



Drug and alcohol charity Phoenix Futures offers new help to female victims

Drug and alcohol charity Phoenix Futures is helping female victims of horrific crimes, including rape, trafficking and domestic abuse, after receiving an £85,000 grant to open a new women-only centre in Camden to treat complex substance misuse problems.

The 10-bed residential service – called Grace House – opened last Monday (15 June) and will provide six to 12-month rehabilitation treatment and housing for women with drug and alcohol dependency. Phoenix Futures received the grant from Public Health England to help women leaving prison with no fixed address continue with their abstinence programmes, and local residents who are seeking help for their addiction.

Charlotte Sharpe, Service Manager at Phoenix Futures' Grace House, said: "We are so pleased to open this incredibly important service which will provide specialised treatment for an increasing number of women who find themselves homeless or unable to cope in their current environments. Grace House will give women who have suffered horrific tragedies the opportunity to recover from their pasts and rebuild their lives with support from women who share their experiences and an all-female staff team. At Phoenix Futures, we believe that a stable home is the basis for successful and sustained recovery, and we will provide vulnerable women with the time, space and support to address their substance misuse and complex needs, so we can help them take the next step towards a brighter future."

Phoenix – the UK's only specialist substance misuse housing association – applied for the £85,000 grant to renovate the house after staff conducted a survey with women in HMP Holloway. The results revealed that many women leave prison, after receiving drug and alcohol support, to households with domestic violence and partners who still use drink and drugs, or to no accommodation at all. Phoenix Futures staff provided treatment for drug and alcohol addiction to over 40 per cent of prisoners in HMP Holloway in 2014.

Grace House will provide structured group work, one to one sessions and social activities to help with substance misuse problems and complex needs but will also offer advice on how to live a healthy lifestyle, education, qualifications and employment. Phoenix will work with various local agencies and services in Camden to provide appropriate professional care to the residential service's occupants.

Ms Sharpe added: "The house looks brilliant, and we can't wait to see how much of a difference this service can make to so many women's lives. Phoenix has provided drug and alcohol treatment to people with substance misuse problems for over 45 years and are experts in helping people into recovery. Last year we provided support to over 20,000 people in prisons, residential, community and housing settings across the UK."

For more information or a referral form please contact Charlotte Sharpe, Service Manager on csharpe@foundation66.org.uk or call 020 7916 5013, or visit Phoenix Futures' website www.phoenix-futures.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

- Phoenix Futures is a leading provider of services for people with drug and alcohol problems.
- We offer services within community, prison and residential settings in England and Scotland.
- Established in 1969, Phoenix has 46 years' experience in helping people through recovery.
- Over 20,000 people every year begin their treatment with Phoenix Futures.