

Press release

26 October 2011

Under embargo until 26 October 2011

Figures reveal over 2,300 men in Humberside police area were victims of domestic abuse during 2010/11 – figure set to rise again for 2011/12.

- 16% rise in male victims between 2009/10 and 2010/11
- One in five victims of domestic abuse reporting to the police are men
- Male underreporting is a problem that local agencies need to solve

A freedom of information request¹ to local police by the ManKind Initiative, a national charity supporting male victims of domestic abuse, has shown a continuing increase in the number of men suffering in this way in the Humberside police area. Male victims make up one in five (22%) of domestic abuse victims who report to Humberside police.

In response, the charity has called upon all public organisations including the four councils (East Riding, Hull, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire), Humberside Police and Hull's Domestic Abuse Partnership to treble check to ensure the domestic abuse help they provide fully supports male victims of domestic abuse in the same way as support is rightly given to female victims. The Public Sector Equality Duty means that all statutory agencies must provide domestic abuse support that victims from both genders need.

Figures provided by Humberside Police from the freedom of information request show in 2010/11:

- 2,382 men reported to Humberside police that they were a victim of domestic abuse, a 16% rise from 2,052 in 2009/10.
- 1,306 men for the first six months of 2011/12 said they were victims meaning that if the trend continues, there will be over 2,500 male victims in Humberside in the full year.
- Male victims reported 3,038 incidents against them to the police, a rise from 2,575 in 2009/10.
- Female victims remain in the majority on Humberside with 8,566 (8,008 in 2009/10) reporting as being victims of domestic abuse in 2010/11.
- 22% of domestic abuse victims reporting to the police in 2010/11 were male and 78% were female.

Mark Brooks, Chairman of the ManKind Initiative, said: “The number of men coming forward as victims of domestic abuse shows clearly that this awful crime affects people from both genders in the area and all victims have to be able to get the help they need.

“We would particularly urge local councils, Humberside police and local domestic abuse partnerships to treble check they offer male victims the support they need and they should join forces to run a campaign to encourage men to come forward. Men are less likely to tell the police they are victims than women and many feel they will not be believed when that is not the case. A campaign would give them confidence so they and, often their children, no longer suffer in silence at home.”

The charity believes there is a clear underreporting gap for male victims and there needs to be a proactive local campaign to encourage more male victims to come forward. This is because government surveys² (British Crime Survey) show that two in every five victims of domestic abuse are men (42%). However with only 22% of victims reporting to the Humberside police being male, it means many male victims continue to suffer in silence and do not tell the police or tell anyone else.

The charity is unaware of a dedicated refuge or safe house for male victims being operated in Humberside, although there is a male support worker in Hull. The charity believes a refuge or safe house would provide specialist support for men and their children, if they have any, who need to escape from an abusive household.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. **FREEDOM of INFORMATION ACT 2000 Reference No:** F-2011-01639 to Humberside Police (Sent 09 August 2010 – response received 11 October 2011)

A gender breakdown of the number of victims of domestic abuse

Gender	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12*
Female	8,008	8,566	5,079
Male	2,052	2,382	1,306
Total	10,060	10,948	6,385
Not specified**	14	13	248

2011/12* Data for April 2011 to September 2011 inclusive
Not specified** Number of records with incomplete gender/name data

A gender breakdown of the number of incidents

Gender	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12*
Female	12,794	13,782	7,290
Male	2,575	3,038	1,546
Not specified**	14	13	248
Total	15,383	16,833	9,084
2011/12* Data for April 2011 to September 2011 inclusive Not specified** Number of records with incomplete gender data			

2. According to the 2011/12 British Crime Survey, 5% of men and 7% of women were victims of domestic abuse in 2010/11 – the equivalent of 42% men and 58% women.

British Crime Survey 2010/11 (First edition) Table 3.01 page 65

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/hosb1011/hosb1011?view=Binary>

About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative (www.mankind.org.uk), based in Taunton, Somerset, is a national charity which runs a help-line, information and referral service for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. The help-line number is 01823 334244 (weekdays 10am-4pm and 5pm-7pm)

Media

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07834 452357 chairman@mankind.org.uk