



**Dundee International Women's Centre**

## **Impact Report 2021-22**



**Beginners English Class visit to V&A Dundee**

### **In 2021 - 22...**

**361** places in class were taken up; **38** women were able to access classes because of our in-house creche; 31 learners gained SQA qualifications.

### **Our learners say ...**

**75%** of our learners said that their **English skills had improved**; **85%** of learners said that they had **made new friends**; **78%** of learners **feel more confident** after attending groups at DIWC

### **Finances 2021-22**

Total Income £375,624

Total Expenditure £414,096

# A Year in the Life of DIWC

## April

**English classes and certificated childcare class return to Centre from 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown, with physical distancing and one way system**



Other classes are still being held online via Zoom. Learners and staff have been upskilling in digital over the last year.

## May

Informal learning returns to the Centre.

**The Flourish Group visit the Botanic Gardens with DCA and Art At the Start**



(photo: DCA)

## June

Queen Bee's group visit to Botanic Gardens



**Physically distanced Graduation Ceremonies**

Classes move back online as numbers of Covid cases in Dundee rise dramatically

English for Life creative writing workshop with Glasgow Women's Library

## July

Holidays! DIWC is closed, but that doesn't mean there wasn't work going on behind the scenes ...

**Staff take part in training to improve photography skills (from home)**



## August

Open day for English Classes with College Staff doing ESOL assessments

**Play, Talk, Read**



New introduction to Exam English for people hoping to come and work in the UK

## September

**Play therapy sessions with Scrap Antics for Mums and Children from the Flourish Group**



All learners and staff came back to the Centre for the first time since March 2020!

## October

**Scottish Book Week event with Laura Darling**



Cadet visit to Flourish

Launch of the Woven Together project for which English students contributed two blog post on our 50 Anniversary

## November

Reclaim the Night bag making workshop with Jo Craig

**Guided tours of the V&A for Beginners English Class and French classes**



## December

Play Work and Childcare class able to access all their class work on Teams meaning that lessons can be provided remotely – an important step on our digital journey

**New partnership with Dundee Healthy Minds Network and Penumbra offering women the chance to talk about wellbeing while taking part in craft activities**

**IMPROVE YOUR MENTAL WELLBEING WITH CRAFT**

Join us in making hand puppets! The puppets you make with love will be donated to a charity working with children in need

Get involved to:

- Increases happiness and reduces anxiety
- Engage with like minded people
- Increases creative confidence and self-esteem

Women only wellbeing activity. Anyone can join. No fee involved.

Mondays from 1:00-3:00 pm at Dundee International Women's Centre

To register interest please email: [reception@diwc.co.uk](mailto:reception@diwc.co.uk) or [volunteering@diwc.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@diwc.co.uk)

## January

The English for Life class write "Beloved" - a poem, during a workshop led by staff from the Creative Writing Department of Dundee University

**Staff from Art Angel brought their skills and resources to work with our Art Group**



## February

Health Screening checks for women without regular contact from a GP, in partnership with Kings Cross Hospital  
**ESOL Learners begin working towards the SQA Employability Award**

Our 50th Anniversary exhibition is staged at Glasgow Women's Library

## March

**Dundee Women's Festival events – including visit of military ambulance**



Scrap Antics run a creative workshop for women using recycled fabrics

While this was all happening our learners, volunteers and staff team were **ALSO** busy with Art; Baking; Computing; Cooking; Yoga; **PLUS** English (from total beginners' to intermediate levels); French; Sewing; Parenting; ESOL for Childcare; Employability Award; National Progression Award in Play work and Childcare.

**We would like to thank our partner organisations for making it possible to provide additional services.**

Art at the Start  
Art Angel  
Scrap Antics  
National Literacy Trust  
Dundee and Angus College  
Dundee City Council  
Scottish Refugee Council  
Darling by Name Illustrations

Smalls for All  
Dundee Botanic Gardens  
DCA  
Glasgow Women's Library  
High Speed Training  
Countryside Ranger Service  
NHS Tayside  
Jo Craig

Nillipul  
Yoga on Tay  
Dundee Healthy Minds Network  
Penumbra  
Children's Health Scotland  
Groundswell Project  
Abertay Historical Society  
Azilo Training



## Thank you to our funders:

Digital Participation Charter Fund  
Northwood Charitable Trust  
The Scottish Government Connected Communities Division  
Investing in Communities  
Dundee ESOL Partnership  
Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust



DELIVERING  
EQUALLY SAFE

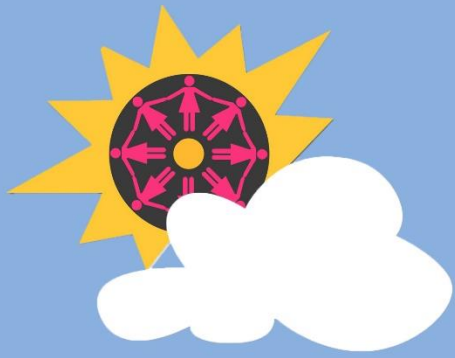


## Volunteering

Volunteers make an enormous difference to our learners by assisting staff in classes and offering small group and one to one tuition. Gail has been an ESOL volunteer for several years and you can see the difference she makes to learners and how much it means to her!

A few years ago, I was looking for French lessons. I joined the French class at DIWC and everything progressed from there. I felt welcome at the centre and decided to find out how I could support the amazing work happening here. It is now my third year volunteering in an English conversation class. In class I support the teacher and the learners. I support learners individually when they need extra help and when they do group work. I help anyone who asks but I also try to spot the learners who are struggling and offer my help. I am a local person they can speak to and I hope we give them comfort and reassurance that they are welcome in Scotland. We give them friendship and a safe place to go where they can learn and unwind. It is so lovely to see the learners making friends and enjoying themselves in class, but also hearing stories of how they get on outside the centre. I love making new acquaintances and learning about the women's cultures. Volunteering also gives me the opportunity to build up my confidence and I feel I am helping others and giving something back to society.





# Rise & Shine Childcare

**Our in house and mobile crèches address the needs of our participants and the wider community. Every member of our crèche staff is registered with the Scottish Social Services Council.**

## **AFFORDABLE**

Our in house crèche facilities provide our learners with a safe, fun environment in which they can leave their children while they attend classes. We also have free play sessions running every morning and afternoon open to members of the local communities

## **FLEXIBLE CHILDCARE**

Rise & Shine's Mobile Crèche service continues to grow, with many regular bookings from outside organisations, and one-off events such as weddings and training days. Our staff receive excellent feedback, and many of our bookings come via word-of-mouth recommendation. Our Rise & Shine website offers potential clients a comprehensive overview of our services.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

Many of our staff are women who have previously attended the NPA Play work and Childcare course at DIWC. All our staff have the opportunity to complete a SVQ3 and SVQ4 qualification in childcare. Several of our staff have moved on to work for public and private sector nurseries.

## **THE FUTURE**

We are developing Rise & Shine by increasing awareness of our mobile crèche service throughout the Dundee area and beyond.

We continue to provide services across Scotland and our team have worked at both corporate and private functions, receiving exemplary feedback. Our ultimate long term goal is to become self-sufficient as an organisation.

*If you have an event planned and are in need of crèche facilities, visit our Rise & Shine website: [mobilecrechedundee.org](http://mobilecrechedundee.org)*