



**NORCAS granted 3 year Big Lottery grant for the
Older People's service
Wednesday 12 November**

NORCAS, part of the Phoenix Futures Group is pleased to announce following an award of £281,425 over 3 years from Big Lottery Fund, that we will be restarting our services for older people. We will build upon the valuable achievements of our Over 50's provision that ended earlier this year with a new and improved Older People's Service.

This funding until 2017 will provide 1 to 1 support, intervention and referral for people aged 65 years and over who are affected by the misuse of alcohol, prescribed and illicit drugs and over the counter medications in Norfolk and Suffolk. Our staff will deliver outreach to reduce isolation and support older people to live healthier lives.

Kate Lawrence NORCAS Team Manager said "We're really pleased with the support from the Big Lottery Fund to enable us to continue this important work. Substance misuse amongst Older People is growing within Norfolk and Suffolk and we look forward to being able to work with a wide range of local support to help address this issue. We will be recruiting shortly and more details about the Older People's service will follow soon."

Older people are often affected by bereavement, loneliness, accelerated health problems, money worries and limited access to specialist services. Older people can be reluctant to seek advice and fear the stigma associated with drug and alcohol misuse. Our service will work alongside relevant organisations to raise the awareness of alcohol and drug misuse in this age group and to help front line workers identify the indicators.

Evidence suggests the UK is on a cusp of an epidemic of alcohol related harm amongst older people, with an estimated 1.4 million people in this age group exceeding recommended drinking limits. Norfolk and Suffolk has a higher than the national average with over 20% of population living in both counties are over 65, approximately 194,600 in Norfolk and 136,456 in Suffolk. There has also been an increase in the number of drug-related deaths in older age groups with the number of men aged 50-69 increasing 255% and women 94%.

-Ends-

For more information please contact the service on 01603 660070 or e mail over.50s@phoenix-futures.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- NORCAS is part of the Phoenix Futures group, who are 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.