

Benzo victim successfully sues doctor's surgery

Wakefield Express, November 18, 2011

DRUG-FREE:
The love of her three-year-old grand-daughter Chloe helped Janet Marshall defeat an addiction to prescribed drugs that went on for two decades.
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‘My 22-year battle to beat prescribed drug addiction’

A WOMAN who defeated a 22-year addiction to prescribed drugs is speaking out to get more people the help they need to break free of destructive medication.

Janet Marshall, now 53, from Kettlethorpe, was prescribed Oxazepam when she was 26 and suffering from panic attacks after childbirth.

But the mother-of-five was unaware the form of now-controversial Benzodiazepines, dubbed Benzos, can be highly addictive and spent two decades battling drug addiction.

She said: “It has completely ruined my life, I’m always looking back thinking ‘if only’ - but I always thought I must need them because I was prescribed them for so long.”

There are an estimated 1.5million people addicted to prescribed drugs.

Earl of Sandwich John Montagu has

by **Sophie Morgan**

sophie.morgan@wakefieldexpress.co.uk

joined national anti-Benzo campaigns.

Speaking in the House of Lords, he said: “People have been left in intolerable pain and, through no fault of their own, become victims of addiction to and withdrawal from prescribed drugs.

“Doctors and psychiatrists connive at over-prescription and are then, it seems, incapable of coping with its ill-effects.”

Withdrawal symptoms from Benzos include muscle pain, vomiting, unusual behaviour, and seizures.

Rapid withdrawal is said to be potentially fatal.

Mrs Marshall added: “I want to apologise for the way I’ve acted at times - it wasn’t me, it was the drug.

“Doctors don’t have a clue how to

deal with it and a proper detox programme needs to be set up.

“I want people to get together and help each other move forward.”

Mrs Marshall has now been off the drugs for nearly five years.

She said: “I have attempted suicide five times, but my grand-daughter Chloe has been my salvation.

“Every time I see her face it brings me back up, and my wonderful husband has always stuck by me.”

Mrs Marshall was financially compensated in a settlement after a dispute with GPs at Chapeltorpe Medical Centre.

A practice spokesperson said: “We would like to reassure patients we regularly review the medications we prescribe on a case-by-case basis to ensure they are appropriate and safe.”

For advice see www.benzo.org.uk.