

Summer 2017 prayer letter

## **Dear Prayer Supporters**

Thank you for your prayers for all of us working here at One25. It's been a beautiful experience for me and, I believe, for the organisation, to welcome new colleagues, to learn together and to give of ourselves more and more in serving the women we meet.

As Pause Bristol begins in June, we welcome five new members of staff in new premises at St Agnes Church. Please pray for our thinking as we discern the right women to work with. And for those women to see the hope offered through the programme and to have the bravery to come forward.

I ask for your prayers for One25's synergies, its relationships and partnerships, within and without. May we express God's Kingdom in and through all this. Please continue, too, to support our Vision for the Vulnerable prayer partners: Beloved, Spring of Hope, Unseen and, newly, Crisis Centre Ministries.

## **In demand**

The high number of women visiting drop-in is putting great pressure on staff and volunteers. We are privileged to get to know these women as they begin their journeys away from street sex work. Please pray that we find ways of working well with the demand.

An answer to prayer since the last Vision for the Vulnerable meeting: the average number of women we see on outreach has begun to pick up. Please pray for this to continue so that we can help women on the streets.

## **No home**

A van team leader commented recently that she'd never seen homelessness as bad as it currently is. It is a constant struggle to get housing for women and it is a real achievement for many of them to hold on to it. But without that stability it is so, so hard to make personal progress in other areas. Please pray for our work with Bristol City Council's 'Golden Key' group, our partners at Bristol City Housing our work alongside Cllr Paul Smith (who takes a particular interest in homelessness and One25), and for all the 'hidden homeless' in our city.

## **The future**

Uncertainty is something charities face daily. So do we all as individuals, families and communities as the election looms. But for most of the women sex-working on the streets of Bristol, the election won't make much difference – their lives couldn't be more uncertain. Pray that governments have good regard for the marginalised in our world, and that these women come to find stability and trust through the relationships they build with us.

**Please pray for these particular women:**

**Lucy** is upbeat but still street sex-working. She keeps asking for us to pray for her safety. We want to help her flourish too. She is not interested in casework at the moment and hasn't been to drop-in for over a year. Pray that she comes to drop-in and experiences the love and support that is here for her.

**Jamelia** in prison continues to face very frightening possibilities but seems transformed and is thinking carefully about how to make the best of her future. Give thanks that she has found such insight and resolve. Please pray that she has the strength and support to focus on her new goals.

**Camilla** is still extremely vulnerable and with no recourse to public funds because of her immigration status. But she is at drop-in every day and is proactive in getting support for her emotional and physical health, and legal help. Please pray that her hopes are blessed.

**Portia's** poor mental health means she has been sectioned. She'd been locked in someone's house, repeatedly assaulted and now her violent ex has been released from prison. Please pray for her to know she is loved and deserves a life of hope and joy. Let her know healing and peace.

**Lulu** still wants to fight her addiction and she makes good progress. She feels frustrated with herself but is now in rehab where therapy can help her with confidence and self-esteem. Pray that she knows God's immense love for her.

**Tonie** came out of prison a few weeks ago and was soon using drugs and homeless. We helped her to hospital and on to specialist services out of town. Please pray that her chaos and pain are healed, that she continues to recognise what is wise, and that she comes to a place of fulfilment.

**Kezia** is out of Bristol and it's now over a year she's been free from street sex work.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

The next Vision for the Vulnerable prayer meeting is on 18 July at Fishponds Baptist Church, 7.30pm to 9.30pm. We'd love to see you there.

Thank you all,



Anna Smith  
Chief Executive Officer