

FAQs & Conversation Support

Is there really no women-only detox centre in the UK?

That's correct.

While there are detox services across the UK, none are exclusively for women. This means women often have to choose between entering mixed-gender spaces that may feel unsafe, or not seeking treatment at all. The Elms will be the first dedicated, women-only, medically-managed detox centre in the country.

There are some women-only residential rehabilitation services, for example, Ophelia House (Phoenix Futures) in Oxfordshire, but there is currently no women-only specialist inpatient detoxification service in the UK.

Why can't women just go to existing detox services?

Because many of those services don't meet some women's needs.

Women face unique barriers to accessing treatment, including:

- Stigma and shame
- Fear of losing custody of children
- Past trauma and abuse (especially in male-dominated environments)
- Lack of child-friendly or female-only provision

Mixed-gender services can be retraumatising for survivors of domestic or sexual abuse. Women are more likely to disengage early when they don't feel safe or understood.

Stats:

- Over 50% of women in treatment have experienced domestic abuse (25 x greater than wider population)
- 81% increase in drug poisoning deaths among women (2011–2021), and 38% rise in alcohol-specific deaths (2012–2022)
- The number of women who have their children removed due to drug and alcohol use is increasing.

What happens if you don't raise the full £500,000?

We will still move forward, but at a reduced scale or longer timeline.

Hitting the target means we can open faster and help more women immediately.

Will this service only be for women in Gloucestershire?

No, it will be a national service.

The Elms will be based in Gloucestershire, but we intend to support referrals from across the UK.

How many women will The Elms support?

At full capacity, we anticipate supporting approximately 200 women per year.

This will include:

- Medically-managed detox
- Stabilisation and preparation for rehab or community support
- Therapeutic interventions