What support will women have?

Pause Practitioners support women in a number of ways, including attending appointments with them and partner agencies. Pause women find this kind of approach helpful so they can improve their confidence with making the changes that they have identified as being important to their life.

Also, all of the women understand that the programme does not mean their children will be returned to their care, but it does allow them to live the life they want, allowing them to make informed choices and decisions about their future, that will hopefully break the cycle of repeat removal.



Contact us



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The Nelson Trust Women's Centre, 14 King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3DG



Pause Somerset works to prevent the damaging consequences of thousands more children being taken into care each year.













What is Pause?

We work with women who have experienced, or are at risk of, repeated pregnancies that result in children needing to be removed from their care.

We aim to give women the opportunity to pause and take control of their lives, breaking a destructive cycle that causes both them and their children deep trauma. The women are supported to take a pause in pregnancy with the use of a long acting reversible contraceptive (LARC).



How Pause Works

We are a voluntary service supporting women to take a break from pregnancy for 18 months.

Our practitioners form long-term relationships with the women, helping them in all areas of their lives to achieve their goals and attain stability. We work with women regardless of circumstances, we don't give up on them but work to build their trust and engagement.

Essential Criteria

Each woman must meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration for Pause:

- She must live in Somerset.
- She has had two or more children removed from her care, the youngest within the last 5 years.
- She is not pregnant and does not currently have children in her care.

Meet the Team



Helen Emmings—
Practice Lead

Claire Mahoney— Practitioner





Erin Black — Practitioner

Sharon Rideout -Practitioner



Capella Rew — Coordinator

