



ManKind Initiative Response:

Consultation on the Draft Guidance from 2 August 2013 and 27 September 2013

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PHG/44/Consultation/Latest>

Name		Mark Brooks
Organisation:		The ManKind Initiative
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence		
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME – Domestic violence and abuse: identification and prevention		Consultation on the Draft Guidance from 2 August 2013 and 27 September 2013
Gen	1	<p>It is extremely disappointing that NICE has chosen to say right at the start that “men can suffer from domestic abuse” instead of “men do suffer from domestic abuse” as the Home Office’s statistics clearly show.</p> <p>In fact, page 22 of the guidance clearly shows the level of domestic abuse carried out against men, so to then downplay this at the start of the document does not align. It would suggest that NICE is here is trying to make a ‘political or ideological’ statement which has no place in the guidance or at NICE in general.</p> <p>In addition, by placing such a statement about female and male victims at the very beginning of the documents deliberately sets a underlying negative tone about male victims and says to any professional using the guidance that domestic abuse and this guidance is only really about female victims.</p> <p>This will mean that male victims will continue to fail to be recognised as equals to female victims at a national guidance level and also for those using the guidance.</p> <p>This statement has to change to “both women and men are victims of domestic abuse”.</p>

		To fail to recognise victims of all genders as equals would be against the ethics of medicine and the NHS where all victims are equally recognised and all known norms regarding equality of support based on need
Gen	4	<p>This is a dangerous and disingenuous statement and one that has no place whatsoever in guidance such as this – it leaves male victims and their children at risk. The statement is:</p> <p>“Given the lack of evidence on men who experience domestic violence and abuse, most of the recommendations are primarily for women. However, men who experience domestic violence or abuse also need support.”</p> <p>There is plenty of evidence on men who are victims. This ranges from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Crime Survey statistics that show one in three men are victims of domestic abuse and are included already in the guidance. • Police statistics showing one in five people who report to the police as victims are male • The fact that there continues to be charities and organisations supporting male victims including those funded by the Home Office and supported by the NHS • There will be plenty of evidence and research within the NHS about male victims. <p>Lastly, in terms of research we would recommend NICE review the following document and the sources therein: http://www.abusedmeninScotland.org/Final%20What%20We%20Know%20LitRev%20June%202013.pdf</p> <p>If this statement remains in the guidance, The ManKind Initiative will be raising the issue with the Secretary of State for Health and also the board of NICE.</p> <p>This is because all of the recommendations must be based on supporting people based on need not on gender and this has to be clear. All guidance should be aimed at victims equally and primarily aimed at women and men. To say the guidance is not is both unethical and places male victims and their children at risk.</p>
1.1	5	It must be made clear that the mapping exercise, includes carrying out mapping exercise for services that support male victims and their children. This in turn should mean that commissioners see whether or not there are services for male

		<p>victims. If not, they then should take action.</p> <p>This is why the previous two statements highlighted by the charity are wrong, because if these are taken in the way they are set out, local mapping exercises will only take place for female victims.</p>
1.3	6	<p>When commissioning services at a regional or local level, the commissioning body must ensure that there are support services for both male victims of domestic abuse and also for female perpetrators.</p> <p>That will ensure that the needs of all perpetrators and also victims within a local area are met. This needs to be made clear in the guidance.</p>
1.4	7	<p>When establishing integrated care pathways, these pathways must also include pathways for male victims of domestic abuse and female perpetrators of domestic abuse. This needs to be made clear in the guidance.</p>
1.5	8	<p>Information should also include information for male victims of domestic abuse either at a local or national level. This should be spelt out.</p> <p>The guidance lists the National Domestic Violence Helpline but this is only women. The guidance should also list other support services such as the Men's Advice Line or ManKind Initiative helplines.</p>
1.5	9	<p>It is disappointing that NICE does not recognise that men are a group "that may have difficulties accessing services, or are reluctant to do so" when men are three times as likely not to tell a health professional they are a victim than a female victim.</p> <p>British Crime Survey 2010/11 (page 88) Table 3.16 (page 111) - http://tinyurl.com/7slnnom</p> <p>The ManKind Initiative cannot understand why NICE has chosen not to include men in this list.</p>
1.6	9	<p>In terms of action, again, this also must be made clear that it applies to male victims.</p> <p>In terms of strategies and support for victims, these must include male victims whether as part of an overall strategy as a specific one for men.</p>
1.8	11	<p>Training for frontline staff must include training to recognise and support male victims of domestic abuse. They should also be well versed in the local support services that are available and also referral pathways.</p>
1.9	12	<p>Training for frontline staff must include training to recognise and support male victims of domestic abuse. They should also be well versed in the local support services that are available and</p>

		also referral pathways.
1.14	17	Support for perpetrators must also include support for perpetrators (3,231 were convicted in 2012/13 of domestic abuse)
1.15	18	This training must include throughout the need to recognise male victims as well as female victims to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse are supported.
1.17	20	This training must include throughout the need to recognise male victims as well as female victims to ensure that all victims of domestic abuse are supported
2	22	<p>It is very disappointing that NICE chooses to apply a political and ideological statement to its guidance which runs counter to the ethics of medicine and the NHS. It has no place in practical guidance for healthcare professionals. It must be removed.</p> <p>If this statement remains in the guidance – as set out before the ManKind Initiative will be making representations to the board of NICE and the secretary of state.</p> <p>The statement is:</p> <p>“Although both men and women may perpetrate or experience domestic violence and abuse, it is more commonly inflicted on women by men. This is particularly true for severe and repeated violence and for sexual violence.</p> <p>“It reflects, and is reinforced by, social norms, roles and expectations relating to gender in intimate partner relationships and in wider family and social structures. It is often part of a system of fear and coercive control. This means that a focus on specific incidents and episodes is of limited value in understanding the experience of domestic abuse.”</p>