**Prayer Topics**

**Staff –** we have a team of 3 paid staff who support and are supported by a team of volunteers who do everything from facilitating courses to preparing healthy lunches for candidates

1. **Nina Kelly** – **Chief Development Officer** – For wisdom in putting into action the results of our recent Trustees vision and business meetings. For boldness to put in place key strategies and tap new markets so that more people can be reached and supported by Choices programmes; and for energy and enthusiasm not to wane through a tricky time of transition for SAFE
2. **Andy Foreman** – **Chief Operating Officer** – For creativity in reworking the choices programmes for new situations, e.g. working with other organisations like Southampton City Council to provide a longer term support programme for people who are long term unemployed and suffering from mental health problems. To put the systems into place to enable effective tracking and support of our candidates and to train new organisations to deliver Choices programmes under License.
3. **Nicola King** **– Facilitator Mentor** – Prayers of thanks for Nicola who has been passionate about the people we work with for the last 4 years. Nicola is stepping down at the end of February to focus on supporting her family through their exams. Nicola is a fantastic Facilitator and has helped hundreds of people turn their lives around.
4. **Sue Bartlett** – **Bookkeeper** – Prayers of thanks for her fantastic commitment to the work of SAFE. Even though only contracted to work one day a week for us Sue does so much more than that and calls us her ‘favourite organisation to work with’ Prayers that the Christian staff here might build on that witness.

**Maddie King – Facilitator/Development Administrator**

Taking over from Nicola and with a new role supporting Nina in taking the Charity forwards; prayers of thanks for the amazing gifts and skills she brings to SAFE and for her to pick up her new responsibilities quickly and easily particularly working with Nicola for a seamless transition so that candidates continue to receive excellent support though the choices courses.

**Volunteers –** we are working with several volunteers currently without whom SAFE would not exist and no candidates would be able to benefit from choices running in their local church.

1. For **Norman Jones & Jacqui Hollick** Who continue to run Later Life Choices programmes out of James Street Church and run regular support drop-ins for the two groups who have now gone through the course there. Pray for continuing energy and good health as both continue to work hgard despite being well beyond retirement age!
2. **For Toby Dodson, Lisa Bonter and Lyn Hart** who will be running their latest Wellbeing Choices programme starting at the end of February. For the right candidates to benefit from the course and for strengthening relationships with other agencies and the JobCentre in Eastleigh. Pray that they would be salt and light to the people they train over the 5 weeks that they would see Jesus in every interaction on the course.
3. For **Jan Saboviz** who volunteers, helping prepare the Fareshare food that is delivered once a week to feed the candidates on courses. For Jan himself as he recovers from ill health including a stay in hospital. Please pray for a speedy recovery so he can continue to develop his skills and support the candidates on the courses in this way.

**Churches we are working with**

1. **Paulsgrove Baptist Church** –Leaders Martin and Joy Rutty for wisdom in how weave Choices courses into the mission strategy for the Paulsgrove area. For the facilitator team including **Emily Ord, Robbie Porter and Paul Heawood**; pray that their enthusiasm and commitment to serving the church in this way would be blessed and used in other ways as they await the next Choices course.
2. **Weston Church Youth Project** – Prayers of thanks for the 4 Youth Choices courses run at Chamberlayne Park Community College, for the children in years 10 and 11 whose lives have been given direction and their barriers faced and conquered. For Dean Waters andJenni Boulter who have been running the courses so diligently. For the great news that their project has secured another year's funding and will be able to run further courses.
3. **Eastleigh Baptist Church** - The church will be hosting a Wellbeing Choices course in February and March, pray for the right candidates to benefit from this course and that the team running the course, Toby, Lisa and Lyn can through their witness show other ways that their church community can welcome in these candidates and touch their lives with Jesus’ love.
4. **For St Tom's Fairoak**- seeking a way forwards to be trained to use Choices inside and outside the church. Pray for effective support from SAFE in getting courses running in the community there and for the right team to come together to make this happen. Particularly for **Bruce White** who has volunteered on courses in Eastleigh and Southampton and is instrumental in getting Choices working in Fairoak. For the Vicar, **Ali Mepham**, for his heart for people struggling through mental health issues and prayers of thanks as he has recently joined the Trustee Board of SAFE to support and enable the Vision.
5. **Freedom Church Romsey** – give thanks that both their CAP centre and their Food Bank have now been established in the Church's new premises, The Freedom Centre. For the new initiative to train local youth workers including **Hannah Shepherd**, Freedom Church Youth worker to take **Youth Choices** into the Secondary Schools in the area and for young people who are NEET. (Not in education, Employment or Training. For **David Carr,** church member and local businessman who is looking to finance a partnership between the church, business and schools in Romsey.

**Training**

1. **Licensed Choices** – This is our method of training churches, voluntary sector organisations and public sector organisations to deliver the Choices suite of programmes. Pray for wisdom in choosing partners who have the right heart and character to work with vulnerable candidates. Also for the development of an E-learning package to train facilitators so that we might maximise the opportunities to impact communities across the UK.
2. **For Southampton City Deal Youth Workers** – who are in the process of being trained by SAFE at the moment through Licensed Choices and are running their first Youth Choices course at Dukes Keep with 12 young people from across the City.
3. **Integrated Choices** – Prayers of thanks for this newly developed 3-day course which contains the essence of the 10-day programme but because we work in partnership with organisations providing a longer term support package, has been very effective. Improvements in mental health and goal setting have been very similar to the 10-day programme. Please pray for the candidates that their changes will be sustained an that they will receive all the support they need from organisations we partner with to provide the longer term support.
4. **Later Life Choices** – prayers of thanks that we are about to embark on our 4th Later Life Choices course. On each course so far many lives have been changed through better health and clear goals back into fulfilling work please read their stories at [www.safe.org.uk](http://www.safe.org.uk) and pray for their new lives to continue to flourish. Please pray for further funding for these courses to come in as currently only 4 of the 6 courses we will run have been funded.
5. **Wellbeing Choices** – our flagship programme aimed at all ages of adults. Currently we have no funding to run any of these programmes ourselves so please pray either for funding to come in or for partner churches to be able to resource their own funding so they can be trained to run them through Licensed Choices. There remains a massive need for this course and currently we are having to turn potential candidates away.
6. **Schools Choices -** for SAFE and the churches we work with to find routes into schools where we can support young people struggling with behaviour and mental health. Particularly for the Weston Church Youth Project who will be working in their local school and for Freedom Church Romsey who are looking to partner up with schools there.
7. **Youth Choices** – Currently we are unable to run any courses ourselves, but we are seeking funding to employ a dedicated Youth Developer at SAFE to enable Youth Choices courses to begin running again and to train Youth workers to help NEETS and school students to benefit from it.

**Funding**

1. **Finances generally** – We are able to finance the work of SAFE until April 2017 and unless new funding streams come in we will not be able to continue in our current form after then. Please pray for fresh funding and giving to enable this vital work not only to continue but to flourish and spread across this Nation
2. **Individual Giving** – prayers of thanks for faithful givers who provide a steady income for SAFE and for more to give in this way so we can reduce dependency on other forms of income which inevitably come with so many strings attached.
3. **Grant Making Trusts** – prayers of thanks for funding recently received from the Henry Smith Foundation which will provide a 3-year income stream; for the 2 outstanding major applications we have in the pipeline. For the trustees of those foundations to see the value and impact of the work being done.
4. **Statutory Funding** - our grant from Southampton City council has been extended to the end of June 2017 to enable a consultation period as to how the Council will fund charities in Southampton helping residents overcome their barriers. Please pray for wisdom for council leaders to make effective decisions for the people of this City.

**Governance**

1. **Trustees** – prayers of thanks for our new Trustee Ali Mepham, Vicar of St Tom's Fairoak. For our existing Trustees, Trevor May, Nick Strong, Anita Smith, Steve Nicholls and Anthony Scammell the Chair. Prayers of thanks all the expertise, passion and commitment they bring to the leadership of the Charity. Prayers of thanks for Jane Fisher who has recently stepped down as a Trustee after 5 years of supporting SAFE in this way.
2. **Trustees and senior staff**- for wisdom as our they guide SAFE through challenging times and significant change.prayers of thanks for the recent Vision meeting where a clear direction is developing for a national rollout, seeing Choices courses available to anyone who needs it across the age ranges. Pray for wisdom and energy to see this vision come to reality.

**Communication to Churches**

1. **Nicola King** – will be speaking at a women’s conference at St James Church along with an ex course candidate; Maria. Please pray for clear thinking and communication and that Maria will not be overwhelmed, that she might be able to tell her transformational story and the women there will be inspired to take the good news message of choices to their own churches.
2. **Marketing**- that our communication tools; our prayer letter, newsletter, our website and Facebook site would keep up to date and be issued, even when other more pressing matters need to take priority. Prayer for extra support in this area whether it be through a volunteer to share the load or finance to employ someone to take care of this vital area of communication.
3. **Candidate Stories** – We have produced a booklet containing the life- changing journeys of several of our candidates and it would be good to encourage churches through these inspirational stories of non-Christians experiencing the unconditional love of Jesus through His church. Please pray for wisdom for an effective communication strategy with already busy churches and that the essence of Choices as a genuine and effective outreach into a community will touch the right churches. See www.safe.org.uk

**Premises**

1. **Dukes Keep** – has been an amazing provision for SAFE in central Southampton. An office base with our own training room. Please pray that we are able to stay here for as long as possible as it meets the needs of the candidates we work with in Southampton, other agencies can easily communicate with us and it is a big financial blessing to us not having to find any finances to fund rent, heat, light and power, although since November we are paying a small contribution towards these costs.