



Phoenix welcomes new charter linking housing and health

Britain's only specialist substance misuse provider housing association welcomes a new charter, which recognises the crucial link between housing, health and social care, after seeing the benefits of providing homes for people in recovery for over 45 years.

Phoenix Futures – which has over 90 services across the UK helping people overcome problems with substance misuse – said the Memorandum of Understanding, bringing together leading health, housing and social care organisations to provide an integrated service, is a great step in the right direction and will improve patients' lives. The leading charity can provide housing for over 250 people in the UK at any one time to help them integrate back into the community and continue to access support.

Karen Biggs, Phoenix Futures Chief Executive, said: "Phoenix has a long and successful history in providing specialist substance misuse services and is the only drug and alcohol charity which is also a registered housing association, providing homes for people after completing treatment. We believe the provision of supported housing is a crucial step in recovery, and we are delighted these two areas have finally been recognised as being vitally linked. We work in partnership with health housing and social organisations across the country and know first-hand the benefits it can bring to local communities."

"Phoenix would be happy to explore how we can share our experience and learning over the last 45 years for the benefit of people in need. We believe that health in general, and substance misuse specifically, can't be separated from their social context, and we gladly welcome a new focus on healthy homes and recovery friendly communities."

Phoenix Futures Supported Housing is delivered in partnership with local housing providers, the scheme offers a structured package of support to substance misusers living in the Wirral, Tyneside, Glasgow, Hampshire and Sheffield, who require 'abstinent based' and recovery orientated

supported accommodation. The new charter – Improving Health Through the Home - will follow this example and provide structured accommodation which suits individuals needs by coordinating health, social care and housing policies.

Karen added: "Phoenix works tirelessly across the country to support people in their recovery, but we do not believe in closing the door on them as soon as they leave treatment, we believe to be given a fair chance at a new future, support in settling back into a community is just as important as the initial decision to seek treatment for substance misuse."

For more information about supported housing or services Phoenix Futures offers, visit www.phoenix-futures.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

- The new charter 'Improving health through the home' can be found [here](#)
- 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 19,000 people every year begin their treatment with Phoenix Futures.