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FH/letters/2019/Burton-Philips

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Testimonial for Elizabeth Burton-Philips, founder of DrugFAM

Elizabeth founded DrugFAM in 2006. Her book *'Mum, can you lend me twenty quid? What drugs did to my family'* is now a Theatre in Education play which tells her story, a story which must be seen and heard if others are not to go through the anguish felt by Elizabeth and her family. It is a huge accomplishment that over the past 12 years DrugFAM has continued to go from strength to strength.

I have heard Elizabeth speak to an audience and watched them respond to her very personal story. I could see them going through a whole range of emotions, much the same as I did when I read her book, but it also prompted many questions and conversations afterwards. Elizabeth is determined that some good comes out of her personal tragedy and her very open and honest reflections cannot fail to make you think about the future, whatever your role.

In 2016 I provided support to Elizabeth in advance of DrugFAM holding a Service of Hope and Celebration in Westminster Abbey in 2017. This service was attended by over 2000 people including the then Home Secretary, Amber Rudd. Again it was a very moving event that inspired hope for the future.

Elizabeth has more recently been involved in a working group to develop and provide a critical friend to Thames Valley Police's drug diversion scheme, providing a perspective from the family angle. The scheme being developed has the potential to help a great number of people and families affected by addiction, and her support with this work is significant.

Elizabeth is a truly inspirational person who has touched the hearts of so many – victims, communities, prominent politicians and opinion formers – with her message of hope and practical assistance for both victims and families.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Thames Valley Police and for our communities.

Francis Habgood
Chief Constable