



PRESS STATEMENT FOR RELEASE 03.02.12

## **DAREDEVILS SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITY**

Daredevils are being encouraged to sign up to take part in a sponsored skydive to raise desperately needed funds for the Bury St Edmunds based drug and alcohol rehabilitation charity, Focus12. The charity faces an uncertain future following the withdrawal of £130,000 of government funding.

The tandem skydive will take place on Saturday April 28th 2012 in Beccles, and jumpers will need to raise a minimum of £300 each in sponsorship. There are 11 confirmed jumpers so far, but the event organiser, Sarah Stamp, is keen to sign up more volunteers to take part.

The potential skydivers range from aged 19 to 41 years old, and those signed up to take part include five members of staff from Bury St Edmunds leisure venue, CurveMotion, who jumped at the chance to jump when they heard about the plight of Focus12 from Sarah Stamp, who also handles the PR for the venue.

Tom Ogden, Manager at CurveMotion and resident DJ at The LP bar in Bury St Edmunds says: "I have always wanted to take part in a skydive, and so the chance to do one with a group of friends and raise money for a fantastic cause like Focus12 is a no brainer really – I just want to encourage loads of people to support us so we can raise as much money as possible."

Local mums Maria Merchant (30) and Sally Walters (37) have also decided to challenge their fear of flying by taking part. Maria, a single mother of four, is in the process of completing a Social Work degree and explains: "Having turned 30 this year, I really want to challenge myself, and when Sarah told me about the jump I realised that it was now or never – a real watershed moment and I think the time is right. I'm petrified of heights, so I'll be absolutely terrified on

the day, but knowing that the money I raise may end up making a real difference to someone's life, and how proud my children will be will make me do it."

Sarah Stamp, event organiser said: "This is the third skydive I have organised, and we are hoping to beat last year's total of £3000 for Focus12, which is enough to put one person through the programme and one family back on track. Each skydive is great fun, and I love watching how the team of jumpers bond so much over the experience. I'm really pleased with the number of volunteers I have had so far, and touched by people's response to my pleas for help, and the jumpers have already started fundraising, which is fantastic. Things for Focus12 are really difficult, and so literally every bit of support really does make a difference."

Anyone who would like to find out more, or would be interested in either jumping themselves or sponsoring those who are taking part, can email [sarah@sarahstamp.co.uk](mailto:sarah@sarahstamp.co.uk) or call her on 07584 028671.

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For further information or photographs please contact Sarah Stamp on 07584 028671 or [sarahstamp@focus12.co.uk](mailto:sarahstamp@focus12.co.uk)

#### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

Focus12 is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre, and was established in 1997 by Chief Executive, Chip Somers.

It offers both daycare and residential facilities and is able to offer a full range of abstinence based treatment, from individual therapy to an intensive 12 week detox programme.

It counts celebrity patrons Russell Brand, Boy George and Davina McCall amongst its supporters.

If you would like an interview with or photograph of any of the jumpers, please email [sarah@sarahstamp.co.uk](mailto:sarah@sarahstamp.co.uk)