

Remembering the Positivity of International Women's Day in these Challenging Times

The month of March started so positively with our preparations for International Women's Day (8th March). But as we end the month in Covid-19 lockdown, practicing social distancing and with the Aspire centre itself forced to close, this seems the perfect time to look back on something positive which brought us all together.



The day itself took place on Sunday March 8th with this year's theme being "Each for Equal," but Aspire held events and celebrations in the whole week prior, with particular highlights being our incentre service user celebration on Tuesday followed by an open invitation to professionals and organisations from across the North East on Friday 6th. However, the event that our women most look forward to is the annual trip to Beamish Museum on Saturday 7th March to take part in the suffragette marches, choir and protest recreations – in full costume of course!



Above: Aspire women in full period costume for our IWD Beamish visit

Left: IWD Celebrations also took place at Aspire itself throughout the week

Below: Aspire women march as suffragettes for IWD





With public gatherings currently banned and museums like Beamish currently closed it seems like a very long time ago that we gathered to sing empowering women's anthems and make our suffragette political statement.

The Aspire women had put a huge amount of effort into their costumes, working on them during special sessions put on in the centre and working together to collect and make period elements such as decorated hats and sashes in the colours of the suffragette movement.

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 every year, as a day dedicated to recognising the achievements of women throughout history and all across the globe, and is a day for women from all classes, races and cultures to band together to fight for gender parity and women's rights. As we end March amidst a national health crisis, women will again be called upon to band together in our isolation and social distancing especially as it is women who do the majority or care work and childcare. Aspire will be available online via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (as well as our [website](#)) for updates, information and positivity until we can open our doors once more and offer our learning, support and wellbeing services for the women of the North East.

Right: women sing their hearts out for women's rights at Beamish

Above: Aspire women entertain visitors to Beamish recreating a suffragette protest

