054 | 8,566 | 9,620 | 19,209 |
| RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | <u>55,275</u> | <u>8,005</u> | <u>63,280</u> | <u>44,071</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | | | | | |
| | | <u>56,329</u> | <u>16,571</u> | <u>72,900</u> | <u>63,280</u> |

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The charity has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the results above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses have been presented. There is no difference between the net incoming resources for the year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.

Financial Report

FOYLE WOMENS INFORMATION NETWORK

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

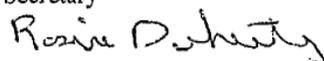
31 MARCH 2021

| | Note | 2021 £ | 2020 £ |
|---|------|----------------|---------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | |
| Tangible assets | 9 | 1,912 | 2,390 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Debtors | 10 | 7,914 | 9,401 |
| Cash at bank | | <u>65,512</u> | <u>61,709</u> |
| | | 73,426 | 71,110 |
| CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year | 11 | <u>(1,089)</u> | <u>(600)</u> |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>72,337</u> | <u>70,510</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | <u>74,249</u> | <u>72,900</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>74,249</u> | <u>72,900</u> |
| FUNDS | | | |
| Restricted income funds | 12 | 18,218 | 16,571 |
| Unrestricted income funds | 13 | <u>56,031</u> | <u>56,329</u> |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | <u>74,249</u> | <u>72,900</u> |

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 15th February 2022, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mildred Garfield
Chairperson

Rosie Doherty
Secretary



FWIN Management Committee 2020 - 2021

Chair: Mildred Garfield
Vice Chair: Marie Coyle
Secretary: Rosie Doherty
Treasurer: Lorraine Bobby

Committee Members:

- Julie-Ann Coll
- Jean Gormley
- Margaret Irvine
- Rosemary McCafferty
- Niree McMorris
- Lorraine McWilliams
- Victoria Neely
- Lilian Seenoi

FWIN Staff 2020-2021:

- Catherine Cooke (Co-ordinator)
- Mary Harkin (Financial Administrator)
- Amanda Leighton (WICT / RISP Project Officer)
- Maeve O'Brien (PACT Project Officer - until January 2021)
- Kimberly Hayes (IT Officer)

With thanks to all our funders & partners 2020-2021:



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



The
Executive Office
www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

The *elle*
Community
Foundation

Community Relations Council



Peace 
Northern Ireland - Ireland
European Regional Development Fund

T:buc
Changing for the better, together



HALIFAX FOUNDATION
for Northern Ireland

Department for
Communities