

Dear Prayer Supporters

What you do makes a difference – thank God!

You'll be pleased that 'Move On Drop-In' is making progress. Staff and partners are really excited because women who are ready to leave our current drop in will know there is something for them, something which continues our support and love for them.

Partners

Regular meetings with Beloved and I.SAVVIE (partners in this pilot) have helped develop a programme of activities which support wellbeing, develop skills and provide opportunities to volunteer. Ultimately, we hope to support women to find work and become emotionally *and* financially independent. If possible, the pilot will start in the spring, three days a week.

Funding

So, the plan is for the move on drop-in to grow to a full five-day programme midday to 7pm. Please pray for us: we need to secure appropriate funding and recruit two staff members to run all the activities. With seventeen women fully signed up now to Pause Bristol, we're close to our pilot capacity of twenty. The team are seeing beautiful changes in these women's lives, from the fragile to the substantial. All these are precious and I ask you to keep praying as we seek continuation funding for the programme.

Prayer in the city

I have a brief for 'hidden homeless women' as part of the Golden Key Systems Change group. This group makes real changes happen, helping partner services work together to best support people with complex needs. It's a privilege to represent the women and their needs. One of our Pause team commented recently:

"The women we work with need as many members of the community around them and thinking about them as possible."

It was so good to know you were for praying for homeless women over Christmas – thank you. Four women were recently housed (one was living in a car) and they're safer and stronger as a result.

The next Vision for the Vulnerable meeting is on Tuesday 20 March at Ebenezer Church, 286 Filton Avenue, Bristol, BS7 0BA. Sam will be there, praying with people for the women and work of One25. Please come along if you can.

Please pray for these particular women:

On the outside, little has changed for **Lucy** since her brother's funeral. We gave her a card to encourage her to keep coming to drop-in after her few recent visits. Please keep praying for her safety as she asks.

Although **Portia** was safely housed for the first time in a long while, she left her accommodation, went missing in December and is missing again. Pray that she is found and that she knows she is supported; for her to find us and keep sharing her moments of joy with caseworkers.

After some terrible news in prison about a genetic condition, **Jamelia** felt utter despair. But her faith in God has been renewed and made strong; she wants to live with more of God in her life. She's now very positive. Give praise for God's faithfulness; ask that Jamelia is held close and kept safe on her release.

Please thank God that **Rhian** has been offered a job and ask a blessing on this. She's still processing the risks that her partner poses to her and is finding this really tough. Please pray for Rhian's strength and safety if she decides she is able to leave the relationship.

Camilla prays a lot with volunteers in drop-in. She's been sober and calmer more often. She's regularly sex-working but she's keeping her accommodation which we had been worried she might lose. Pray that she is not lonely, that she finds a peace that heals.

Shana has very limited options and is homeless. Her trauma and mental health is rapidly worsening. Her behaviour is almost at a point where she will need to be kept out of drop-in. There is some help available but she refuses it at the moment – please pray that she finds herself ready soon.

"He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire.

He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along.

He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God.

Many will see what he has done and be amazed.

They will put their trust in the Lord."

(Psalm 40:2-3)

Amen.



Anna Smith
Chief Executive Officer