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## **Funding Announcement: Aberlour Mother and Child Recovery Houses**

Dear Convener,

As I indicated in my statement to Parliament on 30 November, I am writing to inform Parliament that, further to the funding already provided to River Garden Auchincruive, Phoenix Futures and NHS Lothian to increase residential rehabilitation capacity, the Scottish Government has now committed to provide grant funding to Aberlour Children's Charity over this parliamentary term.

This funding is for up to £5.5 million until 2026 and will be used to establish two new recovery units, specifically designed to support women through treatment alongside their children. These new units will be constructed in Dundee and Central Scotland, with work beginning on the first unit this year, and the second in 2023.

This funding will be announced at 10.00 on 23 March (tomorrow) via a press statement. I will be visiting Aberlour's Outreach Centre in Dundee at this time in support of the announcement, and to meet Aberlour's CEO, members of staff and service users. Supporting people into this kind of recovery is a key part of our National Mission and our commitment to Keep the Promise, which aims to give families the support they need to stay together.

One of the key recommendations set out by the Drugs Deaths Task Force was to provide and improve residential services for women and those with childcare responsibilities. As I announced on 30 November, we have established a rapid capacity programme as part of the Recovery Fund, which will expand existing services and establish new services. Our surveys highlighted a gap in provision that meets the needs of women and those who require childcare facilities, so we have made that a focus for the programme in line with the work and recommendations of the Residential Rehabilitation Development Working Group (RRDWG).

The establishment of these new mother and child units at Aberlour will act on these recommendations, and ensure that many women can access residential treatment without fear of their children being removed from their care.

I hope this update has been helpful.

ANGELA CONSTANCE  
Minister for Drugs Policy