

DEAR SUPPORTERS,

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter. One of the things I most love about Christmas is the lights, whether it be the tree lights through windows or decorations in the city. It makes a dark time of year beautiful.

It is amazing to see at Peony how ready those women are for that next step, to move on out of the darkness and chaos of night, into structured sessions which they are helping to shape.

I am mindful that this is a very hard time for women. But staff do everything possible in the run-up to make sure that each woman does have a Christmas. There are gifts on the van and we have a special meal in drop-in with all the trimmings!

One of the women said that the van is like a 'beacon of light' and like a 'guardian angel'. I hope and pray that everything One25 does will be a light in the darkness. And when it is darker and others are in homes with families, that our women know they are not forgotten.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas wherever you are and hope you enjoy the peace with family and friends.

Anna.

Anna Smith, CEO



MARVIN'S VISIT

"It's great to be at One25 today and for my part I really see this as part of an ongoing relationship." That's what Mayor Marvin Rees said in October when he visited drop-in.

We'd worked with women to put together their top five asks for better service in the city and he was there to listen. Karena said



I'm here for the women who don't have a voice.



Marvin was challenged and impressed and invited One25 to present to the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board.

Meanwhile, there's some amazing artwork going to hang in City Hall that women have made with the lovely creative volunteer **Jemima!**

You can read more about the five asks at One25.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5 December **Santa Firewalk:** get sponsored!
11 December Deadline for returning **placecards**
Sign up or find out more at One25.org.uk



Give a woman Christmas



Christmas doesn't exist for women on the street. It's just another day.

For women street sex-working in Bristol the comforts of Christmas can feel a world away.

This year, please help us give vulnerable women a Christmas.

December doesn't feel festive when you're out in the cold, battling addiction and living in fear of violence. We'll be meeting these women on our outreach van, giving them warmth, food and safety.

£10 can give **nourishment**, filling the van with food and drinks for a night.

Donate by post or online at One25.org.uk/Give



PEONY: FROM CRISIS TO COMMUNITY

We are hugely excited that at Peony, our long-planned 'move-on drop-in' is now up and running! It is designed for those women who are doing well in their recovery and who still benefit from One25's love and support but for whom drop-in is no longer the best place. They are out of crisis and ready to take their place in the wider community.

Maria, Beth and Chloe are the Peony staff team and there is an amazing set of volunteers, some with lived experience and some who are former One25 service users! So far, 12 women have attended sessions and the Peony community is gradually building. It can be daunting for women to go somewhere new and to carry on taking brave steps. But the women we work with *are* brave.

We'll be welcoming women to our drop-in Christmas meal, where they can experience a glimpse of Christmas with a hot meal, gifts and a safe place.

Give a message of **love** and support on the starry placecard for our drop-in Christmas meal.

Please return your place card to
138a Grosvenor Rd, Bristol BS2 8YA
by **11 December**. Thank you!



BLEAK MIDWINTER

"Women worry about Christmas," says Grace (sexual and domestic violence caseworker). "They're reminded they're not with their family, that they won't have anything to eat or be able to give their children presents. They'll be in the cold, not feeling loved."

Last year at the Christmas meal, a woman told volunteer Shelley:

"I'm going to save my presents from today and open them at Christmas... I won't get any others."

And last week Siobhan told us at drop-in "You do realise by being open on Christmas Eve this year you'll be so full? None of us have anywhere to go and we love it here!" She wants to play board games.



Christmas should be a time of joy instead of crisis. Our caseworkers give specialist support to women all year round, helping them on their journeys of recovery.

£25 can give **stability** and happiness through time with a dedicated caseworker.

Donate by post or online at One25.org.uk/Give

