



PRESS RELEASE

Issued: 14th March 2018

- Wasps Legends donate £2,500 to Samaritans (Ealing Branch).
- Donation will support the recruitment and training of new volunteers and ongoing training development of existing outreach volunteers to help reduce suicide rates.

Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation, the past players network of Wasps, men and women, amateur and professional announced today that they have issued a small grant award of £2,500 to Ealing Samaritans.

Ealing Samaritans is a branch of the national suicide reduction charity Samaritans. It has been run by volunteers continuously since 1972 to provide confidential emotional support to the West London community and beyond through phone, email and drop-in services as well as outreach work and support in prisons. Last year the branch took more than 34,000 contacts including emails and SMS and provided hundreds of hours of face to face support.

A robust outreach programme is vital to Samaritans Ealing ability to raise awareness of the service amongst high-risk groups, their contacts, carers and young people. The grant will be used to support the training of new and existing volunteers to ensure that we can meet the increasing demand for our services from the community.

Genevieve Glover, Chair of Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation said of the announcement: "We are very pleased to be supporting the Ealing branch of the Samaritans with this donation. As volunteers ourselves, recruiting, supporting and training volunteers is close to our heart, especially when there are such sensitivities involved with dealing with people who are struggling to cope. Through providing our donation, we hope that we can play a small part in supporting the volunteers and play a small part in reducing suicide and improving mental wellbeing."

Danielle Waterman, England and Wasps, who supported the grant application, said of the award: "It is fantastic that Wasps Legends are supporting the incredible work delivered by the volunteers at Ealing Samaritans. The support the Branch provides within the local community and beyond, is not only helping people's mental health and wellbeing, but also saving the lives of those struggling the most. Without charities like the Samaritans doing the work they do, people would not have somewhere to turn and gain the vital support they need."

Ann McLaughlin of Ealing Samaritans added: "We are delighted to receive this support from Wasps Legends. We are only able to continue to support those in despair and distress thanks to legacies, fundraising and donations such as that from Wasps Legends. At times, Ealing Samaritans struggles to gain visible support for our work and we look forward to working with Wasps to raise the profile of our work in our community."

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For more information on the Wasps Legends Charitable Foundation, please call Louise Latter on 07703 438 935 or email loulatter@hotmail.com.

For more information on Ealing Samaritans, please contact Ann McLaughlin on 07766 178 599 or email director.ealingsamaritans@gmail.com.