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NEW CELEBRITY PATRON FOR SUFFOLK BASED REHAB CHARITY

The Suffolk based drugs and alcohol rehabilitation charity, Focus12, has announced that singer and DJ Boy George is to join Russell Brand and Davina McCall as its latest celebrity patron.

The announcement was made at Focus12's 14th annual reunion, held yesterday at the Apex in Bury St Edmunds, where those who have been helped by the charity came together to celebrate their recovery. The event was attended by over 400 clients, ex-clients and supporters of Focus12, including patrons Boy George and Davina McCall.

Speaking at the reunion, held at the Apex in Bury St Edmunds, Chief Executive, Chip Somers said: "George has long since been an active supporter of the work we do, and so to ask him to become a patron seemed a natural progression. We are absolutely delighted he has agreed to come on board, and are thrilled to welcome his fresh ideas and perspective. There is no doubt that without the continued and loyal support of Davina and Russell over the years, we wouldn't be stood here today celebrating what amounts to over 260 years of Focus12 recovery in this room."

Davina McCall, who made the announcement at the reunion added: "I couldn't be more thrilled, George is a great advert for recovery and a really lovely bloke."

Boy George spoke to the crowd about his own battle with addiction, and how amazing he has found his recovery through total abstinence. He said: "Recovery is a beautiful thing – seeing the people you love getting the colour back in their skin, the life back in their eyes, is fantastic. I am really looking forward to making some serious money and raising the profile of Focus12."

A raffle held at the event raised £1700 for the charity, which is struggling to survive following the loss of £136,000 worth of annual funding from Suffolk County Council.

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

A total of 19 rehabilitation facilities have been closed in the past 20 months due to funding pressures.