



MEN AND BOYS
COALITION

www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk

c/o The ManKind Initiative (charity), Belvedere Road, Flook House, Taunton, TA1 1BT

To: Police and Crime Commissioners (England)

12 January 2017

Dear Police and Crime Commissioner

**Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation Fund bids:
Request for inclusion of bids for Men and Boys' Services**

I am writing on behalf of the Men and Boys Coalition, a network of charities, academics and professionals committed to highlighting and taking action on gender-specific issues that affect men and boys. One of the key aims of the Coalition is to highlight areas where the men and boys' needs are unmet including funding and service provision.

On December 2016, the Government issued a prospectus for the above fund (value of £15 million) with expressions of interest required by 23 January 2017. Despite its title, the fund will consider bids for male victims of a range of crimes that fall under the VAWG umbrella. These include domestic abuse, sexual abuse, sexual violence, stalking, forced marriage and honour-based crime. The prospectus reaffirms this (page 5):

“... we intend to benefit all victims of these crimes, and so proposals supporting men's services will not be excluded from consideration.”

In that regard, we would be grateful that if you are considering expressing an interest in bidding (either as a standalone bid, or in collaboration with other partners such as local authorities or health commissioners), that you consider:

- including support for male victims of these crimes in an overall service bid,
- a parallel bid for male victims of these crimes (if you are bidding for a women-only service), or,
- a standalone bid to support male victims of these crimes in your community

The broad national statistics are set out in Annex 1 which are derived from the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls Services Commissioning Toolkit. We would expect that especially for crimes of sexual violence/abuse and domestic abuse, you will have your own more localised statistics.

The Coalition is clear that it does not believe that there should be a competition under the VAWG umbrella between funding for men/boys and women/girls services as it is not helpful with regard to gender relations, commissioning, service provision/provider, and, ultimately victims of these crimes. In the long term, we would rather see a parallel funding stream for male victims of these crimes which would then go some way in avoiding this situation.

If you require any further information and/or support from the Coalition and its members on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely

Mark Brooks

Mark Brooks

Co-founder of the Men and Boys Coalition

Chair of the ManKind Initiative charity

info@menandboyscoalition.org.uk

www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk

07834 452357

Annex 1: Key Government statistics on VAWG crimes which include boys/men

Violence Against Women and Girls Services: Supporting Local Commissioning (page 8)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-services-local-commissioning>

- 1) In 2014-2015, the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 1.3 million women and 600,000 men (aged 16-59) experienced any type of domestic abuse in that year.
- 2) 82% of cases dealt with by the Forced Marriage Unit involve female victims; 18% involved male victims.
- 3) Approximately 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped in England and Wales alone every year
- 4) Around 21% of girls and 11% of boys experience some form of child sexual abuse, including rape.
- 5) According to the 2012/13 Crime Survey for England and Wales, after the age of 16, stalking affects 4% of women and 2% of men a year.
- 6) Both women and men with a long-term illness or disability were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year (12.8% and 7.3% respectively), compared with those without a long-term illness or disability (4.6% and 6.1%).