

Voices Against Violence

Children and Young People Making a Difference

Scott Cameron & Heather Coady



Scotland Overview

- First shelter opened 35 years ago
- National office established – SWA
- Currently support 39 local projects

National Strategies

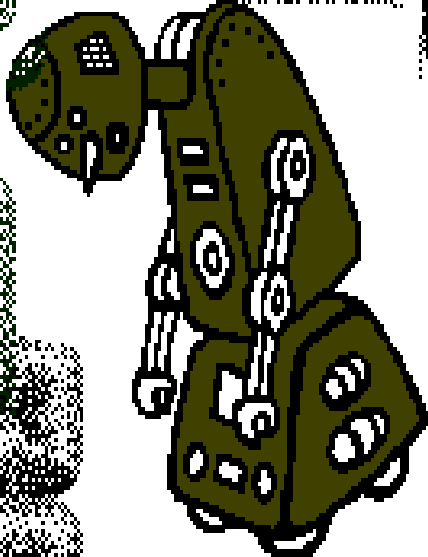
- National funding streams
- National training strategy
- Multi-agency partnerships

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- The most significant progress we have made has been in the last 6 years as a result of participation

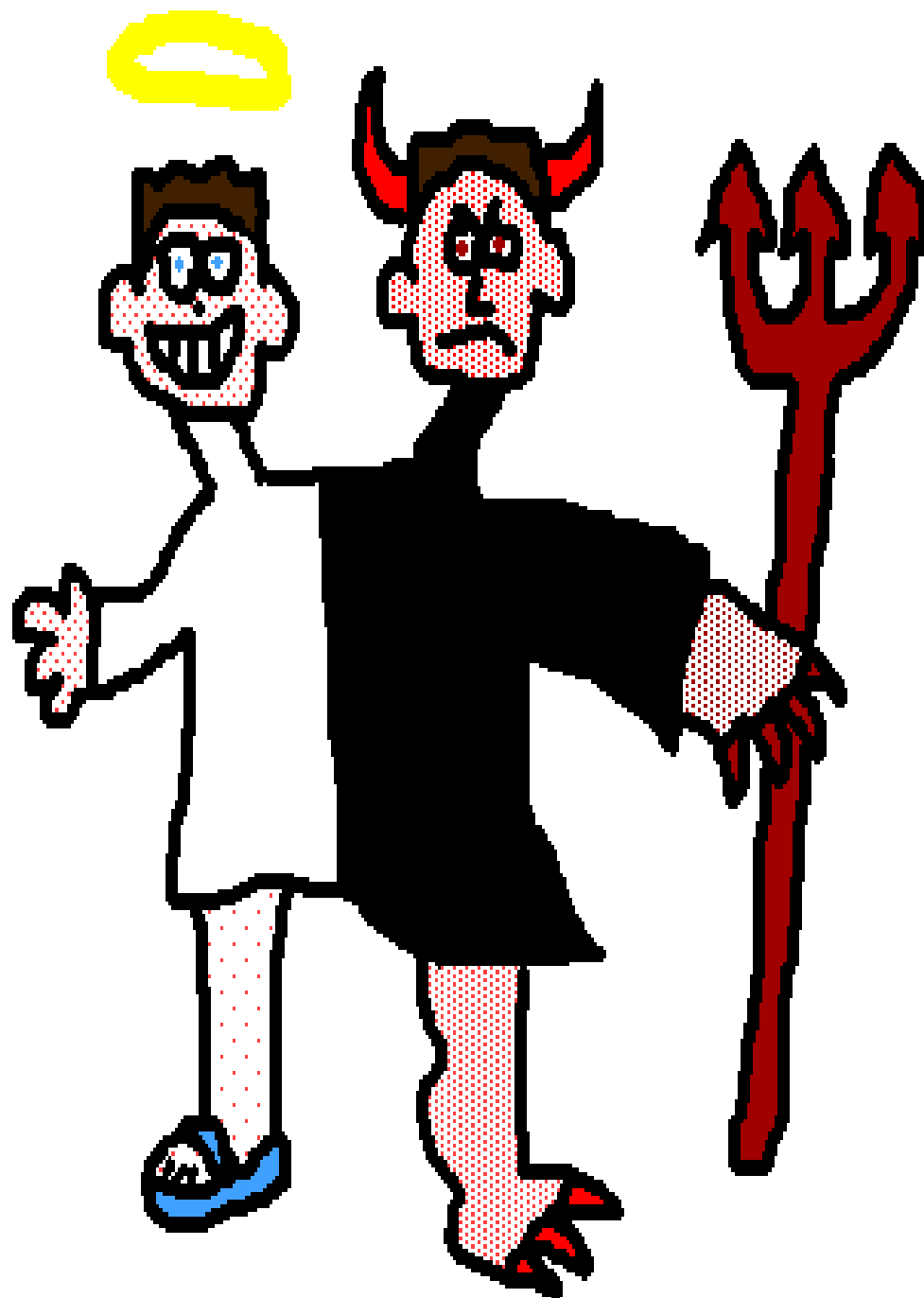
BY M AGE 10

NO ESCAPE!

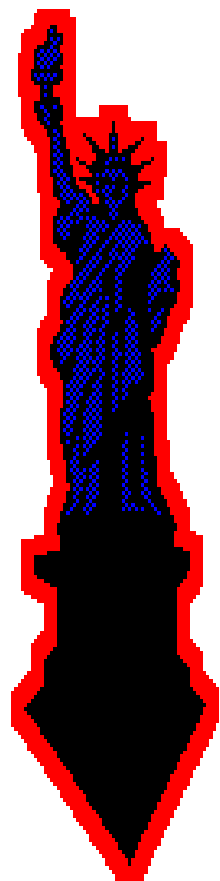


M
AGE 10

THE TWO
FACES OF
DAD

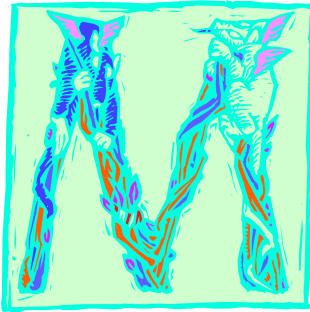
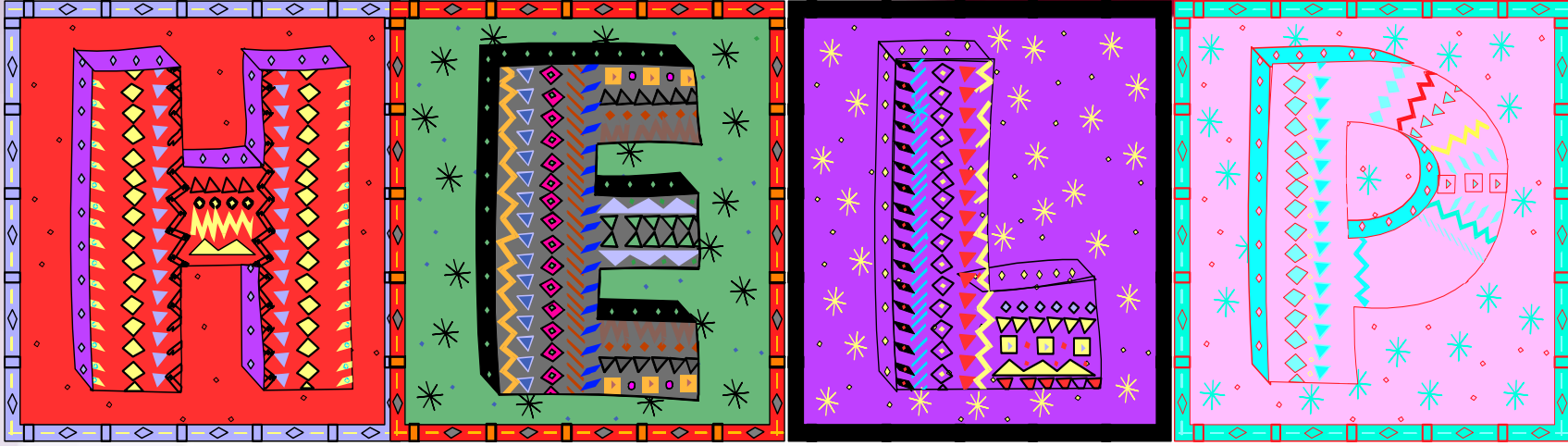


BY SCOTT
AGE 15

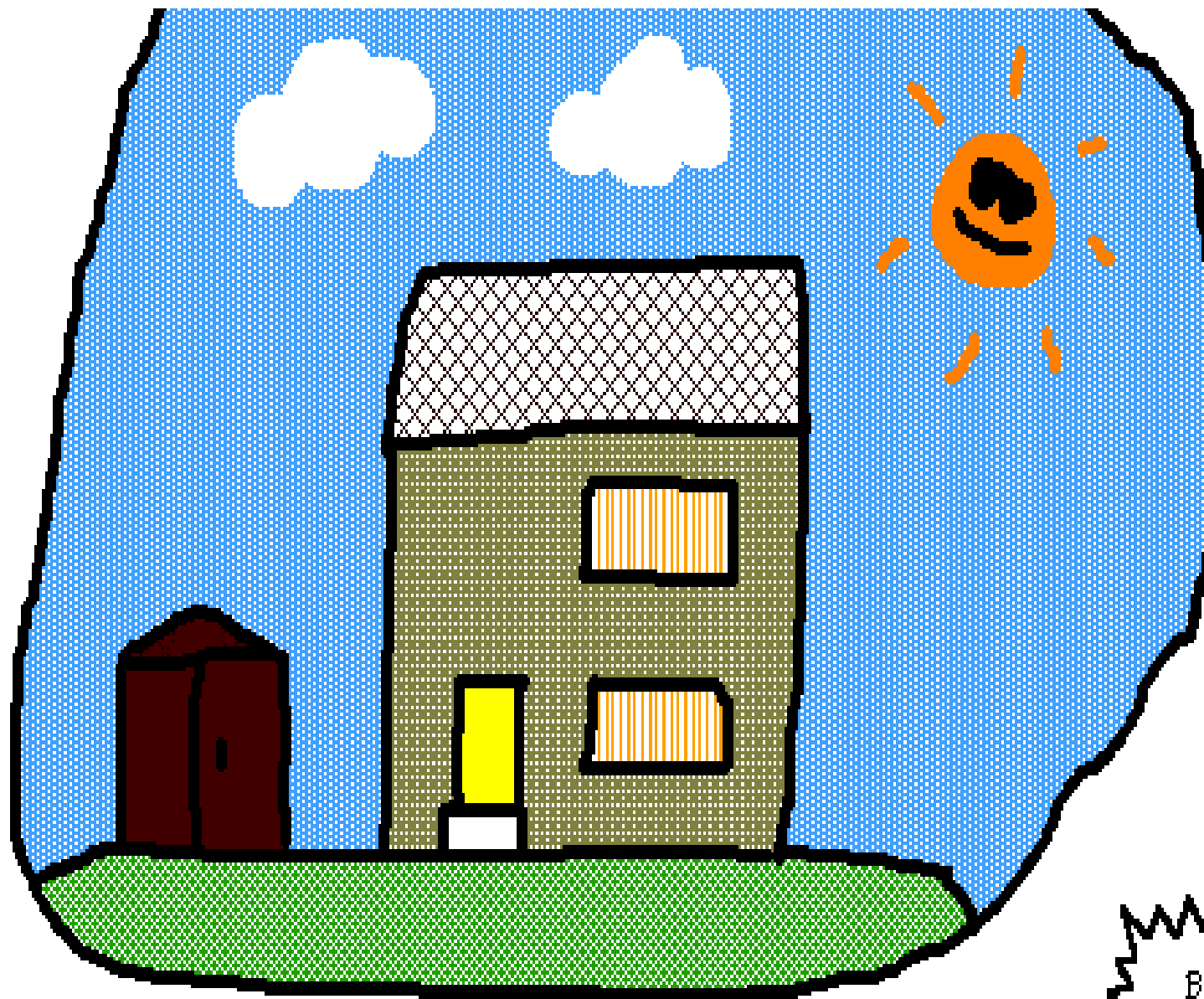


THERE IS NO
MORE ROOM
INSIDE MY
HEAD SO ILL
JUST GO TO
BED

BY: C. AGE
NEARLY 15



...aid
...ing...
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BY SCOTT
AGE 15

THINGS GOT BETTER

How we became involved

- Through support offered by Women's Aid, we were given the opportunity to make our voice heard at a higher level
- Once this opportunity was made, 100's of children and young people in Scotland became involved, and we took the lead in campaigning

Ways which we were involved

- We have shaped policy:
 - The National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People
- We have shaped practice:
 - Listen Louder – 3 year campaign to improve services (aimed at government policy makers and local service-providers)
- We have shaped research:
 - An innovative example of children and young people's involvement is designing, developing and overseeing research projects. This research was done **with** children and young people, rather than for/about them

My Story

- I experienced domestic abuse, and received support from a local Scottish Women's Aid project
- A result of this experience was that I understood:
 - What type of support is needed
 - What forms of support actually work
- We feel that children and young people become experts through these experiences. I have a unique insight of:
 - The fear associated with domestic abuse
 - Having to deal with police and courts
 - Being made homeless, and the humiliation that is a part of that, both at school and in life in general
 - The difficulty of getting a new home



My own participation

- Local and national campaigning
- The “Listen Louder” campaign:
 - We were actually invited to speak directly to government ministers and have our voice heard
- As a result of this campaign the government set up a high level national group to write a delivery plan for children and young people in Scotland:
 - The group is made up of senior civil servants from justice, health, education, housing as well as involvement from high-level police services
 - As a result of prior successful campaigning, the government has committed to ensuring that children and young people have a meaningful role in shaping future developments

Why we are still involved

- It's simple:
 - We believe that the difference we have made is incredibly important; we are not paid, we commit voluntarily
 - We don't want others to experience what we went through
 - We just want to make things better for other children and young people

The difference we have made

- As a direct result of the participation children and young people made, we have:
 - Secured major funding for specialist support work for children and young people.
 - During the time we have been involved, funding for this support has been consistent. We have ensured that no matter where children and young people live that they have access to this specialist support

But what now?

- The National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People was launched in June.
- I and other children and young people continue to have a role in how this plan is implemented.
- This is an important plan which has £10 million attached to make it work.

Thank you for your attention! 😊

- Here are some useful links

- Scottish Women's Aid:

<http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/>

- National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/17115558/12>

- Making A Difference – Young People Speak to Scottish Ministers:

<http://openscotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/17120134/9>



Further links

- Children & Young People as Partners in the Design and Commissioning of Research:
http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/research_reports/SWA_Children_As_Partners_In_Research.pdf
- Support Needs of Children and Young People who have to move because of Domestic Abuse:
http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/assets/files/publications/research_reports/SWA_Support_Needs_Of_Children_Who_Have_To_Move_House_Because.pdf