

scottishdetaineevisitors

**Annual Report
&
Review of 2012**

Chair's report

SDV has now been visiting people detained in Dungavel for a decade. During this time, our dedicated visitors have provided emotional support to over a thousand detainees, many of whom had no friends or family nearby to offer relief from feelings of isolation, powerlessness and frustration. Our visitors have also provided practical help: contacting lawyers and friends on behalf of detainees, writing letters to MPs, buying items of clothing and toiletries, and collecting detainees' belongings from other parts of the UK. Several visitors have also been able to maintain contacts and friendships with ex-detainees who were either released in the UK or returned to their countries of provenance.

In 2012 Anna Beesley left her post as SDV coordinator, to be replaced by Kate Alexander. Anna was happy to be co-opted into the committee and to contribute to its work, adding to it the important insights and skills gained during her time as coordinator.

The committee has seen a number of developments throughout 2012. I replaced Catriona Gibson as the chair of the committee, while the role of treasurer passed from Kate Alexander to Marion Fairweather. Mary Child is the new secretary, while Nina Murray is the new vice-chair of the committee. Duncan Toms and Chris Gilligan also joined the committee.

The statistics presented later in this report provide a useful insight into SDV's work and

give a snapshot of our activity. However, the most important part of our work is the less measurable but nevertheless invaluable human contact, non-judgmental support and encouragement provided by visitors.

After 10 years, SDV is still doing its work in Dungavel with commitment and conviction. We would like our work to become redundant by seeing the end of the practice of administrative detention for immigration purposes. However, for as long as people are detained in Dungavel, we believe that the work SDV does is important in alleviating the isolation and helplessness that detainees often experience. The commitment to this cause of visitors and committee members alike is remarkable.

We have the capacity to continue delivering our service, at least in the short term. Nevertheless, the current challenging funding environment means that the financial resources needed to continue SDV's work are harder to secure and that a greater effort is needed to ensure that regular income is obtained. To this end, the committee has drafted several funding applications this year and will continue to do so. However, we also invite all SDV members, supporters, and volunteers to think of ways to contribute to informal fundraising opportunities, including the regular use of Easyfundraising for online shopping.

Giovanna Fassetta
Chair, SDV

Coordinator's report

In August 2012, I returned to the role of coordinator of SDV having previously held it between 2005 and 2009. Until then, Anna Beesley was the coordinator, and I am happy to say that despite leaving that role, she will be staying closely involved with the organisation as a member of the management committee. This report covers her last months as well as my first.

2012 was SDV's 10th Anniversary year and Anna was successful in securing a small grant from the Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees (AVID) to allow us to celebrate this milestone with an event during Refugee Week and a party for visitors and members past and present.

'Indefinite Detention in Scotland', our Refugee Week event, was hosted at the CCA in Glasgow and included a screening of 'How Long is Indefinite?', a film on indefinite detention in the UK, followed by a panel discussion featuring Sandra White MSP and former immigration detainees. The event was well attended, relaxed and provoked a lively discussion.

The party was an altogether more informal affair and allowed people who have been involved in SDV over its ten year existence to get together and have a drink, a snack and a dance. It also allowed us to raise some money with a raffle and bingo with some great prizes donated by supporters.

Throughout the year, we continued to visit detainees in Dungavel, twice a week, offering much needed support to some of the most isolated people in Scotland. Subsequent pages of this Annual Report give further detail about this core aspect of our work.

Towards the end of the year we finally secured the agreement of UKBA and the management of Dungavel to begin a new monthly drop-in service for detainees at the centre. Anna had designed the service and had been negotiating hard for it for some time and it was unfortunate that it was only after she left that agreement was reached. However, a six-month pilot of the new service began in March 2013 and early indications are very positive. We will be able to report on this in more detail next year.

We held two really successful recruitment and induction days during the year, enabling us to maintain the strength of our visiting team. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and commitment over the year. Thanks also go to the management committee and especially to Anna.

Kate Alexander
Coordinator, SDV

SDV's activities in 2012

SDV provides practical, social and emotional support to people detained in Dungavel. Our core methods are befriending, visitor support and partnership working.

Befriending

In 2012, SDV made 99 visits to Dungavel. Because of the isolated location of the centre, we rely on members' own cars to travel to Dungavel in groups of up to five, twice a week.

'It's very, very difficult for my friends to visit me. It's so expensive to get to Dungavel from England'
 Detainee

Over the year, we visited a total of 137 detainees. The average number of detainees seen on each visit was seven but the number varied from just one to 15.

As usual, the majority of the people we visited were men (87%). The proportion of women we visited fell in 2012 to 13%, compared to 22% in 2011. Women in Dungavel can be particularly isolated and our visitors work hard to ensure they have the opportunity to speak to a woman visitor on her own if they wish.

In 2012, SDV visitors supported detainees from 35 different countries. As the table below shows, the country producing the

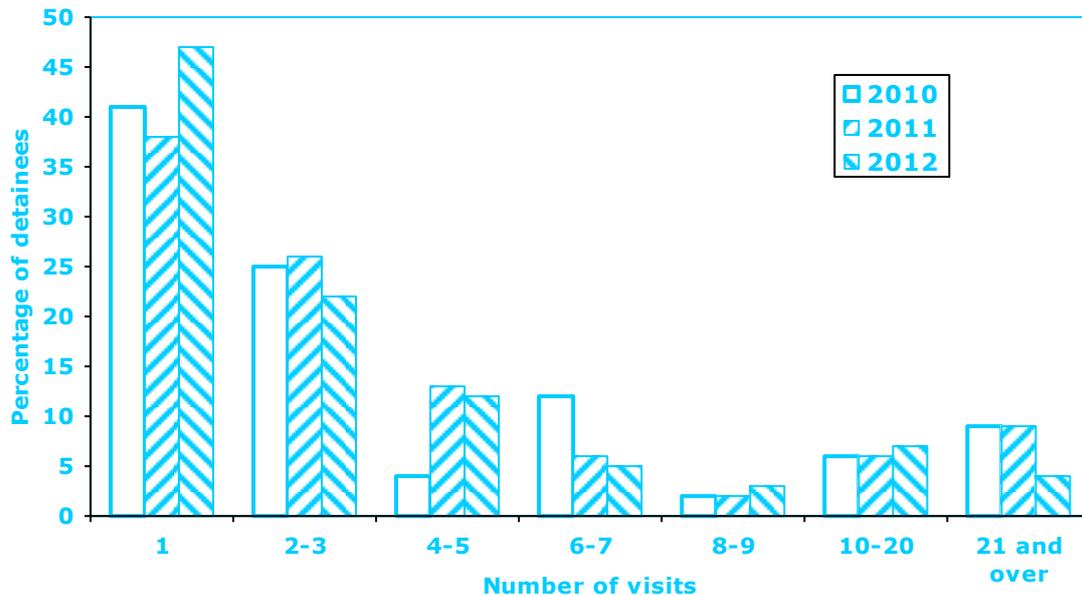
highest number of detainees we visited was Pakistan (30 detainees). India was next (23 detainees), followed by Nigeria (14) and Bangladesh (11).

Country of origin of detainees 2012 (top 10 countries)

Country	No of detainees	% of detainees
Pakistan	30	22
India	23	17
Nigeria	14	10
Bangladesh	11	8
Algeria	7	5
Ghana	5	4
China	4	3
Afghanistan	3	2
Sudan	3	2
Vietnam	3	2

Over two thirds of the detainees we see are seen three times or fewer (see chart below), with nearly half seen on just one visit. However, there is no time limit on immigration detention in the UK and as a result a small number of people remain in detention for many months or even years. SDV visitors form long-term supportive relationships with detainees in this position. As the chart shows, in the last three years, between 5% and 10% of the detainees we have visited have been seen 21 times or more. In 2012, one detainee received his 108th visit and another received his 82nd.

Number of visits received by detainees 2010 - 2012



The support SDV provides reflects the needs of detainees. People detained in Dungavel suffer both physical and social isolation. Our visits help to reduce that isolation by providing contact with the outside world. We can also offer practical support to help maintain contact with their families, lawyers and other support networks.

In 2012, SDV:

- provided 524 phone cards and 12 mobile top ups;
- provided 14 emergency payments of £20 to detainees who were being removed from the country;
- provided clothes, toiletries and other small gifts once a week;
- liaised with lawyers, medical justice and other organisations on behalf of 34 detainees;
- assisted in tracing and retrieving missing belongings for 9 detainees.

Visitor support

A key part of our work is visitor support and we began 2012 with a development workshop for all visitors. The purpose of the workshop was to refresh visitors’ knowledge and understanding of our policies and procedures, and to seek their views on the way the organisation currently operates and how it should develop in the future.

Feedback from the event was very positive and a number of changes to organisational practice have been implemented as a result of it. These include changes to the way visits are organised and recorded and refinements to our confidentiality policy.

Visiting in groups ensures that visitors receive informal support from each other during and after every visit. But we also provide more formal support in the form of our day-long induction session and regular meetings, to which we invite speakers on

topics of relevance to our visitors' work. Speakers in 2012 included Priscille Mulhearn from Scottish Refugee Council, who spoke to our visitors about the services available to detainees in Glasgow should they be released from detention. This provided an extremely useful briefing for the visitors who went on to staff our new drop-in service at Dungavel, which began in the new year. At another meeting, Dr Alan Mitchell, one of the team of GPs who visit the centre, described the health services available there. Detainees' often deteriorating health is a frequent concern of our visitors, so this talk was particularly welcome.

"I enjoyed the induction day and I thought that the recruitment was thorough and professional. It shows respect and consideration for the people who are in detention not to accept visitors without making sure they are up to the task and have good references."

SDV visitor

Partnership working

SDV has always operated within a network of organisations and voluntary groups working on immigration, asylum and detention in Scotland. In 2012 SDV led on setting up a more formal network focusing specifically on detention. Established as a subgroup of the long established Detention Forum in England, the new Detention Forum Scotland has the following aims:

- To facilitate a conversation about immigration detention across the relevant sectors/workers;

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- To maintain a critical eye on immigration detention in Scotland;
- To raise awareness of the issues within immigration detention in Scotland;
- To facilitate information sharing, guidance and signposting

The first meeting of the forum took place in September 2012 and included representatives from ten organisations including frontline advice and advocacy services, legal representatives, community groups and academic institutions. Regular meetings will continue throughout 2013.

Treasurer's report

In 2012, SDV did not meet our formal fundraising target, despite several applications to major funders including the Bromley Trust, and we ended the year with a deficit of over £10,000.

We started the year with healthy cash reserves and have managed our expenditure well, reducing costs while maintaining the same level of visits. Scottish Refugee Council continues to provide SDV with office space and supplies, which has been a huge support to the organisation and helps us to manage our expenditure.

In 2012 we increased our informal fundraising with generous donations from individuals and institutions including the Iona Community. In celebration of SDV's 10th anniversary we held a ceilidh which gave us an opportunity to fundraise and

thank members for all their hard work in the past 10 years. Informal fundraising is a valuable source of security in our funding and this is an area we are hoping to develop in 2013.

If approved at our AGM, a proposed change to SDV's membership requiring a paid subscription will provide a stable source of income, which can be used to support our work. In the current climate it is becoming more difficult to secure funding especially for the smaller essential costs like phone cards and travel costs.

SDV's committee will continue to focus on medium to long term funding from grant-making bodies to secure and develop the organisation, as well as developing our

informal fundraising through events, donations and promoting the easyfundraising website. This is a competitive time to apply for grants and unfortunately few funders support projects involved with asylum seekers and detainees. While SDV has sufficient cash reserves for the next year, developing and securing our funding is a priority.

SDV really appreciates the help and support of its members and well-wishers over the past 10 years and would ask them for their continued support to ensure that SDV is able to continue to support vulnerable detainees and develop the organisation.

Marion Fairweather
Treasurer, SDV

Financial accounts 1 January–31 December 2012

INCOME	2012	2011	EXPENDITURE	2012	2011
	£	£		£	£
Restricted					
Tudor Trust		15,000	Staff Costs	13,623	12,910
Norda Trust	4,000		Detainee items, phone cards & emergency payments	3,040	3,869
AVID	500				
SRC		140			
Total restricted	4,500	15,140	Visit travel expenses	2,024	1,882
			Training/meeting costs	1,084	1,424
Unrestricted			Memberships / subscriptions	332	275
Donations & fundraising	4,020	2,829	Insurance	265	288
Gift Aid & interest	1,002	661	Fundraising Costs	364	250
Other income	1,182	218	Admin and website	242	226
Total unrestricted	6,204	3,708	Total Expenditure	20,974	21,124
Total Income	10,704	18,848	Operating deficit	-10,270	-2,276

Thanks

SDV committee

Anna Beesley
Mary Child
Marion Fairweather
Giovanna Fassetta
(Chair)
Chris Gilligan
Siobhan McGurk
Nina Murray (Vice
Chair)
Duncan Toms

Nicola Howard
Hamish Innes
Nicola Jeffrey
Louise King
Alistair Malloy
Clare Malloy
Kuhelie Masse
Robert McAdam
Mark McDonald
Morag McDowall
Julie McGee
Dermot McGonigle

Peter Sullivan
Michael Sutherland
Alison Swinfen
Alex Taylor
Mark Taylor
Chiew-Siah Tei
Marie Valente
Maeve Wightman
Graeme Williamson
Mhairi Young
Thomas Younger

Other SDV members

Katie Allan
Dan Brennan
Lisa Bolland
Colin Chapman
Claire Cody
Mary Kate Dickie
Catrin Evans
Moya Flynn
Catriona Gibson
Claire Green
Alex Hamilton
Razgar Hassan
Katie Hawkins
Peter Hendrikson

Fiona McGrogan
Sean McLean
Grace McLean
Fiona McQuillin
Linda McMillan
Brian McMullan
Mary Millington
Barbara Nicholl
Michelle Opit
Wendy Rankin
Caroline Reid
Alan Robertson
Barbara Robinson
Emma Smith
Sarah Smith

SDV funders

Norda Trust
AVID
Scottish Refugee
Council

And

Everyone who donated,
sponsored, attended
events and set up
standing orders in
2012.