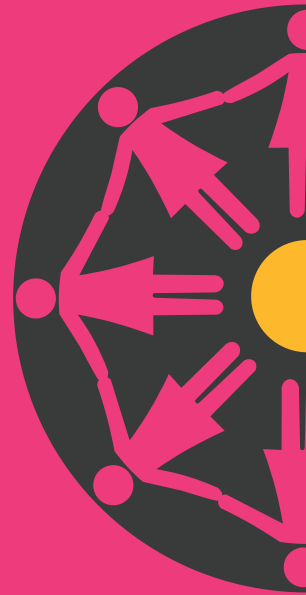


Impact Report



2022 - 2023

Dundee
International
Women's Centre

A note from the Manager



I want to firstly say a massive thank you to our amazing staff team and our dedicated volunteers, including our Board of Directors. Without you all, DIWC would not be able to operate and become the lifeline it is for many women, girls, and children in Dundee. You have all shown strength, resilience and dedication over the past few years and have adapted your way of working to ensure women and children still have access to invaluable support and learning through these difficult times. 2022-23 has been a time of rebuilding for DIWC as we all recover from the impact of the pandemic and the uncertainty that came with it, and normal operation had resumed by April 2022 at the centre.

I started with the Centre in November 2022, and was astounded by the welcome and support I received from the team, learners, and everyone I came into contact with. The positivity, vibrance and energy within the centre is simply uplifting.

The centre is a safe space for women and children to come and learn new skills, be empowered, and make new friends. Our vision is one of engagement, education, and self-

empowerment, with a focus being on women from Black and Ethnic Minority Communities. DIWC is a place where women and girls achieve their own personal goals, reach their full potential, and flourish in their communities.

Helping us achieve this is also down to our partners and funders. Thank you to you all - without each and every one of you we would not be able to offer the vast range of learning and opportunities we currently do and reach so many women and children. For example, staff accessed funding to provide heaters, warm coats, and blankets for families to assist with the cold winter and reduce financial pressure. I have only been with the centre for 4 months of this year, but I have witnessed first-hand how busy the centre can be, with over 100 women walking through our doors every week.

Winter 2022 saw us offering a cosy space to any woman, without the need for membership, where they could enjoy a hot drink, a warm space, and access to free WIFI. It was lovely to see some university students come in and use the space to finish studies whilst their children took advantage of our free play sessions in our Rise and Shine crèche.

Other mums and carers took advantage of the play sessions by going for a run, shopping, or just getting the chance to actually finish a full hot cup of coffee, which is a novelty when you have young children!

We know childcare is a major barrier for many women and having an in-house crèche where we're able to offer free childcare for members (when we have capacity) has been instrumental in reducing some of these barriers. Mums and carers know their children are in the same building as their classrooms, and are in safe hands with our well-trained staff.

Along with the cosy space and the crèche, we were able to offer a Lunch Club thanks to receiving a grant from Awards for All at the National Lottery.

“Without you all, DIWC would not be able to operate and become the lifeline it is for many women, girls, and children in Dundee.”

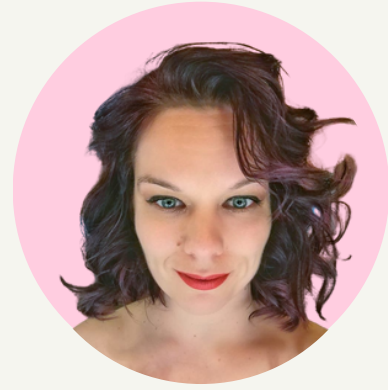
The grant allowed us to keep the price to a minimum for a warm and fulfilling meal and ensure no one is excluded, as well as continue to empower our kitchen staff who were once learners at the centre. Food is certainly a passion here in the centre and all our social activities revolve around food! I have really enjoyed sampling lots of different cuisines representing different cultures and countries, and look forward to continuing my learning and trying new things along with the centre offering more culinary opportunities next year. Watch this space!

I look forward to the coming year where we continue to build, grow, and develop our amazing work in collaboration with our learners, staff team, volunteers, and partners. We will be launching our new Business Plan and Strategic Vision for 2023 onwards, and continuing to provide a safe space for the women and children of Dundee. This is an exciting time for the centre, and I feel privileged every day to be a part of such an amazing community that provides a much needed sense of belonging to all who need us.



Manager for Strategy and Operations

A note from the Chair of the Board



This year has been another exciting one for DIWC. We were delighted to be successful in our application to the Investing in Communities Fund which secures our non-ESOL classes and groups for the next 3 years, as well as an unrestricted grant from the Northwood Trust which means we can be more flexible and creative going forward. Learners

also benefitted from the Community Learning and Development Device Fund which helped us to update the PCs available in class, or for private use. Furthermore, the Robertson Trust has kindly funded the work of a consultant under the Accelerate Programme to support us in writing a new Business Plan, which is currently being finalised and worked into our Strategic Plan.

The Board has worked to identify skills gaps and targeted recruitment accordingly. There are now nine directors, covering CLD, ESOL, Business, Finance, Violence Against Women, Statutory Services, and the Third Sector. We will continue to actively recruit for other areas of expertise.

**“DIWC ... promotes
and creates
opportunities for
social, economic,
and political
inclusion for the
advancement of
education and
employment.”**

Dr Monika Gostic

Chair of the Board

A Year in Pictures

April



GWL Trip



Wellbeing Workshop

Join us for a four-day interactive and fun workshop on wellbeing

- Venue: Dundee International Women's Centre
- Dates: 18th and 25th of April 2022; 9th and 16th of May 2022
- Timing: Mondays from 1:00-3:00 pm with a snack break
- Coffee/Tea and light refreshments will be provided

All participants will get a wellbeing goodie bag packed with love along with a certificate at the end of the workshop

Registration compulsory. Kindly register with DIWC on or before the 15th of April 2022 by email or phone call.
Maximum intake: 8 participants.
Participants can use the crèche facility during the workshop

Penumbra Classes



Art Cart



'FLOURISH' ART EXHIBITION

Please come along to see the artwork of **DIWC Flourish Group** in partnership with DCA and ScrapAntics

ALL WELCOME! Thursday 5th May
1pm - 6pm
DCA, 152 Nethergate
Please ask at the desk for the Create Space

Flourish Art Exhibition

May



Graduation



Flourish Class with Art Cart

June



IODMOVES.COM
Manager, Strategy & Operations with Dundee International Womens Centre –
bodmover

Hiring for a Centre Manager



ENGLISH TEST

Interested in finding out about the Occupational English Test for health professionals? Want to begin your OET journey? OET is recognised as proof of English proficiency for study and work in the healthcare sector in the UK by the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) and the General Medical Council (GMC).

5-WEEK COURSE
ON-LINE INTERACTIVE CLASSES VIA ZOOM
WITH TUTOR ZUSANA STORRIER
TUESDAYS 6.30-8.30PM, 30 AUG-27 SEP 2022

OPEN TO BOTH FEMALE AND MALE LEARNERS

Interested? Email mal@diwc.co.uk / Zusana@diwc.co.uk or contact diwc on fb messenger

Advertising OET Class

July

August



Asma joined DIWC



Summer Open Day



A Placement Student's Project



Baking Class

September

October



Shaunagh joined DIWC



Black History Month



Mareth joined DIWC



16 Days Art



Kristina joined DIWC



16 Days Art

November

December



Lunch Club Started



Mahmuda's Amazing Christmas Cake



16 Days Banner



2023 AGM

January

February



English for Life Visit to the Wardlaw Museum



Zusana's Leaving Lunch



The World Meets in Stobswell

March

46

learners in
Employability and
Training

9

women attending Job
Search found paid work

12

women gained the
Employability Award

167

learners in Social,
Health, and Wellbeing
classes

45

learners in skills based
classes

268

learners in ESOL
classes

42

women from ESOL classes
went on to further learning,
volunteering, or work

4735

learners in skills based
classes

315

individual women
attended

Specialist Projects

Respected, Equal, and Safe

Violence against women is endemic in every community, but it's harder to confront it in many of the ones we work with. DIWC has given women a platform to use their voice. In particular lots of women found out about 16 Days of Activism for the first time and took part through workshops and discussions sparked by creating art work and banners. Among the shared opinions where the importance of education and legal frameworks to ban harmful practices across the world. Women also learned about how the police and other agencies could help them if were at risk.

Around 62 women took part from 5 different classes.

Connecting Cultures

“Thank you for listening to me, I felt I was heard and not judged”

We've been working with our learners and with other organisations to promote understanding of diversity and the need to safeguard young people in the online world. Bite-size learning in ESOL classes has given women the chance to discuss controversial topics like racism, fake news and how young people experience social media. DIWC provides a safe space to express opinions Asma also went out and about talking to youth groups, parent's groups and held seminars for lecturers at Dundee and Angus College. Our amazing digital content creator, Mareth made posters and materials that have shared by schools, colleges, GP surgeries and councils.

Cosy Space and Lunch Club



An individual donation and a grant from National Lotteries Awards for All meant that we were able to bring back lunch club for the first time since the COVID lockdowns.

Balgeis Abadugaga and Julia Ngai have been cooking up fresh meals twice a week with a small charge for those who can afford it. Including soups, pies, chow mein and lots of other tasty treats. If we're really lucky, Julia will also bake some of her delicious cup cakes.

We've also opened up the community area for any women who want somewhere warm to spend the day. From those who want a natter with their friends to women studying for their PhD! It's also been a useful resource for women who wanted to come to class but had older children off school because of recent strikes or in-service days.



DIWC'S COSY SPACE

A free cosy space available to all women
No booking or membership required
10am-3pm Monday-Thursday

Hot Drinks
Free WiFi



Lunch Club
Enjoy a hot meal with friends
Tuesdays
Thursdays

12pm-1pm

Please enquire at Reception



Unit 9, Manhattan Business Park, Dundonald Street, Dundee, DD3 7YP SC014949

"Thank you very much for your excellent professional care looking after our grandchildren at the wedding. The children thoroughly enjoyed being looked after and entertained by your staff."

"Staff were welcoming, friendly and communicative. I really appreciate the feedback given when I collect my child. I am confident he is well cared for and supported while he is at Rise and Shine. I have recommended it to friends."

"I like it as my child is now confident as he knows he's going to have fun and I'll be back. I think it's great he can spend some time with other children before starting nursery as he gets used to it"

Rise & Shine Creche



Annual Turnover for our mobile creche was £45,005 which is a massive achievement considering that there was no business at all during the pandemic. Rise and Shine provides flexible employment for women who need to fit their work around other commitments.



Regular creches provided for:
Arbroath Council
Dundee City Council



Beth (Manager for Strategy and Operations) left DIWC

May

August

Asma (Connecting Cultures Project Leader) started at DIWC

Shaunagh (Reception) started at DIWC

October

Mariam (Reception) had her baby
Mareth (Digital Content Creator) Started at DIWC

November

Kristina (Manager for Strategy and Operations) started at DIWC

Zusana (ESOL Project Worker) left DIWC

December

January

Duygu joined the Board of Directors

February

March

Afroza (Creche) had her baby

Our Funders

and Partners

- Scottish Government
- Dundee Partnership
- Northwood
- Dundee CRF
- National Lottery Community Fund
- Robertson Trust
- Women's Fund
- Stafford Trust
- Scotmid
- SCVO CLD Digital Devices

- ScrapAntics
- DCA
- Groundswell
- National Literacy Trust
- Victoria Gardens
- Police
- Togs for Tots
- Health Inclusion Nursing Team
- Wardlaw Museum, St Andrews
- Azilo Training
- CBAL
- VAWG Partnership
- D&A College
- Home Start
- Dundee City Council
- Angus Council

Thank you to everyone who supports us in any way - we couldn't do it without you!