

21 May 2004

Deputy J Dorey
Scrutiny Panel Chairman
Flat 4
29 Belmont Road
St Helier
JE2 4SA

Dear Deputy Dorey

Re: Silkworth Lodge, Vauxhall Street

I am writing to express my gratitude to the staff who give their services at Silkworth to help those who have addictions.

My brother [redacted] who after a number of years finally admitted that he had a drinking problem went into Silkworth last Thursday.

Just to give you a brief insight, we lost our mother some 12 years ago, when he was just 17 and I was 19. Basically, he has never got over her death. That was when I first noticed that he was starting to drink, and I suppose it just got worse from then onwards.

I know it is still very early days, but after visiting him on Sunday with my partner, sister-in-law and her 2 boys, I could not believe the change in him already, in only just 3 / 4 days. It was very noticeable. Apart from looking very well, he was very positive, and he spoke very openly. Above all, I could not believe how much he talked in the few hours that we were with him. He seemed very confident, which was excellent. He has never been like that, well not that I can remember. He would always keep everything to himself, unless he had been drinking.

I am so very proud of him, and I told him so on Sunday. I never ever thought I would see the day when he would finally get help. Both [redacted] wife and myself had tried so hard to get him to go and seek help, but he did not want to know. Sadiy, it reached the point where his wife had reached breaking point, and they have temporarily separated. As in a lot of cases, she has children, so her priorities of course were with them. Not to mention, I could not handle the problem any longer myself, and I was making myself ill over it, and so I told him that unless he sorted himself out, I could not help him anymore. [redacted] obviously realised at that point, that unless he sorted himself out, there would be no going back, and he could lose everything, his house, his wife, his children and me.

Going back to my visit to Silkworth on Sunday, I particularly found the Family Group Meeting very helpful. It was good to meet other families in the same situation as ourselves, and who could relate to what we were saying.

Anyway, I would like to thank Silkworth again for the help they have given [redacted] so far. He is doing so well, and as I mentioned earlier, I know he has some way to go yet, but I feel confident that he will get through this and do well. We are behind him 100%.

I cannot believe how serious a problem we have in Jersey, and it is great that we have the likes of Silkworth to help those who need it.

I have to admit, I had not heard of Silkworth until 3 / 4 weeks ago, when I spoke to a friend / colleague whose niece had been in, and she spoke about the good they had done her. I am now told that she is training to be a counsellor. Well good for her, I really hope it works out for her.

I hope you do not mind me writing to you personally, but I just wanted to express my thanks to Silkworth.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Cc: Ian Rodger
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