



**Phoenix welcomes dogs
into rehab in the Wirral
Tuesday 7 July**

People with drug and alcohol problems can now take their dogs to rehab after national charity Phoenix Futures opened a block of kennels at its Wirral residential service.

Phoenix Futures staff decided to welcome dogs at the service after an increasing number of people said they couldn't receive help for their addiction if it meant they had to give up their pets. The Upton Road residential service – which offers three-month treatment for people with substance misuse problems in the 32-bed house – opened its block of three kennels on Tuesday 7 July.

Karen Biggs, Phoenix Futures' Chief Executive, who opened the kennels at the ceremony on Tuesday, said: "We are thrilled to be opening the first Phoenix Futures kennels at our Wirral Residential service. At Phoenix we pride ourselves in ensuring our residential services respond to the needs of our service users. Many people in active addiction build strong ties with their dogs. Their dogs keep them warm and safe during periods of homelessness, give them unconditional love through the worst points in their lives and a reason to keep going when all other relationships appear irrevocably damaged.

"We know that no matter how entrenched someone's addiction is recovery is always possible. When people told us that they didn't want to choose between seeking the appropriate help for their addiction and their important relationships with their dogs we decided to do something about it and now they don't have to choose."

Phoenix will be accepting referrals from local authorities and people who wish to book themselves into treatment from Tuesday. The dogs will be cared for in a safe and appropriate environment by their owners, trained professionals and other people in treatment at the service. Staff are really excited about the opening and hope it will save many people and animals the heartache and stress of being separated.

Diane Hilton, Head of Residential Services in the Wirral, said: "Phoenix has been helping people into treatment for over 45 years and prides itself on breaking down barriers which stops people from accessing treatment. We treat every person who enters our services as an individual and we believe that by opening these kennels, we will be able to open the doors for many more people to receive help for drug and alcohol problems."

Phoenix Futures is the UK's only specialist substance misuse housing association – and last year cared for 20,000 people across the UK, receiving treatment in its community, prison, residential and outreach services. The national charity has over 80 services across England and Scotland.

To make a referral or to find out more information our service call 0151 652 2667 or visit the Phoenix Futures website at 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 1967, Phoenix has 45 years' experience in helping people through recovery.
- Over 20,000 people every year begin their treatment with Phoenix Futures.