

Press Release

Under embargo: 16 November 2016

**Domestic abuse conference for male victims:
“Experiences, Services and Solutions”**

***8,200 men reported to the four police forces
in the West Midlands region in 2015***

On Wednesday 16 November 2016, Walsall FC’s Banks’s Stadium plays host to 120 delegates from across the UK who are coming together to find out how they can create or improve services to support male victims of domestic abuse. This includes many from the West Midlands region where 8,200 men² reported to the four local police forces in 2015 that they were victims of domestic abuse:

- Staffordshire (2, 504 men and 8081 women)
- Warwickshire (776 and 2,715 women)
- West Mercia (2,067 men and 7033 women)
- West Midlands (2, 853 men and 15255 women)

As well as hearing from three male survivors of domestic abuse, delegates will hear from national experts on how to run refuges and safe houses for male victims, how men can stop constantly entering into abusive relationships and how to run a helpline and drop in service. Two leading academics will also talk about research into the experiences of male victims and also the behaviors of female perpetrators.

The conference is chaired by Ian McNicholl, a domestic abuse survivor who is an ambassador for the charity.

Ian McNicholl, conference chair, said:“This conference brings together professionals, charities and survivors all wanting to reach out and provide services for male victims.

“Far too many men feel they’re to blame, they’re weak and they’re alone often because they do not think there is support for them. This conference aims to change that so no man suffers in silence and they realise they can escape and rebuild their lives.”

The conference is also being held three days before International Men’s Day (19 November 2016) and also forms part of a calendar of over 50 events in the UK marking the Day – all under the theme of Making a Difference to Men and Boys (www.ukmensday.org.uk)

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1 Speakers include:

- Dr Elizabeth A. Bates (University of Cumbria)
- Lori Busch IDVA (The ManKind Initiative)
- Lyndsey Dearlove (Hestia UK)
- Marc Linton (Home Group/Stonham Housing)
- Donna Shepherd (Montgomery Family Crisis Centre)
- Dr Abigail Thornton (University of Central Lancashire)
- Three male survivors of domestic abuse

- 2 Obtained by Freedom of Information requests: full table can be found here: [Police Force Domestic Abuse Reporting \(2012 to 2015\) – excel](#)

Media Enquiries

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07834 452357 chairman@mankind.org.uk. The media are welcome to attend the conference.

Registered Charity No. 1089547 – Company Registration No. 3869893
Honorary Patrons – Lord Cotter, Ian McNicholl, John Penrose MP, Sara Westle and Erin Pizzey. Flook House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1BT

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

It received 1,400 calls from male victims (or from people on behalf of victims – often mothers and sisters) every year.