



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Swanswell to offer vital support over Christmas and New Year

15 December 2011, Leicestershire and Rutland/Sandwell/Birmingham – Swanswell’s offering vital support to people affected by substance misuse in Leicestershire and Rutland, Sandwell and Birmingham over the Christmas break.

The national charity, which helps people overcome drug, alcohol and other problem behaviour, recognises that it can be a particularly difficult time for many clients who are trying to overcome issues with alcohol or drugs.

So Swanswell’s running a special service offering telephone support and information over the festive period including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and the bank holidays.

Specially trained staff will be able to offer help over the phone between 9am and 5pm from Saturday 24 December to Tuesday 27 December and from Saturday 31 December to Monday 2 January . Swanswell’s services will be open as usual at all other times.

In Leicestershire and Rutland, there will also be a special drop-in service at the charity’s Loughborough office (24 Frederick Street, Loughborough, LE11 3BJ) from 9.30am to 12pm on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day.

During the Christmas break, people will be able to contact Swanswell by calling the special helpline number – 0300 303 5000 (please note, this number is for the holiday period only – the usual numbers apply during normal office hours).

Debbie Bannigan, Swanswell's Chief Executive, said: *'The festive season often brings increased pressure for people affected by substance misuse because of Christmas parties and new year celebrations.*

'It's also a time when relationships can be strained because of the extra time spent with families or the added financial difficulty that this time of the year often brings.

'So we're providing much needed support at a time when many other organisations are closed. It means we can continue to help people change and be happy.'

To find out more about Swanswell or for details of how to get in touch at any other time, visit www.swanswell.org.

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Notes for editors

For more information or supporting photographs, contact Stuart Goodwin:

Swanswell
Suite 5, Hilton House
Corporation Street
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV21 2DN

Tel: 01788 559 422

Email: stuart.goodwin@swanswell.org

About Swanswell

Swanswell is a national charity that helps people overcome drug, alcohol and other problem behaviour. 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. Swanswell has a reputation for innovation and is a leading developer of new services which help people to change their behaviour for the better.

Swanswell has a number of offices across the country including Coventry and Warwickshire, Birmingham, Barnsley, Sandwell, Leicestershire and Rutland. Visit Swanswell at: www.swanswell.org.

Join the conversation, follow Swanswell on twitter at www.twitter.com/Swanswell.

Usual Swanswell service details

Sandwell

Swanswell, Metro Court, 150 High Street, West Bromwich, B70 6JJ.

Drop in service open from Monday to Thursday 9am to 4pm, Wednesday evenings until 7pm by appointment only and Fridays from 1pm to 4pm.

Call 0845 112 0100 or email support@swanswell.org.

Leicestershire and Rutland

Swanswell operates from a number of locations in Leicestershire and Rutland including GP surgeries and other community locations.

Please call 0300 303 5000, email ladmin@swanswell.org or visit www.swanswell.org for further details.

Birmingham

Swanswell, Ruskin Chambers, 191 Corporation Street, Birmingham, B4 6RP.
Services also available from a number of GP surgeries and other community locations.

Please call 0121 233 7400, email birminghamadmin@swanswell.org or visit www.swanswell.org for further details.