

# One25

step away from the streets



2017/18

# 146 WOMEN ARE SEX-WORKING ON BRISTOL'S STREETS: IT'S DANGEROUS, LONELY AND DIFFICULT TO LEAVE

Welcome to another annual report and a proud year for One25.

Whilst we have achieved a great deal this year there is still much to do.

Bristol's homeless population continues to grow and disproportionately affect women. There has been a 20% increase in reported violence towards street sex workers. And following cuts to benefits we are seeing some women return to the streets.

This saddens and challenges staff. But it also galvanises us. Our approach of unconditional love means we work with every woman who says she needs us until she is ready to move on.

In their journeys to freedom and independence each step is truly inspiring. So thank you so much, you amazing volunteers and supporters, for your part in these incredible stories.

**Anna Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer



## 47 WOMEN LAST YEAR STOPPED STREET SEX WORKING



OUTREACH



DROP-IN



CASEWORK



FREEDOM

## 54 WOMEN AT RISK WERE PREVENTED FROM ENTERING A LIFE ON THE STREETS

# ZARA'S STORY



**I spent most of my life looking at the world and thinking "I don't want a part of that..."**

**Since I was fourteen, sex and my drug habit went hand in hand. But it was later, when I picked up heroin and crack, that everything changed. That far into addiction, the people that love you most can't help.**

I came to Bristol in my twenties. I was in love but I was ill and I was desperate. It was a freezing cold November when I first went out on the streets. I'll never forget the horror when I realised girls were selling themselves for so little money.

**I saw the One25 van a couple of times. I was in such a dark place and ashamed of what I was doing to survive. But I remember how lovely the women were. When I went to the drop-in I was greeted with the most friendly smile. A worker there saw something in me that I didn't feel at the time. Very quickly I got the funding to go to rehab.**

It didn't work out and my relapse was horrific. With my partner in prison I left town and after nine months of surviving through sex-work I was really unwell. I visited my sister after she gave birth and my Mum burst into tears. The using was getting really dangerous. I was badly raped and robbed by a dealer. Just after my birthday I phoned my Mum and she took me in. I got 41 days clean, went to recovery meetings but started using again.



**It's insane to think of all the withdrawing I've done to try to get well, only to use again. I detoxed at a dry-house, at a friend's, at Mum's again and then again, with a close friend in a hotel and we even tried somewhere abroad. I never accounted for the depression and the continual cravings. My mental health fell apart.**

I'd got back in touch with One25. My caseworker Jane phoned me all the time and wouldn't let me go. But I was sex-working heavily. I was at a client's house when I woke up in the middle of the night, drenched in sweat and teeth chattering with him trying to have sex with me. I knew something was physically badly wrong.

**By the time I landed in hospital I'd given up on recovery. But Mum wrote to me via One25; I've still got that letter and I cry whenever I read it. And my sister rang: she was so consumed by fear and she begged me to go to rehab.**

I'd agreed but two months later I was worse than before. I was really trying to get better but I couldn't. If it wasn't for One25's support I wouldn't be here, there's no way I would have got to treatment...

**It's taken a long time to get to the point where I am able to cry. Stuff only comes out when it's ready. In rehab I had therapy for the childhood sexual abuse with my dad. As the drugs left me, my mind cleared. There were loads of times I wanted to run but instead I faced it. Then it's like after a storm, the way the air feels after it's rained: quieter, crisper.**

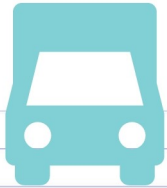
The other day I sat on the beach with friends. We listened to music, put the world to rights and we swam. You know when you just float, totally let go and let the sea carry you? I'd been trying and failing for so long - part of me thought I was too broken. One25 gives with such love: you just kept trying and you wouldn't let go. When no one else could deal with me I had you. You saved my life.

# OUTREACH

# DROP-IN

The streets are dangerous. But the One25 van is well known to women out there offering practical support and unconditional love.

It's the key starting-point for women who've had a lifetime of violence and abuse to begin to trust us. From there, they can make bold steps out of crisis.



**On the van they can:**  
Have a hug and a chat  
Report assaults  
Go to a hospital or refuge

**We offer:**  
Condoms  
Clean needles  
Food and hot drinks

"I found out the other day that you're all volunteers. Why would you do that?"

Why would you come out to us in the middle of the night and not get paid? I love you all!"

Helena

**INCREASED NEED:  
27% MORE VISITS  
TO THE VAN**



Volunteer Shelley takes us through a day with the women.

I'm not in early to cook today but when I arrive at noon, I can smell roast chicken wafting in from the kitchen...one of the meals the women have asked for.

Rachel takes us volunteers through the briefing before we open. Last week there were some incidents both in and out of drop-in and we need to be kind but firm in saying what's ok and what's not. It's 12.30, the door buzzes, someone checks the CCTV and several women stream in shouting greetings, demanding some coffee with five sugars! It's impossible to predict how many will turn up but today feels upbeat.

One woman is checking through the clothes rail - what she's wearing is soaked and grubby. Another is asking to be put on the list to see the doctor. She goes for a shower before eating and I let her caseworker know she's here - there's some urgent stuff to deal with. A few

join me in the creative corner. There's laughter but it turns serious as one woman talks about her young daughter who she hasn't seen for two years. Later, as a DVD plays, one's fallen asleep on the sofa. She looks exhausted and is woken gently with a cup of tea as we clear up and get ready to close.

Our art project is a symbol of us all at One25: tiles are decorated individually and will be brought together in a joint piece. We see a fraction of someone's life and hope it plays a part in making whole.

*We can't thank you enough for the life-saving and endless support. You are all amazing. From all the girls in drop-in  
xxx*

**2,100 VISITS  
TO DROP-IN**



# CASEWORK

This team of specialist caseworkers work intensively to meet individual women's needs. Alongside partner services in Bristol and beyond they offer flexible, seamless support.

## 169 WOMEN GOT ONE-TO-ONE CASEWORK LAST YEAR



# PAUSE BRISTOL

Launched in Bristol in June, this programme works with women who've had two or more children removed from their care. Some of them already work with One25.

The devastating trauma of care proceedings can trap women in a cycle of repeat pregnancies and removals. One25 hosts Pause Bristol because the issues these women face are often similar to those faced by street sex workers.

From an initial 127 referrals, the Pause practitioners work with 23 women who had had 65 children removed between them. So far:

- 3** women have secured and/or sustained jobs
- 4** are now in education, training or looking for jobs
- 6** women are no longer street homeless
- 3** women have started writing to their children
- 10** have been supported to attend and have good quality face to face contact

**"Pause makes such obvious sense. The alternative is not only heart-breaking but also socially corrosive and very expensive."**

HHJ Stephen Wildblood QC  
Stephen Wildblood QC was on the working group to set up Pause. He is Designated Family Judge for Avon, North Somerset and Gloucestershire.

**"We have no agenda but theirs. They allow us to see what their lives are really like."** Charlie, Pause Practitioner

# CELEBRATING CHANGES

## Needs vs outcomes

The women we meet are in desperate situations. There's no one-story-fits-all. They're somebody's daughter, somebody's sister, even somebody's mother... Some of Bristol's most vulnerable women, they come from a wide range of backgrounds. Their lives are extremely dangerous and it takes huge courage for women to escape.



**Almost all were abused as children and a third were in care**

196 women were supported for better health and wellbeing



**99% women who street sex work in Bristol are addicted to drugs/alcohol**

67 found the courage to move onto prescribed substitutes, with 7 women going to rehab



**80% are homeless**

117 have been successfully supported in safe accommodation



**92% are malnourished**

172 women got food through volunteers on drop-in and outreach services



**A third left school before they were 14 and 59% have no qualifications**

28 started volunteering, learning new skills and knowing they have so much to offer.  
13 did courses in the community.



**22 women were in prison**

They were visited an average of 6 times each by caseworkers bringing encouragement and practical support



**Street sex workers are 12 times more likely to be murdered than other women**

40 women received care after an attack, including support to testify against their attacker

# WOMEN'S HIGHLIGHTS

We work hard to give women the voices and choices that society denies them. Here are some highlights of the year!



## MARCH 2018

Clio and Karena are welcomed to City Hall by Bristol's mayor. They raise issues with housing and addiction recovery.

## DECEMBER 2017

Drop-in was decorated for Christmas, women had a massive dinner and took away presents!



## JUNE 2017

A summer outing to Brean Leisure Park!

## 17-18 ART PROJECT:

Some of the dozens of colourful tiles that women painted this year and fixed to the drop-in garden walls.



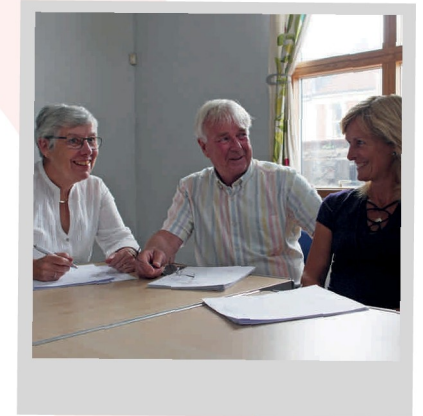
# ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS

I am constantly struck by the resilience of the women we work with. But it's a growing self-worth that helps most to make choices for their futures. Seeing those changes inspires us all.

Many of the women we work with are deeply traumatised. DUSK is our research pilot with women who are using drugs and sex-working. It's going to support them to receive trauma-informed counselling and begin to heal.

One25 is making a difference in Bristol. We now chair the Bristol Sexual Violence Forum where agencies work together, building support plans for the women we feel are least engaged and most at risk.

Through Pause a group of women are becoming independent, actively approaching us, arranging their own appointments, volunteering and



getting jobs. This work has real impact and we hope to secure funding for a further 18-month cycle.

There's little out there beyond our doors for women who're stepping away from street sex work. So we're setting up 'Peony'. It's how we'll continue to give love and support. Activities like exercise and CV development will help women to reach their goals in the community. And we'll be confident that women can move on and not return to street sex work.

Thank you to all of our staff and our volunteers who continue to make One25 so unique, strong and passionate about the women we work with.

Anna Smith, Chief Executive Officer

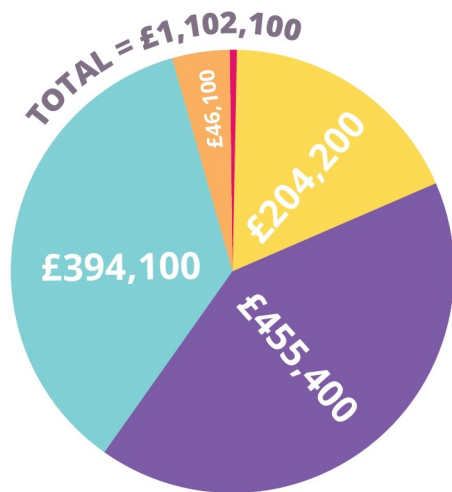
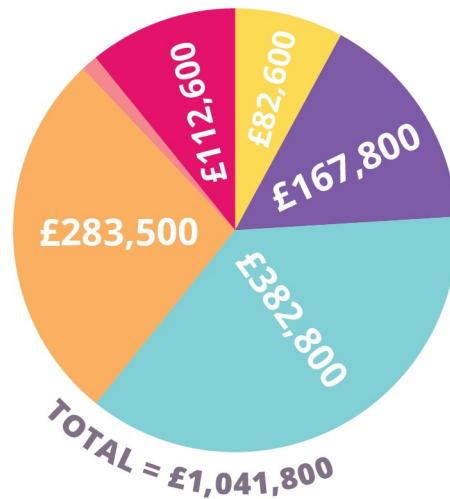
**"One25 make an invaluable contribution to our city, creating an enabling space for some of the most vulnerable members of our community to flourish."**

Mayor Marvin Rees

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## EXPENSES

- Outreach
- Drop-in centre
- Casework support
- Pause Bristol
- Sustainability
- Raising funds



## INCOME

- Donations
- Grants
- Commissioned income
- Fundraising events
- Other Income

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred pounds.  
For One25's 2017/18 statutory accounts please visit [one25.org.uk](http://one25.org.uk).

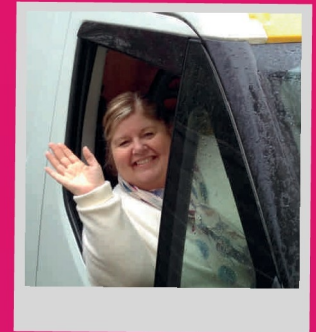
# YOU CAN HELP...

## 👋 VOLUNTEER!

A wonderful bunch of 204 volunteers gave over 8,100 hours of their time!

Ultra-hero Tracey Connolly did 125 volunteer shifts! *"It's really lonely, the street corner. One25's very much needed out there."*

[One25.org.uk/volunteer](http://One25.org.uk/volunteer)



## ❤️ DONATE!

You can help end street sex work for good. Start a monthly gift and give hope to lonely women on Bristol's streets to-night.

£25 can give comfort: clothes and toiletries for a lonely woman in hospital.

[One25.org.uk/donate](http://One25.org.uk/donate)

## 👛 FUNDRAISE!

The awesome Mat Miles did the Give It Up campaign: *"Except for underwear and shoes, I gave up all clothes for 125 hours! I believe so wholeheartedly in what One25 do."*

This year you can firewalk, skydive, donate your birthday or get creative yourself!

[One25.org.uk/fundraise](http://One25.org.uk/fundraise)





Grosvenor Centre

# One25

step away from the streets

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