

Elizabeth Fry

Approved Premises for Women



News Update

Spring 2012

Welcome to our first news update for 2012 – our opportunity to share with you what has been going on at Elizabeth Fry over the last few months and our plans for the coming year.

New beginnings

Following the devastating fire in 2009, the focus of 2011 was the rebuild and renovation project.

The start of the year brought enormous challenges on a daily basis for the staff and residents, who had to cope with reduced facilities, cramped office space and residents' accommodation confined to the annex.

The builders wasted no time after the early snow and very quickly the new building began to take shape under the temporary roof. What was a building site soon became offices, bedrooms and showers.

The renovated premises were officially opened by Baroness Jean Corston on 1st July 2011. A wonderful day was enjoyed by all those who came along to the celebrations.

"It feels like we have finally reached the top of the mountain."

Fiona Titcomb, Manager EFAP, 1st July 2011



Following the renovations we are able once again to accommodate up to 21 women on licence, bail and community sentences.

Since July, 21 new residents have been admitted to the Approved Premises and 9 have successfully moved on to independent accommodation. Of these 9, none was originally from Reading, but 4 have chosen to stay in the area.

The staff continue to provide support for residents during their transition to independent living.

The renewal project has provided additional space enabling an increased range of opportunities to be made available to the residents. For example, access to a larger kitchen has meant that we have been able to run sessions that focus on nutrition, healthy eating and budgeting.

There is now a resource room where residents can use donated computers to write letters and CVs. We have also been able to provide a room that can be used for private sessions on a one-to-one basis.

"The facilities are clean & well designed & provide us all with a very pleasant living environment"

EFAP resident, December 2011

With our thanks

Fundraising throughout 2011 has been challenging and varied. We would like to thank the following organisations for their generous support

Clothworkers' Foundation	Ministry of Justice
Englefield Charitable Trust	Prudential Insurance plc
Earley Charity	Rank Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation	Rowse Family Trust
Greyfriars Church, Reading	Saint Jude's Trust
LankellyChase Foundation	Thames Valley Probation

and also to the very many friends and supporters who have given so much and have supported the fundraising efforts of our staff and trustees.

Elizabeth Fry Approved Premises, 6 Coley Avenue, Reading, Berkshire RG1 6LQ.

A registered Charity No.237829

www.elizabethfry.co.uk

Elizabeth Fry

Approved Premises for Women



Our new patron

We are delighted that The Right Honourable Baroness Corston, author of the Corston Report (2007) on vulnerable women in the criminal justice system, has agreed to be Patron of Elizabeth Fry Approved Premises. The trustees are most grateful to Baroness Corston for accepting their invitation.

50 years in Reading

In 2012 it will be 50 years since the Elizabeth Fry Hostel moved from London to its current location in Reading. We will be celebrating this anniversary throughout the year and will keep you informed of the events taking place.



Elizabeth Fry was best known for her work as a pioneering prison reformer. The Elizabeth Fry Refuge, an institute for ex-prisoners, was founded in her memory in 1853.

In 1924 it was reconstituted as a charitable organisation and became a hostel for women on probation. The hostel moved to Reading in 1962, where the work continues in her memory.

What's next?

There are a number of improvements to the premises still required in 2012, alongside some fantastic projects to improve the services offered to the residents. We are seeking funding to make these happen.

Plans have been drawn up to extend the lounge, dining and kitchen areas to provide a space where all of the residents can share meals and come together. The extensions will also include an additional room to provide a space for multi-faith worship, quiet reflection and contemplation. This is a major project for which we are seeking funding. To date we have raised £50k.

We have been fortunate in having a professional counsellor who attends the hostel one day a week on a temporary voluntary basis, offering one-to-one sessions to residents. These sessions aim to help raise the women's self-esteem and reduce any risk they may pose to others and themselves. We are now seeking funding to establish this as a permanent service available to all residents.

To contribute further to the success of Elizabeth Fry Approved Premises we are keen to commission a research project on women offenders after they leave prison or who have been through the criminal justice system. The information nationally available on the lives of women offenders is limited and we would like to be able to gather statistics to help target the services we offer based on what really helps to contribute to stop re-offending.

There are also additional support services we would like to provide to the women to help make their time at Elizabeth Fry Approved Premises a success.

How you can support us

Please help us provide the relevant services to our residents, whose lives have often been affected by drugs, alcohol and abusive backgrounds, to enable them rejoin the community in a positive way.

Do you know a company that has a Corporate Responsibility Programme? Could you interest them in helping us in our work? Would they like to help through donations in kind?

Are you connected to a Trust or Foundation? Please let us know if our work fits your giving criteria.

You can donate by sending a cheque to the address below or online at:

[http://localgiving.com/charity/
ElizabethFryApprovedPremises](http://localgiving.com/charity/ElizabethFryApprovedPremises)

Thank you.