



23 August 2018

## Statement on Publication of Domestic Homicide Review: Mr David Edwards

Following the publication of the Domestic Homicide Review by Chorley Council on the sad passing of Mr David Edwards, **Mark Brooks, Chairman of the ManKind Initiative, a national charity supporting male victims of domestic abuse, said:**

"The review shows there were clear failings by a range of organisations in how they could and should have done more to support someone who clearly was a male victim of domestic abuse.

"Was this a general failure or was it driven because he was male? Did those professionals involved not sufficiently react because of a view that domestic abuse only affects women? We would certainly say there were clearly strong elements of this.

"There are clear lessons to be learned from this review which are of national significance let alone lessons for organisations across Lancashire. The key will be whether those organisations will change what they do because of the review to ensure these failings never happen again.

"David was a great man and father - who a real pillar of the community and respected by all those who knew him. If his passing means that organisations and the public provide better support and improve recognition of male victims of abuse so more men can escape, it may provide some comfort to those who knew and loved him."

The review broadly highlighted three key areas of improvement:

- The need for better recognition of men as victims of domestic abuse, intimate partner abuse and domestic homicide by professionals and society – including from society and statutory services. This includes a better understanding on the barriers male victims face in reporting, and for men to be more aware of being victims of domestic abuse
- Improved processes and integrated systems by statutory agencies so clear parts of the overall pattern of abuse are captured and assessed. He was never assessed as being at high risk or a vulnerable adult and the police never called when the health service were in contact.

- Insufficient professional inquiry by the health service and other organisations including the police when there was clear evidence of domestic abuse.

Since the age of 16, an estimated 1.6 million men in this country have been victims of partner abuse in the country (450,000 per year). In 2016/17, 13 men died at the hands of their partner or ex-partner. 1 in 6 men will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime.

Men or their friends/families can call 01823 334244 or [www.mankind.org.uk](http://www.mankind.org.uk)

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

The Domestic Homicide Review can be found at:

<http://chorley.gov.uk/Documents/Environmental%20Health/DHR%20Final%20Version%20for%20DE%20amended%20March%2014th%202018.pdf>

For the latest statistics about male victims of domestic abuse, please follow this link:

<http://www.mankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/35-Key-Facts-Male-Victims-March-2018-1.pdf>

### **About the ManKind Initiative**

The ManKind Initiative ([www.mankind.org.uk](http://www.mankind.org.uk)), is a national charity which runs a help-line, providing a listening service, information and signposting service for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. The help-line number is 01823 334244 (weekdays 10am-4pm). It received 1,800 calls from male victims (or from people on behalf of victims – often mothers and sisters) every year.

### **Media**

Journalists requiring further information please Mark Brooks on 07834 452357  
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