



PRESS STATEMENT FOR RELEASE 12/12/12

FOCUS12 SUCCESS STORIES TAKE THE LEAD AT CONCORDAT GRADUATES

Two ex-clients of Bury St Edmunds based drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre, Focus12, have been appointed to the Concordat Graduates. Oliver Phillips has been named as East of England Chairman, while Lillie Marnie is the Secretary for the region.

The Concordat was originally formed in December 2010 by 38 residential rehabilitation centres from right across the UK, to try and raise awareness of and campaign against the growing funding problems faced by treatment centres, following the closure of 31 rehabilitation centres over the past 24 months. The Concordat Graduates are a group of people who have successfully been through residential abstinence based rehabilitation treatment, and will act as advocates for The Concordat.

Oliver Phillips commented: "I am nervous yet excited about taking on this role! Addiction, in many forms, took me to some very dark places. After 10 years in active addiction I ended up with nothing to my name and on a large methadone prescription. I was in a desperate state and feeling utterly hopeless. After reaching a point in my life where the pain of staying the same became greater than the pain of change, in January 2010 I asked for help at Focus 12. After another 7 months of fighting against what was suggested to me and trying to stop using on my own, I began treatment in July 2010.

"During treatment I regained some hope and learned a new way to live. I remain abstinent and continue to work a recovery program. I was accepted into a supported housing scheme and from that I now have my own place. I work, I am building up relationships with my family, I have good friends and great support – life is a lot better than I ever dreamed possible!

“Attending residential rehabilitation was a major factor in turning my life around and I truly believe I could not have done it without being given this opportunity. I was one of the last few people in the Suffolk area to be given funding to attend Focus 12, before the change in the way funding was distributed in this area. For this I am extremely grateful. I feel very passionate about the cause of the Concordat Graduates and am very honoured to be appointed as the East of England chair for a cause I truly believe in.”

Chip Somers, Chief Executive of Focus12 added: “The work Oli and Lillie are doing in supporting the Concordat Graduates is vital. We know that residential based abstinence treatment works – we see people every day who prove that theory. Like so many other similar treatment centres, we are facing huge funding difficulties, and the aim of the Concordat is to continue putting pressure on the government to ensure that residential treatment centres receive a fairer slice of the funding that is available.”

*** ENDS ***

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For further information, quotes or photographs please contact Sarah Stamp on 07584 028671 or sarahstamp@focus12.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITOR

Further information on The Concordat Graduates can be found at <http://concordatgraduates.org/>

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 treatments, from individual therapy to an intensive 12 week detox programme, based on total abstinence.

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