

**ESH WORKS SECURE ANOTHER AWARD TO FUND A
DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECOVERY COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Leamington Spa based social enterprise ESH Works Ltd founded six years ago by three recovering addicts have been awarded a £545,000 capital grant from Public Health England (PHE) to establish a residential rehab and focal point for a recovery community in Warwickshire supporting people with drugs and alcohol problems.

This is the third year that PHE has led a process of capital investment in drug and alcohol recovery services. Similar to last year, there has been a significant level of interest in the funding, with applications far exceeding the £10m that was available nationally. The funding was specifically targeted towards organisations that provide peer led support.

The grant recognises and builds on the significant contribution and impact that ESH Works has already made in the community providing peer led support to people with substance misuse issues including the families and friends of those individuals.

Will Johnston, Joint Commissioning Manager (Substance Misuse - Adult & Young People's Treatment & Care) said "This award from PHE supports Warwickshire's focus on establishing Recovery Communities and recognises the importance of peer led activity and the support ESH Works provide. We took an initiative to commission the ESH Works peer led service over three years ago and it's proved to be incredibly successful".



Pictured at the ESH Works location in Leamington Spa, Will Johnston Joint Commissioning Manager (Substance Misuse - Adult & Young People's Treatment & Care) and ESH Works Chief Executive Paul Urmston.

Chris White MP for Warwick and Leamington said "In June 2010 around the time ESH Works was founded, I introduced a Private Member's Bill titled the Public Services (Social Enterprise and Social Value) Bill. The Bill has now been made law as the "Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012". The aim of the Act was to support community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprises to win more public sector contracts and to change commissioning structures so that a wider definition of value rather than just financial cost was considered. I've witnessed the passion, commitment and hard work of the ESH Works team over the years and without a doubt they have certainly proved that the wider definition of value is a reality in the provision of their peer led approach to recovery for addicts and their families".

The funding from PHE will be used to assist in the purchase of a peer led and supported residential rehab facility which will also be a focal point to continue the development of a robust locally supported recovery community in Warwickshire. The programme of activity at the centre will be designed to support people to achieve a sustained abstinence based recovery. A key element of the education programme is that it will be delivered by peer volunteers, mentors and professional staff that are 'in recovery' who can also pass on their own experience, strength and hope. By providing this opportunity for the volunteers and mentors it also helps them with their own recovery.

Paul Urmston, Chief Executive of ESH Works said "This award recognises the need to provide peer led mutual support in the community and we've been working towards this since we established ESH Works six years ago. It's great to see that the government are continuing to support recovery communities and endorsing the philosophy that the power of one addict helping another is without parallel in a person's recovery. Recovery is all about change for the person in addiction and our aim is to give people the vision that there is a future for them and to demonstrate by example that change and recovery is possible!

A further key element of the project is a new initiative to provide education, guidance and peer mentor support to families of the people who are in the rehab facility. By assisting the families to understand and deal with the client's changing approach to life, we will actually be supporting sustained recovery. ESH Works has a wealth of experience supporting families and individuals and we believe this approach will be a significant factor in helping our residents to maintain their recovery when they leave rehab".

A sister of an addict currently supported by ESH Works said "ESH helped my brother and I get into a three month rehab, with advice, support and knowledge. While he was in and when he came out I was given continual support and follow up checks to make sure I was doing well. This is huge, as one often feels so alone in this situation".

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Notes to editors:

ESH Works is an independent not for profit organisation providing mutual support for those addicted to or families affected by alcohol, drugs or other dependencies.

The fundamental principles and ethos of the organisation are reflected in the prefix of the name 'ESH Works'. The letters ESH represent the Experience, Strength and Hope which alcoholics, addicts and their families who have lived through the issues and found a solution can give to support people who are still experiencing addiction problems.

We believe the principle of 'ESH' works because the knowledge, understanding and skills required to face addictive behaviour can be best communicated by people who have direct, firsthand experience of these issues.

Our focus as an organisation is on 'recovery' from addiction and we believe that the necessary support is most effective when it is led by people who themselves have experienced the problems and found a solution.

About the Public Health England capital funding to support drug and alcohol recovery

New government investment of £10 million has been awarded to services that are supporting drug and alcohol recovery across England. The capital funding is being distributed by Public Health England via local authorities to service providers that support projects which contribute towards helping their clients to overcome dependency from drugs and alcohol.

All recovery-focused adult drug and alcohol treatment and support services across England were entitled to bid for a share of the funding, provided that funding proposals were recovery-orientated and committed towards improving recovery outcomes.

This is the fifth wave of government capital investment funding to support drug and alcohol recovery, and follows Department of Health capital funding in 2007, 2009 and 2010 managed by the former National Treatment Agency.

A full list of successful bids can be downloaded from:

<http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/finalapprovedbids2016.pdf>