

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Local charity receives national award at high-profile ceremony**

A Falkirk charity Open Secret, which helps people who have suffered childhood abuse or neglect, received a GSK IMPACT<sup>1</sup> Award last night at a ceremony at London's Science Museum (see photo attached).

From over four hundred charities nationwide who applied to be part of GSK's flagship UK community investment programme, Open Secret won the award and joins group of previous winners from Scotland at the parliamentary event to celebrate the impact these charities have on health and wellbeing in their local community.

Research<sup>2</sup> shows that as many as one on four young adults have been severely maltreated as children and one in 20 suffered sexual abuse. Many survivors of abuse have long-term mental and physical health issues including self harm, substance abuse and eating disorders. Open Secret provides counselling and group support for all ages and worked with over 1000 survivors of abuse last year. The charity also provides support for prison staff working with women offenders, many of whom are survivors of abuse.

The GSK IMPACT Awards, run in partnership with The King's Fund and now in their seventeenth year, are seen as a mark of achievement in the healthcare charity sector. In addition to the £30,000 they receive in unrestricted funding, winning organisations are able to access training, development, and networking opportunities through a dedicated programme organised by The King's Fund.

#### **Janine Rennie, Chief Executive of Open Secret, said:**

'We are delighted to have won this very prestigious award and thank GSK and the King's Fund for selecting Open Secret as a winner. We feel that we are creative and innovative in our work with survivors of abuse, offering real and sustainable change. The award will enable us to develop further with the excellent training that is offered as part of the award'

#### **Katie Pinnock, Head of UK Community Investment at GSK said:**

'Open Secret is successfully tackling some challenging health issues, which people are often afraid to speak about. Its work in prisons is particularly innovative, working with prison staff as well as survivors, and has helped deliver some real outcomes such as improved family relationships and a reduction in self harm. They put the service user at the heart of their work and it shows in their achievements. They are a worthy winner.'

A judging panel of health and charity experts who chose the winners includes broadcast journalist Fiona Phillips; Professor Steve Field, Chief Inspector of Primary Care at the Care Quality Commission; Gilly Green, Head of UK Grants at Comic Relief; Sir Christopher Gent, Chair of GSK, and Sir Chris Kelly, Chair of The King's Fund.

## ENDS

### Notes to editors:

**Open Secret** is a community based organisation, which provides confidential support to individuals and families whose lives have been impacted by childhood abuse or trauma. We work with survivors of all ages. Our services are available primarily in the Forth Valley area, but some aspects of our service are available throughout Scotland. For more information please visit the following website: [www.opensecret.org](http://www.opensecret.org)

#### 1. GSK IMPACT Awards

The awards are open to charities with an annual income of between £25,000 and £2million that are at least three years old. The name 'IMPACT' derives from the criteria that winners must have demonstrated in their application submissions: **I**nnovation, **M**anagement, **P**artnership, **A**chievement, **C**ommunity Focus and **T**argeting Need.

This year almost £340,000 in prize money will be awarded to charities through the GSK IMPACT Awards. There are ten GSK IMPACT Award winners who each receive £30,000, and ten runner up organisations who each receive £3,000.

Since its inception in 1997, over 300 community health care charities have received a GSK IMPACT Award and funding totalling almost £5million.

#### 2. Statistics on child abuse and neglect

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) estimates that across the UK:

##### Severe maltreatment

- One in four young adults (25.3%) had been severely maltreated during childhood.
- Around one in five (18.6%) children aged 11-17 have been severely maltreated.
- One in seven young adults (14.5%) had been severely maltreated by a parent or guardian during childhood.
- More than one in eight children aged 11-17 (13.4%) have experienced severe maltreatment by a parent or guardian.

##### Sexual abuse

- One in 20 children (4.8%) have experienced contact sexual abuse.
- Over 90% of children who experienced sexual abuse, were abused by someone they knew.
- More than one in three children (34%) who experienced contact sexual abuse by an adult did not tell anyone else about it.
- Four out of five children (82.7%) who experienced contact sexual abuse from a peer did not tell anyone else about it.

(source:

[http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/statistics/prevalence\\_and\\_incidence\\_of\\_child\\_abuse\\_and\\_neglect\\_wda48740.html](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/statistics/prevalence_and_incidence_of_child_abuse_and_neglect_wda48740.html))

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