



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Swanswell online clinic reveals the hidden victims of alcohol misuse

Netmums' alcohol awareness clinic receives requests for help and information

20 October 2009– Swanswell ran their first live online alcohol awareness clinic with Netmums on 19 October. The clinic provided members of the Netmums' community with the opportunity to raise questions about their own alcohol use or that of a partner, relative or friend. Of the questions received, the majority came from women seeking advice to help their partner stop drinking or cut down. Several posts mentioned the effect their partner's drinking was having on children with some detailing violent behaviour.

'The biggest part of the problem is his contact with the kids. He wants to be around us when he's on a binge and I have no power to keep him away or kick him out.' This community member continued: *'The kids are two and three and beginning to notice the effect he has on our lives. He is abusive verbally and threatens to hurt me. He grabs and pushes me in front of them.'*

Swanswell Senior Practitioners Carly Smith and Tim Gunner have been working with Netmums since April 2009 and have run this clinic specifically during Alcohol Awareness Week.

'As this post demonstrates there is a link between alcohol use and domestic abuse, which

[MORE]

ADD ONE
NETMUMS CLINIC

is one of the key themes Alcohol Awareness Week aims to highlight,' said Tim. 'Lots of people are being affected by their partner's alcohol misuse and we can reach some of them through different methods including online forum work.'

'The posts from Monday's clinic have been viewed by other community members over 900 times. This clearly shows that many more people benefit from reading the posts than the original 10 that actually asked questions,' continued Carly.

Swanswell Chief Executive Debbie Bannigan is pleased at how their work with Netmums has developed: *'This clinic shows there is a real need for clear advice about what you can do and who you can speak to if you're worried about your partner's drinking. Swanswell has recently piloted a project in the Midlands aimed at perpetrators of domestic violence who are misusing alcohol. As part of this work we also supported vulnerable partners and children. We hope to be able to make this support available to more of our service users who are also perpetrators of domestic abuse in the future.'*

Tim and Carly will be back online on Thursday 22 October between 10am and 12 noon to provide more advice and information to members of the Netmums' community.

[ENDS]

Notes for editors

For more information contact Jo Cheshire
Swanswell
Suite 5, Hilton House
Corporation Street
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV21 2DN

Tel: 01788 559 400
Email: jo.cheshire@swanswell.org

About Swanswell

At Swanswell, we believe that everyone deserves the chance to change and to be happy. We help them to remove the things that stand in their way, whether physical, emotional or practical. So, as their lives improve, they can feel well, do well, and stay well. With over 41 years experience, Swanswell is an established provider of services that help and support people in tackling their alcohol or drug related difficulties, enabling them to lead happy and more independent lives. Swanswell has a reputation for innovation and is a leading developer of new services which help people to change their behaviour for the better.

About Netmums

Netmums is a unique local network for parents, offering a wealth of information on both a national and local level. They provide details for all kinds of local resources, from child-friendly cafes to child minders, places to go and much more. www.netmums.com