



Flook House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1BT
admin@mankind.org.uk : www.mankind.org.uk
01823 334244

Registered Charity No. 1089547 – Company Registration No. 3869893

Hon. Patrons – Lord Cotter, John Penrose MP, Erin Pizzey, Ian McNicholl and Stephen Fitzgerald

Mr Andrew Flanagan,
Chief Executive
NSPCC,
Weston House,
42 Curtain Road, London,
EC2A 3NH

5 June 2012

Dear Mr Flanagan

Domestic Abuse: Recovering Together

I am writing as Chairman of The ManKind Initiative, a charity that support male victims of domestic abuse, to express our tremendous disappointment that the above programme does not support all children in recovering from domestic abuse and improve relationships between their parents when there has been family violence. We would urge the charity to ensure that it reviews and changes this programme to ensure all children are supported.

The reason for this disappointment is that the NSPCC has not included children where the father has been the victim of family violence, that is, it is the father who is the victim of domestic violence. Until the DART service is made available to support children where the father has been the victim the NSPCC will not be offering a service for all children.

Current statistics from the British Crime Survey show that one in three victims of domestic abuse are male and in fact the statistics¹ in 2009/10 show that 2.2% of men with children suffered partner abuse (3.7% women) as did 13.0% of male single adults with children (14.7% female single adults with children). These statistics show that there is a need to support children where the father has

been a victim of domestic/partner abuse as well as rightly supporting children where the mother has been a victim of domestic/partner abuse.

I would therefore, urge the NSPCC to ensure the DART programme is available to fathers as well as mothers. Only then will the NSPCC ensure all children receive the support they need in this vital area.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to receiving your response on this very important matter.

Yours sincerely

Mark Brooks
Chairman
The ManKind Initiative

Research

- 1 Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/10
Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2009/10 Kevin Smith (Ed.), Kathryn Coleman, Simon Eder and Philip Hall.

Table 3.07 (page 88)

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/hosb0111.pdf>

10 June 2012

Mark Brooks
Chairman
The ManKind Initiative
Flook House
Belvedere Road
Taunton TA1 1BT



NSPCC 
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

National Society for the Prevention
of Cruelty to Children

Weston House
42 Curtain Road
London EC2A 3NH

Telephone: 020 7825 2500
Fax: 020 7825 2525
www.nspcc.org.uk

Dear Mr Brooks

Thank you for your letter of 1 June 2012.

The NSPCC recognises that domestic abuse can be directed at men by women and it can happen in same-sex relationships. The impact on the victim, whatever their gender, will always be significant. However when planning the DART service the NSPCC was mindful that research shows unequivocally that the majority of domestic abuse (more than 77%) is committed by men against women. Furthermore, male on female violence tends to be more severe, and also of longer duration. But we do acknowledge completely that there are many exceptions to this. In designing services within a limited budget we were concerned primarily to have the greatest reach.

Children most often stay with their mothers following these events. We know from a piece of research entitled 'Talking to my Mum', that children's recovery from the effects of domestic abuse can be facilitated best by their mother. It was on that basis that the NSPCC developed and implemented the DART programme - which is a group work programme for mothers and their children. We do not think it would be helpful to the group dynamic to allow a man (however innocent and traumatised himself) to participate with women and children who have been traumatised by a man.

That is not to say that difficulties men experience have been ignored. We would certainly consider seriously running a group for male victims who have main custody for their children. To date the numbers to make this viable just haven't happened in the areas where DART is delivered. And the NSPCC is developing new services continually and is keen to hear from men about the best ways to engage fathers in order to help children. The Fatherhood Institute could be helpful at this time <http://www.fatherhoodinstitute.org/>

We are very pleased that organisations such as your own Mankind Initiative are helping men who are victims of domestic violence and wish you all the best with your work.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Flanagan
Chief Executive