



For women to **heal and thrive**

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Dear Prayer Supporters

Thank you more than ever for your support and prayers at this really challenging time. This second lockdown poses additional problems for the women, not least the weather and the lack of a coordinated approach to housing. We are concerned about them but glad that we could quickly put systems into place to support them practically and emotionally. We're so thankful for our partnership with FareShare; as soon as the lockdown was announced they adjusted their service to us, knowing we need food to give to women to prepare at home more than to make hot meals with at One25. What they've provided is also tailored to the women's needs and the facilities they have.

Giving voice

Despite the impact lockdown has on our women, existing relationships with key partners mean that we have a voice in local groups addressing domestic abuse and mental health. Both of these are being experienced in a more profound way by our women. One woman has moved back in with an abusive partner she was in the process of divorcing and we are concerned for her. Also, women's lack of access to the internet is a real disadvantage and we will make a request to the Domestic Abuse Covid Response group at the Council for funding to ensure women can access our Zoom groups and other essential support. Please pray for their understanding and give thanks for all those who work with us locally.

Room at the inn

Our amazing drop in team have already planned Christmas (more than can be said for me)! They are geared up for a number of different scenarios and can cook Christmas dinner in batches and deliver them to women. We are determined to make sure they know they are loved at this very special time and will be doing all we can to reach out to them.

Rejoice!

Lastly, a huge 'wow!' to our staff and volunteers who have continued to work to support the women throughout both lockdowns and will be out there over Christmas, even on Christmas Eve with the van's night outreach. One25 has also been nominated for an award from the Centre for Social Justice. Even if we don't win, some key people including MPs will hear more about our work and the needs of vulnerable women. This is a credit to us all as we work together.

Praying regularly for specific women

Despite her grief at losing her mother and feeling so isolated, **Shirley** had been coming to drop-in a lot and getting lots of love and support from us as well as from her brother out of town. So the second lockdown hit hard. She's isolated again, stuck in her flat which still needs a lot of repairs. And although she'd been on a script for about nine months (the longest she's ever managed) she's not been picking it up lately. Please pray that she knows she is loved, that she finds hope and a love for herself, and that she comes into drop-in when we re-open on Friday.

Although she'd gone back to street sex work, it's great that we're now seeing **Lucy** less frequently on the van. She's still on her script and actually engaging with more support than ever. Lucy needs this and Sophie is working hard to help her in her flat; after so long without safe accommodation things like keeping on top of bills and getting the right benefits are a challenge. But she's been there about a year now and we're making sure she's getting food drops too. Please pray for her safety and give thanks that she is getting so much of what she needs.

Camilla also gets food drops and looked well last time we saw her. But her alcohol use is still dangerous, especially because of her poor health. Her housing provider is so committed to working with us and lots of other local services to keep her safe. Tilly saw her recently and gave her a Christmas jumper which she was so pleased with. Camilla can feel so lonely at this time with her family overseas. She also wants to go to a detox but these services are so busy and underfunded that it's really important to get her enough time there, at the right time. Please pray that she comes back into drop-in this Friday and gets the love she needs to keep her strong and begin to stabilise.

"Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ...Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."

Isaiah 64: 1,8

Here's to a better 2021, where we can give our support in the best way, in person.

Thank you,



Anna Smith
Chief Executive Officer