5th March 2023

Dear Sir or Madame,

Over the previous years you have very kindly supported our charity and we have been incredibly grateful for that support. I am writing to you today, to see if you were in a position to help us further.

In January Thames Valley Police, reported that 30 violent and sexual crimes were committed in the Spelsbury area. The statistic show that violent and sexual crimes are consistently the highest reported crimes in the area.

Over the last two years Clean Slate have seen an almost 60% increase in referrals. There are many reasons demand for Clean Slate has increased, including increased levels of domestic violence occurring during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, and also as a result of increased referrals from statutory services, where waiting lists are becoming increasingly long. On 12/12/22 the Domestic abuse commissioner confirmed that fewer than half of domestic abuse survivors were able to access community-based support. It was also confirmed that only 29% of survivors who wanted support for their children, were able to access it.

Specialist services which offer counselling and support are one of the most effective ways to enable victims and survivors to feel safer post-abuse. Clean Slate have been piloting 1-1 mother and daughter counselling sessions, due to the current demand from the local area and are now looking to expand this service further.

As a student social worker, I have been very grateful to have the opportunity to work with Clean Slate, over the last 4 months, where I have witnessed the lifesaving services they provide. One service user, who had experienced multiple forms of Domestic Abuse throughout her life, stated that if it wasn’t for Clean Slate, she didn’t think she would still be here today. The changes I have witnessed in the individuals who attend the group, inspire me to do all I can to help Clean Slate expand their services further.

I am contacting you to see if you would be in a position to help Clean Slate expand their services, to offer more vital support to young people. Clean Slate receive many calls from parents, looking for advice and support for their children who have witnessed and experienced multiple forms of abuse. The Guardian recently published that about 7% of children have attempted suicide by the age of 17 and almost one in four, had self-harmed in the past year. With the lack of support available from statutory services, we believe so much more could be being done to help vulnerable individuals, access vital support, which would enable many lives to be improved and ultimately many lives to be saved.

Over the next two years we would like to expand our services, with the aim of providing group support work and individual counselling sessions for children aged between 10-16 years. Currently our annual running costs stand at around £72307. Client contributions and donations cover around £36000, and we are looking to receive grants and funding for the additional amount.

Any donations we receive towards this total would be greatly appreciated and will go towards developing our youth services and continuing our current services.

Please let me know if this is something you can help me with.

We would be happy to come and talk to your group or you can visit our website for more information [www.cleanslate.org.uk](about:blank)

Many thanks

Andrea Pastova

Student social worker

[www.cleanslate.org.uk](about:blank)

Tel: 01869 232461

Email: andreapastova@cleanslate.org.uk