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Registered Charity No. 1089547 – Company Registration No. 3869893
Hon. Patrons – Lord Cotter, John Penrose MP, Erin Pizzey, Ian McNicholl and Stephen Fitzgerald

London Council Grants Consultation response

<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/grants/consultation/>

July 2012

Priority 2

[2.B.1 Helpline and coordinated access to refuge provision Opens in a new window](#)

Are there aspects of this specification that you feel could be improved

There are a number of clear problems with the specification especially in terms of breaching the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Equality Act 2012 in general.

The ManKind Initiative is a national charity that supports male victims of domestic abuse through a range of services including a national helpline.

The charity believes there is a breach in the PSED if the final specification fails to fully consider or take into account the protected group: sex. This is more specifically men (male victims of domestic abuse).

In 2010/2011, 8,999 men reported to the police as being victims of domestic violence (18% of all victims) though this is likely to be understated as men are three times less likely to tell the police (the British Crime Survey states that one in three victims are male).

In addition, the situation for men (and their children) fleeing domestic abuse is dire in London. The only known specific provision in terms of safe houses/emergency housing is provided by the Gay Men's Shared Housing and

they do not have enough places. In addition, there is no such housing support available to heterosexual men and their children.

To comply with the PSED, Strand 2.B must be:

Helpline and coordinated access to refuge provision for women and girls, men and boys, affected by violence.

While Section 1 does include listing (in terms of a sample list) services for men, sections 2 and 4 only mention female victims. To comply with the PSED, the specification must show due regard to male victims as well as female victims – not only with regard to how the level of activities are measured but also in the change in the service user is demonstrated.

Failure to include male, as well as female, victims in the service specification for the helpline and will act as a barrier for groups to apply to support men or both genders.

It is accepted that this is a sample list, but the failure to mention men who have the protected characteristic of sex, will be in breach if it is carried forward into the actual final specification. When the final specification is published, the charity will review this and pursue any necessary action if male victims of domestic abuse are not clearly in the specification.

Does the specification create any positive and/or negative impacts on people with the protected characteristics in the 2010 Equalities Act? Does the equalities section provide sufficient information on the protected characteristics? What could be changed in the specification to improve this?

I have outlined above how the specification will be in breach of the 2010 Equalities Act if changes are not made.

Priority 2

2.B.3. Emergency refuge accommodation that offers services including those that meet the needs of specific groups of women and men.

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To comply with the PSED, Strand 2.B.3 must be:

Emergency refuge accommodation that offers services including those that meet the needs of specific groups of women and men.

To comply with the PSED, the specification must show due regard to male victims as well as female victims – not only with regard to how the Activities (outputs) but also in the change in the service user is demonstrated.

Failure to include male, as well as female, victims in the service specification a number of these projects and will act as a barrier for groups to apply to support men or both genders.

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