

scottishdetaineevisitors

Annual Report

2011

Chair's Report

2011 saw SDV moving towards the end of its first decade as an independent charity, visiting people detained in Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre since 2002. During this time, SDV visitors have provided emotional and practical support to almost a thousand people in detention, many with limited other contact with the outside world. Like many others involved with SDV, I find this milestone has a bitter-sweet element to it. I am very proud to be involved with such a worthwhile organisation, performing a vital role in supporting incredibly isolated and stigmatised people, but at the same time hope for a time when people are not in detention and that SDV does not need to continue to do this work.

It is clear though that the work is needed, in 2011, SDV's committed visitors, supported by SDV co-ordinator, Anna Beesley, visited 142 people from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. A range of information on the detainees SDV visited and the support given is outlined later in this report. Whilst these statistics provide us with useful information on the work of SDV throughout the year, it is also important to remember the harder to record benefits of human contact and relief from isolation provided by SDV visitors' with compassion and dedication.

In terms of SDV's development as an organisation, 2011 has been a busy year, working with existing and new visitors and planning our first Development Workshop for early 2012. This will be an annual training and development event for visitors and committee members – reviewing what we're doing, how to do it best and keeping the support we provide effective. The committee has seen a number of developments throughout 2011, with new committee members coming on board and Catrin Evans the long-standing Chair stepping down at the last AGM. Martin Deane took on the role of Chair for most of the latter part of 2011, Martin passed on comments regarding his time with SDV:

"I was chair of SDV for only a short while having been a visitor for several years and acting on the committee. I have now moved away and had a chance to reflect further on its work, I am possibly more impressed now with the value of SDV's work. Detainees will always arrive at Dungavel feeling isolated, and many in our society wish for them to be and feel forgotten too. SDV visitors bring friendship and support, every week of the year, without prejudice to these vulnerable people. With this action, they quietly reflect the very best and most decent of Scottish society."

Having been involved with SDV for a number of years, I have been sitting in as a Chair since Martin moved on in Autumn 2011. The strength of SDV is such that, throughout all this change the organisation has continued to run very effectively – largely due to the hard work of the co-ordinator, committee members and visitors. Thanks to everyone for their support during 2011 and let's look forward to a reflective 2012 when SDV formally celebrates its 10 year anniversary.

Catriona Gibson

Chair

Coordinator's Report

The UK detention estate has gone through many changes in 2011. Lindhome IRC closed yet Morton hall opened in May, followed by Larne Short Term Holding facility in Northern Ireland, and a 'Pre-departure accommodation unit' holding families waiting to be removed was added to the estate in Sussex. Dungavel has also gone through changes as GEO Group took over the security contract from G4S in September.

Turning to SDV, I'd like to start, as ever, by thanking all the volunteer visitors and management committee without whom SDV would not exist. The visitors put in so much effort, time and care to fulfill SDV's core aim of alleviating feelings of isolation and disempowerment for the people detained in Dungavel IRC.

In 2011 my hours increased to 2 and half days a week primarily to set up a monthly 'Section 4 Advice Workshop' in Dungavel, a service that would give detainees information on the support they are entitled to after detention. Unfortunately we have been met with quite a bit of resistance from the centre in allowing us to do this. After a year of work and quarterly meetings with GEO and UKBA staff at Dungavel we are not prepared to give up so will go into 2012 arguing that this is an important service that we can provide.

Besides these frustrations, my work has been focused on awareness raising and working within networks to raise issues in immigration detention. In January, along with Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees and an immigration solicitor I presented a paper on Indefinite Detention to the Cross Party Action Group on Refugees and Asylum Seekers at the Scottish Parliament. This was a great opportunity to get our voices heard by MSPs.

In February I co-delivered, with the SRC, a half day training session on Detention to the Red Cross staff and volunteers. It's important that people working with people whom are vulnerable to detention are aware of Dungavel and the practicalities to follow if someone is detained.

SDV joined the Detention Forum in 2011, a network of NGOs who are working together to build a momentum to question the legitimacy of immigration detention which has become such a normal part of the British immigration system. Being one of the few members in Scotland it is important that we feed into the UK wide debate.

In July AVID delivered a training day for all SVD visitors on the network of visitor groups and supporting vulnerable groups in detention. It was also an opportunity for visitors to hear how other visiting groups work and what services they provide.

We saw a few of the long term detainees, and people who we visited very regularly, released or deported in 2011. One was a man who was detained for almost two years and another, a woman who was detained for over a year. Some of these are happy stories, others were very sad, but I know that the visitors will not forget them, their fantastic personalities and their struggles.

2011 has been an interesting year and I look forward to working with all the inspiring people involved in SDV in 2012.

Anna Beesley
Coordinator

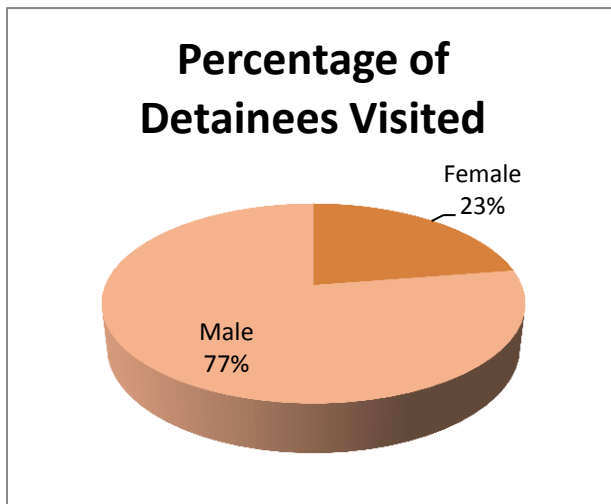
What did SDV do in 2011?

Internal Evaluation:

In 2011 SDV underwent an internal evaluation of our services. We wanted to find out the extent of the *impact* of SDV's services, what changes for the people we seek to support as a result of our involvement.

We gathered information using a variety of methods, in recognition of the diverse cultures of those we support and uniquely difficult circumstances. We undertook semi-structured focus groups and individual interviews with detainees and circulated structured questionnaires to all of the detainees we were presently visiting and all of our active visitors

Our evaluation demonstrated that SDV continues to provide a service to detainees which is unique and of a high quality, meeting our identified outcomes. The evaluation also enabled us to show that a relatively small amount of funding can have a considerable impact on a significant number of a very vulnerable and extremely isolated people. The evaluation also provided us with a framework to ensure the quality of our service for the future.



SDV visited a total of **142** detainees over 2011. The ratio of men and women is consistent with the ratio overall in the detention estate.

SDV's fundraising

An emphasis was placed on informal fundraising in 2011:

- SDV raised £419 at a ceilidh in June
- A pub quiz in November raised £152
- Mary-Kate and Catrin raised £190 running a half marathon

Visiting Detainees

SDV's core aim is to alleviate feelings of isolation and stress for people detained in Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre through the emotional, practical, and social support visitors provide. Dungavel is in an extremely isolated location with poor public transport links, SDV relies on visitors giving up time and using their own cars to travel there every Monday and Thursday evening.

Now with **35** active visitors SDV made **97** visits to Dungavel in 2011, despite having to cancel visits at the end of the year due to bad weather.

The average number of detainees seen on each visit was **6** yet varied from **1** to **11**. The average number of visitors on a visit was **4** like in 2010.

Providing support to detainees

At the core of SDV’s work is providing both emotional and practical support. Detainees may enter Dungavel with few or no belongings and to help alleviate the isolation this creates, SDV offers many practical services and items. In 2011 visitors:

Provided **514** phone cards

Provided toiletries, clothes, and holdalls on **155** occasions

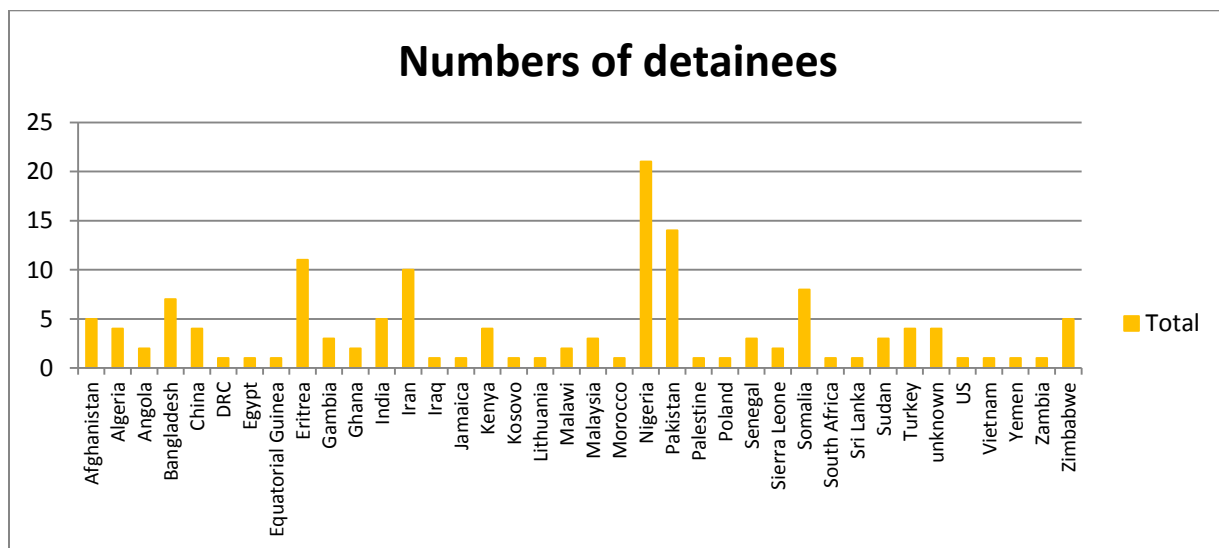
Gave £20 emergency money to **17** detainees when they were removed

Supplied written information and paperwork

Liaised with lawyers and other organisations on behalf of detainees once a week

Retrieved personal belongings from the detainees point of detention and took them to Dungavel

Made Medical Justice Referrals for **4** detainees with medical issues that were either going untreated or were being treated unsatisfactory.



Where are the detainees from?

In 2011, SDV visitors supported detainees from **38** different countries. The country producing the highest number of detainees was **Nigeria** (21 detainees). As in 2010 **Pakistan** produced the second highest number of detainees (14) we visited. In 2011, significant numbers of detainee visited also came from **Iran** and **Eritrea**.

SDV's Visitors

'It has changed my perception of life in Glasgow and its and my own, relationship to the rest of the world'

SDV volunteer

SDV's Induction and Recruitment Days have continued to be a success throughout 2011. We have never been short of applicants and ran 3 successful days in 2011 recruiting 16 new visitors, including speakers of Chinese, Urdu, Hindi, and Punjabi.

A substantial amount of support that visitors give detainees happens outside of the visits. Visitors often contact detainees outside visiting hours by email or phone to see how they are doing. A few detainees that we have visited in 2011 were released on bail to Glasgow and other places, and visitors have continued to emotionally support them in dealing with the often very challenging life, once released.

It can be quite a stressful and emotionally draining at times, thus we acknowledge the importance of supporting our visitors.

'She made me a CD as we like the same music – that's what we always

talk about' detainee

Visitor Updates held every 6 weeks provide a basis for support and a chance for everyone to get together.

In 2011 we invited a wide range of external speakers and trainers to the meetings:

- Fraser Latta an immigration solicitor from **Hamilton Burns** who gave a beginners guide to the legal system, terms, policy and the reality of practise. SDV have been working closely with him throughout the year.
- **Glasgow Association of Mental Health** (GAMH) gave a training session on mental health awareness and what to do if visiting someone with mental health problems. This is very pertinent for SDV's work in Dungavel.
- Barah from **Refugee Action** gave a briefing on their 'Choices' project which took over the contract for voluntary returns from IOM.

SDV has joined  like us at Scottish Detainee Visitors

In 2012 SDV plans to:

- Continue to provide twice-weekly visits to Dungavel and, to reach out to more detainees who may need our services.
- Continue to run Induction and Recruitment Days to train and recruit new visitors.
- Continue to argue for our proposed monthly Advice Workshop in Dungavel.
- Provide one full day's training for all visitors each year.
- Carry out a Development Workshop in order to review and renew our service
- Conduct an internal evaluation of SDV's services with focus on SDV visitors
- Celebrate SDV's 10 year anniversary as an opportunity to raise public awareness about detention issues.

Financial Accounts 1 January–31 December 2011

INCOME	2011	2010	EXPENDITURE	2011	2010
	£	£		£	£
Restricted					
Tudor Trust	15,000	15,000	Coordinator Costs	12,910	9,907
SRC	140		Visit Travel Expenses	1,882	1,870
AB Charitable Trust		5,000	Detainee Items, Emergency	3,869	3,811
Total Restricted	15,140	20,000	Payments & Phone Cards		
Unrestricted			Training/Meeting Costs	1,424	1,291
Donations	2,119	1,907	Memberships/Subscriptions	275	425
Interest	59	203	Admin and website	226	147
Fundraising events	710		Insurance	288	286
Gift Aid	602		Fundraising Costs	250	20
Other income	218	500			
Total Unrestricted	3709	2,610	Total Expenditure	21,124	17,757
Total Income	18,849	22,610	Operating Surplus/deficit	-2,275	4,854

Treasurer’s Report

In 2011, SDV received the final installment of our three year grant from the Tudor Trust. This award has provided welcome stability to the organisation and we thank Tudor for their support. The Scottish Refugee Council continued to provide us with office space and supplies and this year also awarded us a training grant for our coordinator.

In 2011, we focused on increasing our informal fundraising. We held two fundraising events and received increased donations from individuals. We thank all the people who supported us in this way throughout the year. We intend to continue to increase income from these sources in 2012.

As noted earlier in this report, we increased our coordinator’s hours in 2011. This accounts largely for our higher expenditure, as other costs remained stable.

SDV has successfully retained healthy cash reserves throughout the year. However, we begin 2012 with no major grants in place to support our work. The focus for the coming year, therefore, will be on seeking medium to long term support from grant making bodies to secure the future of the organisation.

Kate Alexander
Treasurer

Thanks

SDV Committee

Catriona Gibson (Chair)
 Mary Kate Dickie (Vice Chair)
 Clare Malloy (Secretary)
 Kate Alexander (Treasurer)
 Giovanna Fassetta
 Kavitha Ratnam
 Marion Fairweather
 Martin Dean (until October 2011)

Other SDV Members

Jennifer Ades
 Charlotte Ager
 Rima Al-khalidi
 Anna Beesley (Coordinator)
 Lisa Bolland
 Colin Chapman
 Mary Child
 Anna Cook
 Erika Crichton
 Elizabeth Fahling
 Tegan Ellery Farrell
 Joe Farquhar
 Moya Flynn
 Natasha Fulleton
 Chris Gilligan
 Joanne Grant

Claire Green
 Alex Hamilton
 Razgar Hassan
 Katie Hawkins
 Hamish Innes
 Catriona Jinks
 Trevor Joice
 Caitlin Jones
 Karen Leaney
 Natasha Lyon
 Alistair Malloy
 Catriona Matheson
 Mark MacDonald
 Robert McAdam
 Morag McDowall
 Siobhan McGurk
 Dermot McGonigle
 Sean McLean
 Linda McMillan
 Marta Menchi
 Stuart Midgley
 Sarmed Mirza
 Kerry Nesbitt
 Michelle Opit
 Thompson Osadolor
 Crystal Pan
 Claire Purcell
 Stevie Purcell
 Wendy Rankin

Caroline Reid
 Ross Reid
 Daisy Richardson
 Marie-Laure Ross
 Mairi Sabate
 Mary Shields
 Rachel Simpson
 Isla Swales
 Alison Swinfen
 Alex Taylor
 Duncan Toms
 Jan Turnbull
 Marie Valente
 Kate Vicors
 Maeve Wightman
 Graeme Williamson
 Gerry Wilson
 Mhairi Young
 Thomas Younger

SDV Funders

Tudor Trust
 Scottish Refugee Council

And; Everyone who donated, sponsored, attended events and set up standing orders