



### **Knit A Fish for Phoenix's baby sensory room**

Drug and alcohol charity Phoenix Futures is encouraging caring knitters to cast on their needles and hook a knitted fish for a new baby sensory room in the national charity's family service for mothers and fathers with substance abuse problems.

The leading UK provider for drug and alcohol services is asking for knitted underwater creatures to be donated to the new sensory room, which will be used to help the development of babies who may be suffering from drug withdrawal symptoms. The Sheffield Family Service - which opened in 1996 - provides a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatment for up to 27 parents and children.

Leanne Smullen, Service Manager at the Sheffield Family Service said: "We would really appreciate anyone who can knit to get involved in our Knit A Fish for Phoenix campaign and brighten up the day of a child at Phoenix's family service. The sensory room is really starting to take shape, but we still need more things to keep the babies' minds active.

"We're asking people to knit a fish, or other 'under the sea' creations, and bright colours and soft textures really help the babies to develop their senses and enjoy the experience. These families have often been through very difficult times but this simple campaign will bring a lot of joy to the babies and their mothers to see them smiling."

Phoenix Futures works with around 20,000 people every year to overcome their addiction to substance misuse. The national charity provides range of different specialist services, including older persons, gambling and treatment in prisons.

The Knit A Fish Campaign will provide knitting patterns for anyone who wants to knit for the family service, but Phoenix welcomes a variety of designs. Donations can be sent directly to the

service at National Specialist Family Service 29-31 Collegiate Crescent Broomhall Sheffield S10 2BJ.

**Picture caption:** Phoenix Future Chief Executive Karen Biggs with her knitted octopus which she is donating to the Sheffield Family service.

- **Ends** -

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.