

FSL SERVICE PROVISION

IN

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



*For Families and Carers
Affected by Drugs or Alcohol*

Family Support Link is a registered charity based in Northamptonshire which aims to reduce the physical, psychological and emotional harm caused to *families living with, or caring for someone who is addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, empowering them to improve their lives. Particular emphasis is placed on those we have traditionally found difficult to engage with, by encouraging a pro-active not re-active approach.

The service provides effective support, counselling, education and early intervention for those families, educates the community in relation to the stigma, social exclusion, isolation and discrimination faced daily, by these families. In addition, it offers awareness and training for professionals.

Often forgotten, grandparents are also supported, particularly those who may be left looking after children at a time in their lives when they are less able to cope both physically and emotionally with the impact this may have on them. This improves the likelihood of a positive outcome to keep the family unit intact.

The families that we support are diverse, of both genders and all age ranges. In addition they come from all social, economic and ethnic backgrounds.

These interventions will empower families, increase knowledge and understanding, change attitudes, support community cohesion and promote engagement with children and young people.

The service refers to *HM Government Tackling Drugs saving Lives The 2008 Drug strategy "What works in drug treatment, NHS National Treatment Agency for drug and or alcohol March 2008 - "The NTA Policy on involvement of users and family members" "The Government's response to Hidden Harm" and "Every Child Matters"*

KEY PRIORITIES

- 1 To end the isolation and discrimination for families by providing the main point of contact within Northamptonshire
- 2 To provide a safe base enabling easy access to information, advice, sign posting and referral.
- 3 To provide a dedicated help line, one to one sessions and drop-in service
- 4 To provide awareness and training to those families and carers in relation to blood borne viruses including the correct disposal methods of used paraphernalia and bodily fluid spillages, thereby promoting personal and community safety.
- 5 To provide community information and education in order to create empathy to the consequences for those families affected by someone else's drug and or alcohol abuse, alleviate community fears and the stigma and social exclusion experienced by these families.
- 6 Create stronger links between families and the community to enable those in the community who choose to, to support those families.
- 7 To increase knowledge, create understanding and training to professionals of the consequences for families.
- 8 To promote the well being of families and raise their self esteem.
- 9 Ensure that the voices of these families are heard in the design and delivery of services, through active participation
- 10 To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by supporting families to effectively report crimes committed against them.

*Family denotes parent, carer, partner, sibling or any extended family

