



**Trafford drug and alcohol charity
celebrates Big Lunch
Tuesday 9 June**

Trafford drug and alcohol recovery charity Phoenix Futures opened its doors to dozens of hungry guests for its Big Lunch event on Monday 8 June as part of a national community celebration.

Over 40 guests visited the Bridgewater Street service for people with drug and alcohol problems to enjoy a buffet lunch and meet some of the residents who are transforming their lives while recovering from substance misuse problems. The national Big Lunch event - started by the Eden Project in 2009 - encourages communities across the UK to have lunch with their neighbours annually at the beginning of June to build community spirit.

Helen Brewin, Trafford Recovery Services' Service Manager, said: "We thought hosting a Big Lunch event would be an excellent opportunity to get to know our neighbours and other providers in the sector and more importantly have an informal day where everyone can be more relaxed and just get to know each other including service users' families. People who enter our services have been through very tough times and simple acts of community, friendship and fun like these can be incredibly beneficial to their recovery."

Phoenix – which has three treatment services in Trafford - also offers support for people affected by others' drug and alcohol problems and outreach programmes for older and younger people across the UK. Members of other local charities, companies and authorities which partner with the Trafford Community Recovery and Abstinence Service also joined the event where there was a raffle, face painting and games.

Helen added: "Everyone said how much they enjoyed the day and we think it's important to open services like ours up to the public so they can see what sort of help is available for people with drug and alcohol problems and there's no need to be afraid to ask for support. Every year Phoenix

helps over 20,000 people into treatment and it is important that we continue to help building better futures for people who have lost their way with drugs and alcohol."

The national charity – which is the only housing association that specialises in substance misuse - offers services within community, prison and residential settings in England and Scotland.

Helen said: "We were so pleased with the support from the local community and we hope to do it again next year. Stephenson's Solicitors started to do a clinic in April at our service, and the feedback has been excellent from all the service users. Today their manager attended with the team and have said they will continue to offer free legal advice around housing, family and debt. So we would like to say a big thank you for all their support."

Anyone who thinks they may have a drug or alcohol problem please visit our website at www.phoenix-futures.org.uk for more information.

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For more information or hi res images please contact Georgina Watson on 02072349787 or e mail Georgina.watson@phoenix-futures.org.uk

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.