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Eleanor Schooling
Ofsted National Director for Social Care
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

21 August 2016

Dear Eleanor Schooling,

Re: Joint targeted area inspections (domestic abuse)

I am writing as chair of a national domestic abuse charity which supports male victims of domestic abuse. We provide a national helpline for male victims, training and information to statutory agencies/third sector and provide a public voice for those we support. Our charity is managed by an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser. Two in three of the calls that we receive are from men with children in the household.

Following the welcome announcement this week that Ofsted, Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and HMI Probation will be conducting six joint targeted area inspections, I am asking all four organisations to ensure that children where the father is the victim are included in these inspections.

The reason for this request is although the recognition and support for male victims continue to improve we are still concerned that there is not parity of support and recognition by statutory agencies. This is of relevance to these inspections where the children are children of male victims who are within their household.

In effect, both from a legal and safeguarding perspective, statutory agencies must provide the same recognition and support to a child of a male victim with the same need (both of the child and the victim) as they would a child of a female victim. This also includes access to emergency housing, referrals to social services, police and the health service. Given feedback from victims on our helpline and in particular, a domestic abuse homicide review that the charity is

taking part in, we feel while the schools sector fully and rightly recognises situations where a child's mother is a victim, we are not convinced the same happens when it is the child's father who is the victim. This places additional obstacles for those children.

Ensuring that a child receives the right level of support irrelevant of the gender of the victim within their household would be an important and significant test in protecting all children living with domestic abuse.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request and if there is anything the charity can do to support this vital piece of work, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mark Brooks

Mark Brooks
Chair of Trustees

CC

1. Professor Steve Field, CQC Chief Inspector of General Practice
2. Wendy Williams, HM Inspector of Constabulary
3. Dame Glenys Stacey, HM Chief Inspector of Probation