



For women to **heal and thrive**

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## **Dear Prayer Supporters**

We've been so grateful over the last few months to know we and the women are being prayed for and held. Now I'm really pleased to say we've been able to gradually open up services. Fewer and fewer women are as isolated as they had been during full lockdown, even though we were still able to reach them through phone calls and distanced visits for food drops.

Thank you for your prayers for the woman I mentioned last time. She'd gone back into rehab after discharging herself and we had real concerns for whether she'd make it through. It's great to be able to tell you that she stayed the course and is doing really well. Thank God!

## **Safety**

That so many women were housed during lockdown was a great blessing to them. However, these kinds of accommodation (like large hotels) weren't always best suited to their particular needs or those of the staff who weren't used to working with vulnerable adults. Drug prices doubled in this time as well, forcing some women to work the streets more often. Please pray for women who are soon coming out of this accommodation into newer set-ups, that they can stabilise and that we can support them to manage chaotic factors in their lives so they maintain their new tenancies and to stay safe.

## **Healing**

Over the next few weeks we'll be attending meetings about domestic violence with the Council and other agencies working locally. We were instrumental in getting these set up, recognising that violence and abuse as so very much a part of each woman's story. Please pray that compassion and wisdom in decision-making can help improve support. And also, always, for women to heal.

## **Thriving**

We give thanks for the work at Peony where a domestic violence and abuse course is starting soon. The specialist Freedom Programme was one of the women's five asks to Mayor Marvin Rees when he visited drop-in in 2018 and the Council has since funded training for our staff to deliver this. Please pray for the women at Peony - that all, like some of those there, will move from a dependence on support to being truly free. Please also pray for the Nelson Trust as they plan to open a women's centre in the city - that our partnership work with them will be a lasting blessing to women in Bristol.

## Praying regularly for specific women

A woman was recently subject to a horrific attack and is in intensive care. It's not possible to share details but we are visiting her as much as possible. Pray for her healing, to know she is loved, and for the safety of all the women street sex-working who are so very much at risk of serious harm.

**Shirley** has come so far of late though there have been some horrible setbacks. Her mental and physical health were bad since drug dealers occupied her flat. Then she lost her mother in the pandemic; the grief made sticking to her script really difficult. But at the same time she's reconnected with her brother who's been giving her really good support. She's stayed away from street sex work, is staying in good touch with drop-in and health services, and we hope she might start at Peony. Please pray for her healing and may God bless her incredible resilience.

It's really sad to see **Lucy** back on the street and suffering severe mental ill health. We've been keeping in contact mainly through food drops but it's wonderful that she's still in her relatively new accommodation. Please pray that she engages with the holistic mental health support we're hoping to offer her to help address her trauma; that she comes to know - and is inspired by - how precious she is.

**Camilla** has been sending most of her money to her ill mother overseas. She's been drinking heavily and has had some further difficulties with behaviour at her accommodation. Please give thanks for her housing manager who is so understanding of her vulnerability. Camilla has been very ill in hospital; please pray that we can arrange a residential detox for her alcohol use, for her mother's health and for her continued support from partner services in Bristol.

*"For you, O Lord, are my hope...  
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.  
My praise is continually of you."*

Psalm 71:5-6

Autumn's Vision for the Vulnerable meeting (from 7pm to 9pm) is on:

13 October:           on Zoom (details to follow)

Thank you,



Anna Smith  
Chief Executive Officer