**A crisis-response scheme for vulnerable women in Nottingham City,**

**provided by Jericho Road Project and delivered via local pharmacies and agencies**

The Jericho Road Project is launching a crisis-response project for women in need with the help of community pharmacies and other agencies in Nottingham City.

**Who are we?**

For 20 years, the Jericho Road Project has aimed to show that there is a hope and a future for those affected by the sex industry in the City of Nottingham.

The women we work with often lead chaotic lives, are vulnerable because of sexual exploitation, drug use and have no permanent or secure address. By providing a safe space to build relationships outside of the vicious cycle of drug use and sex work we connect with women who need to know they have somewhere to turn, as well as offering access to crisis support, food, clothing and emotional support to make life easier.

Usually we reach out to the women we support on our van, as we drive through areas where they might be at night, at our drop-in centre, or by visiting them in prison. All of these avenues to connect with women have been shut down over the past few weeks as social contact becomes inappropriate during lock-down. COVID-19 means many have fallen through the gaps and can’t access their usual means of support. They have not had food, clean clothes or sufficient access to sanitary care for days or weeks.

**The #scriptYR** **#morethanfood scheme**

90% of the women who connect with the Jericho Road Project are drug users and many are on a methadone script or on medication for severe mental health problems. By connecting with partnering pharmacies and other agencies across the city, we are launching #scriptYR, where contact can be initiated with such women and a pick-up point created for essential provisions to be collected, support made available and healing words offered.

Women who register with the #scriptYR scheme will get up-to-date information about available services in the city, a #morethanfood bag of essential items delivered to their chosen pharmacy (or other participating agency) on a designated day each week, and access to the #scriptYR Helpline.

**Up and running**

In order to get food and essentials as soon as possible to the women who need it, we are launching the #scriptYR #morethanfood scheme in Midnight Pharmacy, Glasshouse Pharmacy and Medina Chemist on the 4th May 2020 initially.

We hope more pharmacies will support the #scriptYR #morethanfood scheme, as agencies across the city (e.g. the police, the Wellbeing hub, Cleanslate, probation, Jericho Road Project etc) begin to advertise it to service users who would benefit. As we don’t always know which pharmacies the women will access, we need to respond to demand. That’s why we are asking pharmacies to join the #scriptYR scheme if they receive a registration request from a woman needing help.

**Sign up as a pick-up point today and make a difference!**

In the coming days and weeks we will need more pharmacies to partner with is to help get food and other essentials to some of the most vulnerable and marginalised women in our city. If you have any patients/customers who you think would benefit from a #scriptYR #morethanfood bag, or if someone asks to register at your pharmacy, please join us. #scriptYR is designed to be quick and easy for pharmacies to run and will make a real difference. Just call the #scriptYR team on (07585) 354016 or email scriptyr@jerichoroad.org.uk and we will send you an information pack and everything you need to get up and running as a #scriptYR #morethanfood Pick-up Point.