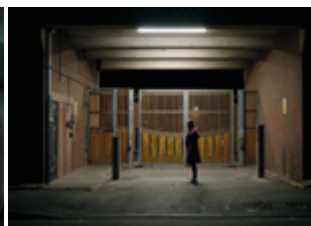


# THE CSJ DIGITAL AWARDS 2021



## Welcome

# From Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP and Andy Cook

It is our great privilege to invite you to join us for the CSJ's Digital Awards week. Normally, the CSJ honours its Award-winning charities at our major annual Awards ceremony in March, however due to COVID-19 we are not able to deliver an in-person Awards ceremony this year. Instead, we have teamed up with some famous faces to showcase the incredible work of our Award-winning charities online during the week commencing 14th June. We hope that as you watch the films we have made about them you will learn more about their amazing work.

The CSJ was founded to bring practical, political solutions to Britain's social problems. The work of the CSJ is organised around the drivers of poverty, which are called the five pathways. The areas of family breakdown, educational failure, addiction, serious personal debt, and worklessness sit as the root causes of poverty and are often interconnected. The CSJ Awards recognises the best poverty-fighting organisations working in these pathways, in order to champion their cause and invest in their operations. But above all, the Awards is our chance to celebrate

remarkable people who work tirelessly to help change lives for the better.

One of the bright lights in the dark COVID-19 experience has been the evidence of community fellowship and local acts of kindness. Small charities have been at the heart of this, supporting the most vulnerable in their communities and doing everything in their power to keep their services open as the world shutdown around them. They have been the unsung heroes of the hour.

All of our winners have tailored their programmes to respond to the specific needs of those they seek to reach throughout the pandemic. One winner has delivered over 3,000 food and essentials hampers to those in need, and through this initiative they have identified those in the community who require specific help beyond food and essentials. Other winners have supplied their clients with Wi-Fi hubs and mobile devices to keep their most marginalised clients connected to casework support and counselling services. And one charity has even fed into the national COVID-19 recovery plan for

schools in Scotland, through developing an online learning platform which was approved and endorsed by the Scottish Department for Education.

That's why this year's CSJ Awards are so important. We will celebrate the brave small charities who have kept their doors open to serve those in need, shining a light on those who rarely receive the recognition they deserve. Four winners will receive a £10,000 prize and their work will be showcased in front of leading figures from across the country. The winning organisations will also enrich the work of the CSJ through sharing their knowledge and experience and speaking into the formation of our research and recommendations.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating these winners. We hope you will see what we see: dedicated organisations stopping at nothing, not even a global pandemic, to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people across Britain. But more than this, we hope that their work and stories demonstrate what is possible and will inspire you in some capacity to follow their lead.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Duncan Smith'.

Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP, CSJ Chairman

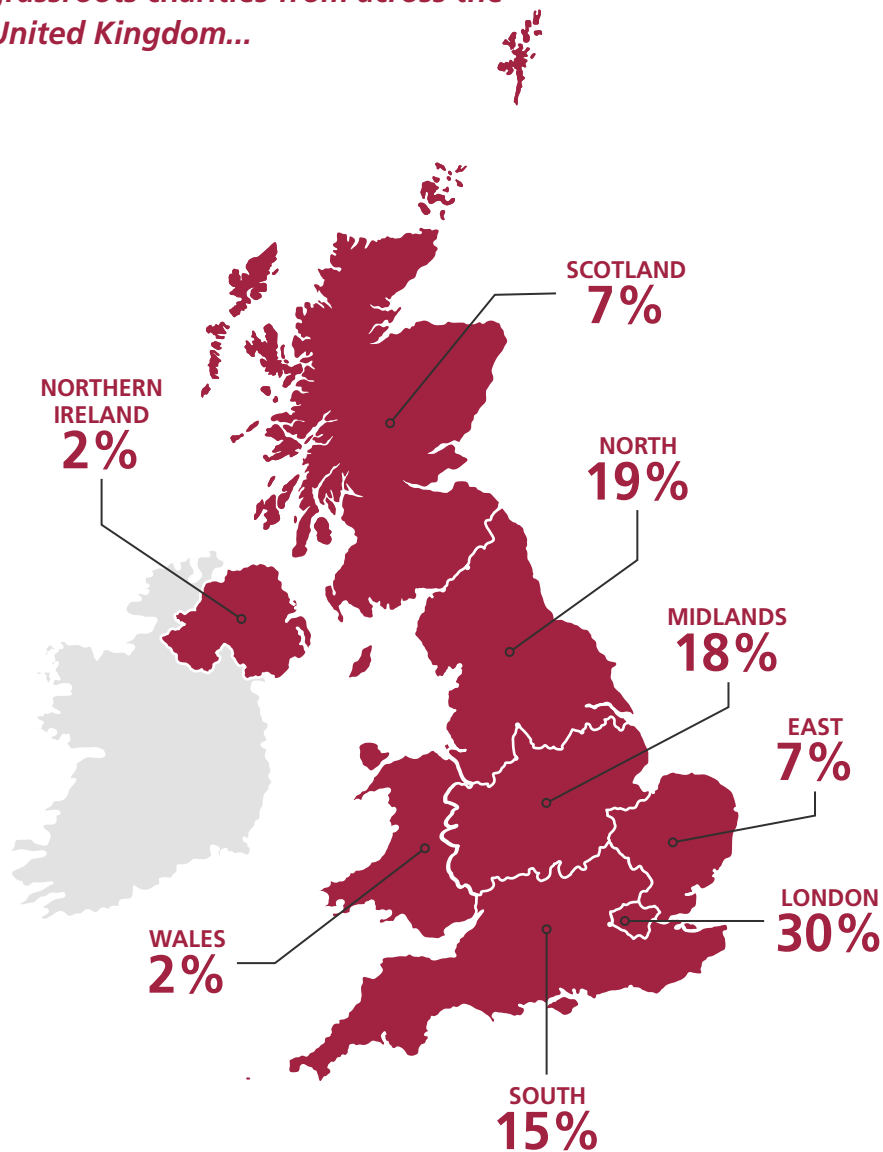


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Cook'.

Andy Cook, CSJ CEO

# How the CSJ works

*We draw from nearly 400 of the best grassroots charities from across the United Kingdom...*



*We fuse these ideas with specialists...*



**CSJ** POLICY TEAM



Criminal Justice Unit



Education Unit



Family Unit



Debt and Financial Inclusion Unit



Work & Welfare Unit



Addiction Unit



Modern Slavery Unit



***In 2020/2021 our Alliance helped us create many major policy recommendations:***


- Last year's Award winner, My Cheshire Without Abuse, helped us persuade the Government that those working in the Domestic Abuse sector should be recognised as key workers so that their children could continue attending school during lockdown.
- The Cabinet Office launched a review of government debt collection practices after our Alliance charities highlighted poor practices.
- The Government included Serious Violence Reduction Orders in the current Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill. These orders were recommended by Alliance charities who work with young people involved in criminal gangs.
- The Government announced a new addiction strategy reflecting the CSJ's report 'Road to Recovery' and have begun five treatment pilots based on the experience of a number of Alliance charities reported in that paper.

# About the CSJ Alliance

The CSJ is inspired and nourished by its unique relationship with the CSJ Alliance: a group of frontline, poverty-fighting charities, community groups and social enterprises. These organisations are spread across the length and breadth of the UK, acting as our 'eyes and ears' on the ground. These small and innovative ventures are embedded in their communities and are often led by the people they serve. They are therefore highly effective and truly understand the nature of poverty and social breakdown.

The CSJ draws heavily from the Alliance's experience, not only providing insight and views on the research we are undertaking, but also prompting new areas of research. This means that the Government can be sure that the reforms we suggest are based on what has been proven to work on the ground. This helps the Government develop effective strategies to alleviate the suffering of the poorest and prevents policies being developed which are detached from reality.

*The Alliance tackle the underlying root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms, in their bid to transform lives.*

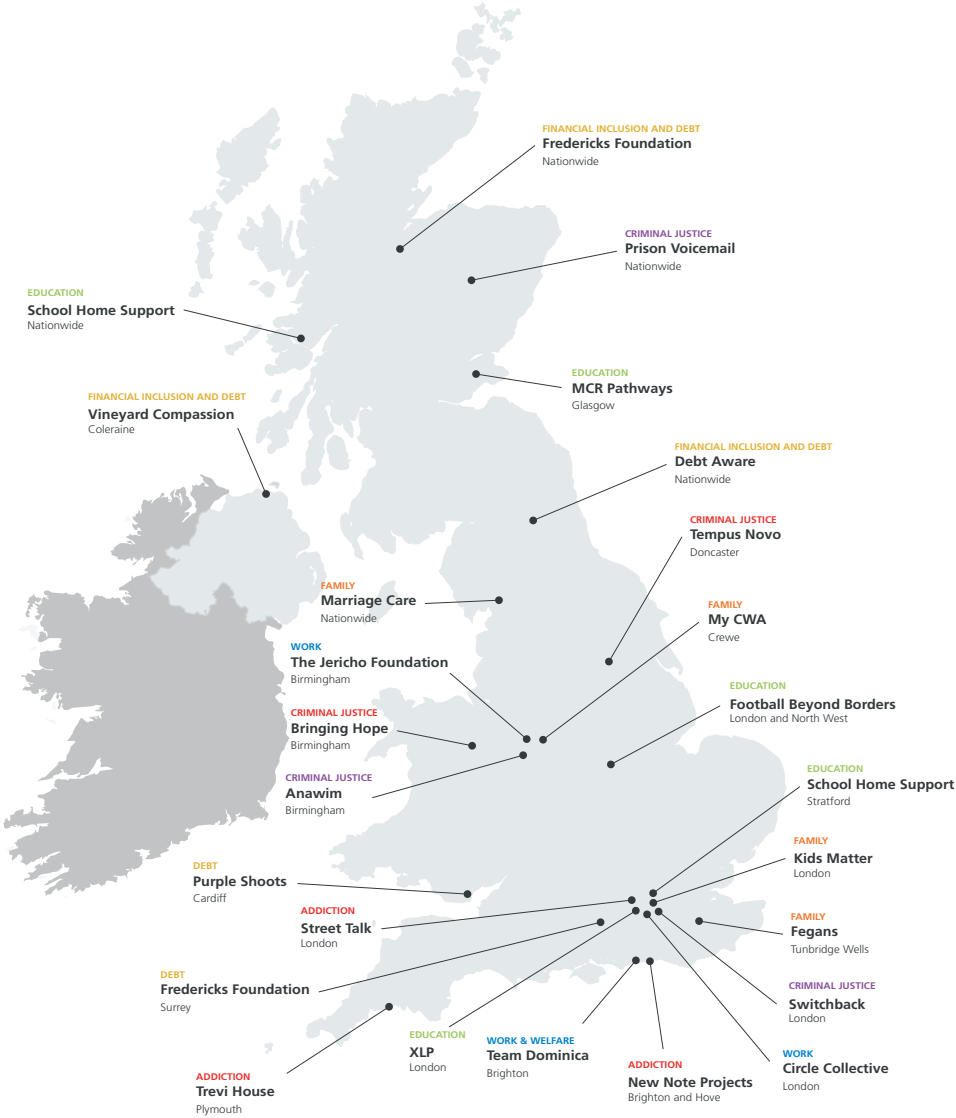


## Regional expansion

To further enhance our knowledge of what is going on in different parts of the country, and to deepen our relationships with Alliance charities, we plan to establish a presence in different regions across the UK.

We are pleased to report that we established our first regional offices in the East Midlands and North West over the last two years, and have begun developing plans for further regional offices to be introduced over the next 12 months. This is just the start in what will be an exciting phase of development for the Alliance and the wider organisation.

# CSJ Alliance Partners



# About the CSJ Awards

The CSJ Awards exist to ensure that the voices of those working to tackle poverty around the country are heard by decision-makers in Westminster. Previous winners have helped to tackle modern slavery, rehabilitate ex-offenders, improve educational outcomes in deprived areas, and bring isolated older people back into the community.

The impact of winning a CSJ Award is long-lasting and helps these organisations to grow and widen the reach of their inspirational work. Award winners have been profiled on primetime television, have had their services rolled out in every school across the country, and have secured over half a million pounds in additional funding as a result of the exposure that the CSJ Awards gave them.

## What do we award?

Thanks to the generosity of corporate supporters and philanthropic organisations, four Award winners will receive £10,000. In addition, we are dedicated to helping our Award winners raise their profile and benefit from a broad range of support.

We encourage all of you who are reading this to help us achieve our objective by getting in contact with our Award winners if you feel you can help them. You can also help to raise the profile of their work by tweeting about the Awards using #CSJAwards.

## How have the Award winners been chosen?

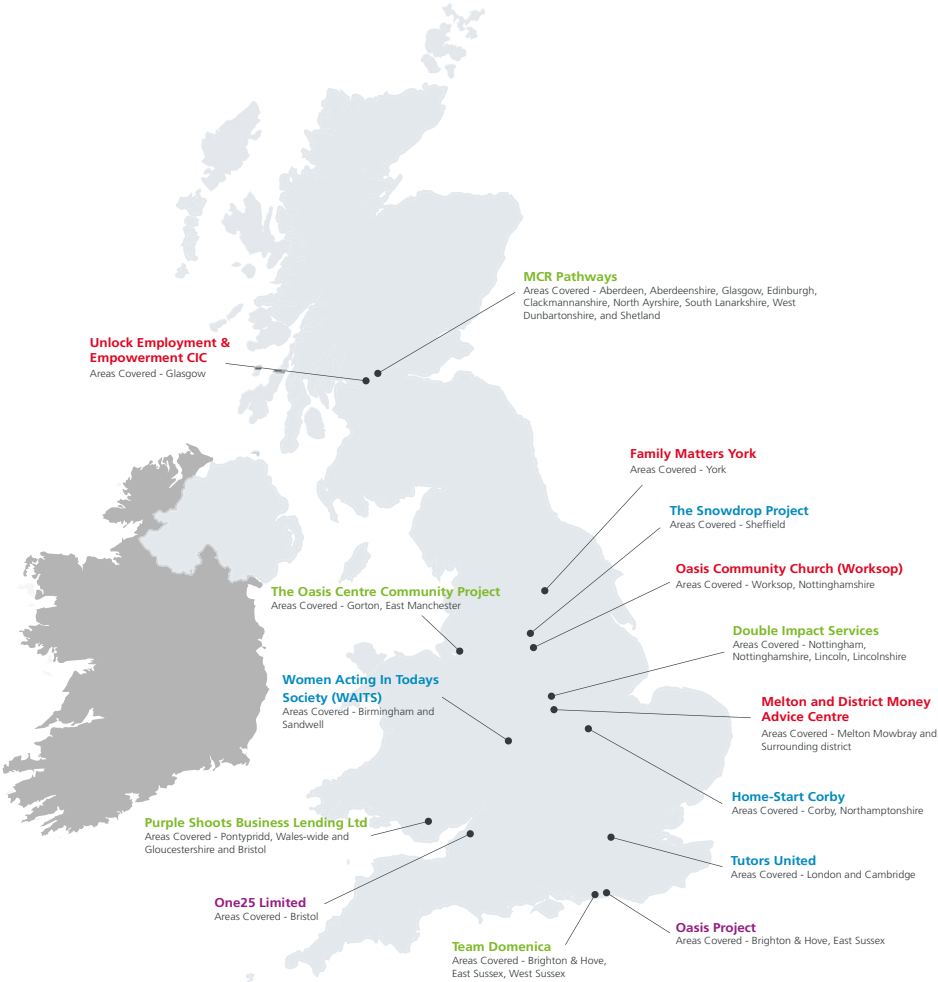
Each year, the entire CSJ team dedicate themselves to scouring the country to identify the most outstanding, innovative, and effective organisations who fight poverty on the frontline. We look for organisations who help the hardest to reach, who inspire us with their profound impact, and who have discovered ways of scaling their work beyond their own neighbourhood.

This year the CSJ received hundreds of applications for our Awards. The CSJ team shortlisted 15 organisations for the judges to choose from. The CSJ then conducted virtual visits of the charities via Zoom. The CSJ asked each charity to invite trustees, staff members, volunteers and service users to present their work to give the CSJ team a fuller picture of the charities' work.

Following this process, the judges discussed, debated, and ultimately decided who this year's winners would be.



# CSJ Awards Shortlist Charities 2020



## CSJ Award Categories



## Winner

# Oasis Community Centre & Garden

TURNOVER  
OF LESS  
THAN £100K

### **What they do:**

Oasis Community Centre is a beautiful and vibrant 2-acre garden, hidden in the centre of the Kilton estate, Worksop. They operate as the heart of the community through running over 30 projects and activities for all ages, needs and interests in the community. Through their therapeutic interventions, Oasis aim to reduce isolation, improve health and wellbeing and increase the life opportunities and chances for all people in the area.

Oasis use gardening and floristry to teach employment, life, business and other skills to a wide range of people; from those who are unemployed, have a disability or mental health issues. They also have an innovative programme called 'Men on the Edge', which was set up in response to a number of suicidal deaths in the community, all of which were male.

### **Impact:**

- Over 2,000 people access Oasis's services each year. Every programme is led by a team of local volunteers, meaning that Oasis has only 2 full time members of staff.
- One of Oasis's strengths is its ability to respond and adapt to the needs of the community. Throughout Covid-19, they delivered over 3,000 food and essentials hampers to help people in poverty and financial need and have identified and supported many community members who were isolated and in need of specific help beyond food and essentials.

### **Why they won a CSJ Award:**

This charity represents the very best of localism and the power of community spirit. They deal with some of the most complex issues in their area, identifying where need is most acute and being creative enough to come up with the solutions. Oasis has developed itself intentionally to be responsive to the needs of local people and to fully support everyone who comes through their door, with no thresholds or cut-offs.

Oasis would like to share their model with other community centres around the country, to demonstrate how a small charity with a big dream can make a difference to the world around them.



### **Contact**

**Stephen Williams, Founder and  
Centre Manager**

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 [www.oasis-centre.org.uk](http://www.oasis-centre.org.uk)

 [@oasisworksop](https://twitter.com/oasisworksop)



## Relevant CSJ Research: Pillars of Community

The decline in local community life in the UK over recent generations is a problem because, as our research shows, people look to their local communities for three things: a sense of security, human connections and a feeling of belonging. This decline in community manifests itself in experiences of loneliness, insecurity, and feeling 'left behind'. Social isolation is linked to poor mental and physical health, making it harder to lead a full and flourishing life.

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated many of these problems. And yet, the onset of lockdown saw an outpouring of community spirit and localism which many see as an opportunity to rebuild our social fabric. Our latest report 'Pillars of Community' investigates how to enable communities to thrive by strengthening each pillar of local community; security, connection, and belonging.

With thanks to our sponsor:



## Winner

# The Snowdrop Project



### What they do:

The Snowdrop Project was set up in 2012 to provide long-term support to survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery. Snowdrop was founded and built on the needs of survivors who consistently cited the absence of long-term support from the state.

Survivors of trafficking and modern slavery have endured unimaginable cruelty and exploitation. When they find the Snowdrop Project, they typically have nothing, are extremely vulnerable and desperately want to move on from their trauma. Snowdrop empowers each individual to reclaim their dignity and agency through their casework, counselling and community integration service.

### Impact:

- 55 people accessed Snowdrop's services in 2019
- Of this cohort, 53% are now in education or employment, and 59% are living in permanent accommodation. This is particularly impressive when compared to other survivors of modern slavery who don't receive the same long-term care and support.
- Throughout COVID-19 Snowdrop ensured that their clients remained supported. They applied for a grant to buy devices and Wi-Fi hubs to loan out to their clients. This meant that all of their casework and counselling sessions could continue online.

### Why they won a CSJ Award:

Snowdrop won an Award because they have real ambition for the lives of the people they work with. For Snowdrop, this means that people must have continuity of support for as long as it is needed. This kind of support is not currently available to all victims of trafficking in the UK.

Snowdrop would like to teach others about the benefits of long-term support to prevent the postcode lottery of care that victims of trafficking currently receive. Winning this Award will provide them with the opportunity to meet with policy makers and politicians who can drive forward the change that is desperately needed.



### Contact

#### Lara Bundock, Co-Founder and CEO

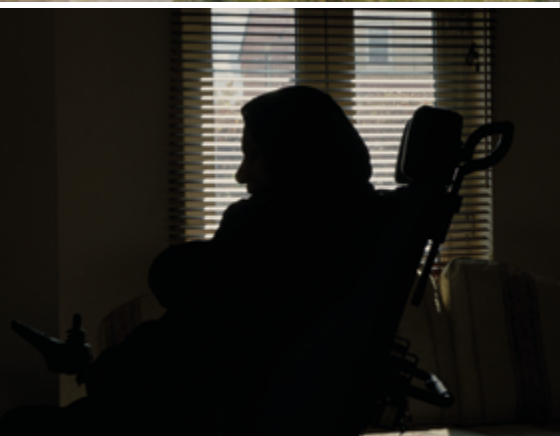
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- 🌐 [www.snowdropproject.co.uk](http://www.snowdropproject.co.uk)
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- 🐦 @SnowdropProject



## Relevant CSJ Research: It still Happens Here

Modern slavery is a brutal form of serious and organised crime that exploits the most vulnerable, desperate people of our society. Nobody knows the true scale and cost of the crime but CSJ research estimates that there could be at least 100,000 victims in the UK, with the actual number likely to be even greater.

If we are serious about bringing more traffickers to justice, our response to those who are abused by them is fundamentally important. How we treat those who have been exploited, from the point of rescue to their long-term recovery, will determine how many criminal networks are dismantled and how far modern slavery is tackled in the UK, as well as how survivors are able to rebuild their lives.



With thanks to our sponsor:



Timeout Homes

## **Winner**

# MCR Pathways



### **What they do:**

MCR Pathways is a mentoring and talent development programme which supports young people in or on the edges of the care system in Scotland. Working within the school system, they seek to eliminate the education and life chances gap that exists between care-experienced young people and their peers.

These young people have the same talents and abilities as their peers, but instability at home stunts aspirations and life chances. MCR Pathways comes alongside these young people and matches them with volunteers who provide personalised and consistent weekly support.

### **Impact:**

- MCR Pathways support 2,500 young people in or on the edges of the care system across 12 local authorities in Scotland.
- Of this cohort, 82% of mentored pupils left school for college, university or employment, compared with just 60% non-mentored peers.
- During lockdown, MCR pathways organised funding to deliver over 300 laptops and data connections to pupils across Scotland who were digitally excluded and could not receive online lessons.

### **Why they won a CSJ Award:**

MCR Pathways shows that with the right support, pupils from care backgrounds can overcome instability and be empowered to reach their potential. Their model (which hands the programme over to the local authority at the end of five years) offers a viable, scalable and replicable model to achieve this. As ownership passes from MCR to local authority hands, the programme becomes embedded in the system and part of business as usual. This is a rarity in the charity sector, and shows MCR's desire for systemic change.

MCR Pathways have recently received funding from the Scottish Government to expand and implement their mentoring package in every local authority across Scotland and are at the very early stages of replicating their model in England.



### **Contact**

**Kirsty Brennan, Marketing & Communications Manager**

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- 🌐 [www.mcrpathways.org](http://www.mcrpathways.org)
- 🐦 @mcrpathways





### Relevant CSJ Research:

## Safely Reducing The Number Of Children Going Into Care

The CSJ was one of the first think tanks to set out the extent of family breakdown and its impact on poverty. A family that breaks apart doubles the likelihood of a child growing up in poverty. This is why, for 15 years, the CSJ has presented evidence that family breakdown should be an important part of any approach to tackling poverty and disadvantage.

Our recent report, 'Safely Reducing The Number Of Children Going Into Care' shows that the care system delivers poor outcomes at immense cost. It fails vulnerable children. We, and they, pay heavily for this. Our report shines a light on some troubling statistics while also providing a potential solution: a new, relational approach.

With thanks to our sponsor:



## **Winner**

# One25

**TURNOVER  
BETWEEN  
£1M - £2M**

### **What they do:**

One25's mission is to support women who engage in street sex work and all vulnerable women, to help them move from crisis and trauma towards independence in the community. They work in partnership with over 70 local agencies to get the right help at the right time for each woman they support. Every woman supported by One25 has experienced domestic or sexual violence, and most struggle with addiction and homelessness.

One25's nightly outreach van brings safety to Bristol's red light areas, encouraging women to attend their afternoon drop-in. As women begin to build trust, they receive support from caseworkers to address their complex needs, such as finding a safe home. One25 also offers two rehabilitation programmes, Pause and Peony, which supports women in early recovery and helps them break the devastating cycle of having their children taken into care.

### **Impact:**

- Last year, One25 supported 154 women through their casework programme.
- Of this cohort, 24% of the women they worked with exited street sex work and over 20% were prevented from entering street sex work. 6 women went on to full term employment.
- One25 kept all their services going in some form throughout lockdown. In the first lockdown they welcomed 52 women to the van, supported 23 into safe housing, delivered over 800 food bags and provided 58 mobile phones to vulnerable women.

### **Why they won a CSJ Award:**

One25 are meeting the needs of the most marginalised women in the city of Bristol. It is clear that the service user's voice is at the heart of everything they do which is very impressive. Their partnership work is outstanding and has meant that they can offer a coordinated response with healthcare services and the police.

One25 clearly demonstrate that with the right help, the most vulnerable and marginalised women can take control, address their deep-rooted trauma and live happier, healthier lives. Winning a CSJ Award will help One25 to develop their partnerships across the city of Bristol and will help to generate public support for the women they work with.



### **Contact**

**Amy Sutcliffe**

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📞 0117 909 8832

🐦 @One25Charity





### Relevant CSJ Research:

## Road to Recovery: A Case for Reform

Addiction remains a tragic feature of many people's lives and it is particularly difficult to escape for those also suffering socio-economic disadvantage. It strains the fabric of our society, and it can divide families, ruin childhoods, affect mental health, and even fuel crime.

Our report, 'Road to Recovery: A Case for Reform', exposed the shocking reality of a dynamic, adaptable and increasingly dangerous drugs market which poses an increasing threat to our communities. All this at a time when the treatment sector has been severely damaged by years of neglect. Our report recognised the need for reform of a broken treatment sector. It advocated a whole-person approach to help people into recovery. This must be matched by a cross-departmental effort to provide wrap-around services and meaningful, lasting support.



With thanks to our sponsor:

*The Porters' Trust*

## With Thanks

### Judges

#### **Crispian Collins**

*Former investment manager and  
Chairman of Phillips & Drew and  
UBS UK Asset Management*

#### **Madeline Grant**

*Assistant Comment Editor at  
the Daily Telegraph and  
Parliamentary sketch-writer*

#### **Helen Lam**

*Corporate Social Responsibility  
Programme Manager, Marsh*

#### **Richard Mackay**

*Owner of Kilworth House Hotel and  
Chairman of the Richard Mackay  
Charitable Trust*

#### **John Spiers**

*Entrepreneur, Philanthropist and  
CEO of EQ Investors*

#### **Stuart Roden**

*Former Chairman of Lansdowne  
Partners and Managing Director of  
Merrill Lynch Investment Managers*

#### **Josh Babarinde OBE**

*Founder and Chief Executive of Cracked  
It and local councillor for Eastbourne.*

### Presenters

#### **Prue Leith CBE**

*Restaurateur, Chef and judge of  
the Great British Bake Off*

#### **James Cracknell OBE**

*Former rowing World Champion and  
double Olympic Gold Medallist*

#### **Charlie Webster**

*Broadcaster, writer and journalist*

#### **Sarah-Jane Mee**

*Sky News Anchor and presenter*

## Sponsors



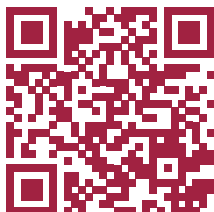
*The Porters' Trust*



# The Digital Awards 2021

We will be announcing the CSJ Award winners during the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> June. We have produced short films about each of the winners, which you can watch via our website after the announcement.

To watch these films and learn more about the winners, visit [www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk) or use your phone to scan the QR code below:



We would be very grateful if you could share these videos on social media and invite your friends and family to do the same. These charities really deserve to be showcased to as wide an audience as possible.

## The Centre for Social Justice

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**CSJ** The Centre for  
Social Justice