

# NETWORKS



NETWORKS participant's artwork.

**NETWORKS** is a Creativity Works project based in Bristol, working with professional artists to deliver courses of arts workshops for vulnerable women involved with the criminal justice system or facing mental health issues. The courses provide creative learning opportunities, improve the wellbeing and capacities of participants and support the integration within partner settings of professional artists.

Courses are run in parallel across five settings and are 8 weeks long. The **NETWORKS** courses aim to support service users' 'recovery of self' and self-development in a group setting. A range of creative activities tailored around participants' interests develops their skills, particularly the ability to engage with others. Participants' artwork is shared across the courses, creating connections and communications between the women, alongside visits to cultural centres in the city, allowing women to feel a stronger sense of community.

Project partners include: Teign Ward (a women's medium secure unit), Eastwood Park prison (mother & baby unit), One 25 (reaches out to women trapped in street sex work), Rethink (women affected by mental illness), and cultural partners Arnolfini and Light Box. Creativity Works is a creative community development agency, delivering quality socially engaged and participatory arts projects.

We will be accepting referrals for the second set of courses starting in April. We would like to hear from you if you share an interest in this area of work. Please contact Deborah Aguirre Jones to refer clients and for further information:

[dj@creativityworks.org.uk](mailto:dj@creativityworks.org.uk)  
[www.creativityworks.org.uk](http://www.creativityworks.org.uk)

*"I've tried new things I hadn't done before which has broadened my horizons – I could do that now on my own – at home or wherever ... I've been doing art in between (sessions)."*

NETWORKS course participant

**one25**  
step away from the streets



Avon and Wiltshire **NHS**  
Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

**ARNOLFINI**

