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Press Release

Under embargo: 14 November 2018

## **Manchester domestic abuse conference for male victims: “Experiences, Services and Solutions”**

**Over 17,000 men reported to local police forces in 2017  
as being victims of domestic abuse**

<https://www.mankind.org.uk/conference/>

Over 100 delegates from across Lancashire, the North West and the UK will be attending the ManKind Initiative charity’s annual conference on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November to hear from a range of experts and survivors on how to provide better support for male victims of domestic abuse. The conference is being held at the Premier Meetings, Premier Inn Manchester (Piccadilly Station).

In 2017, 17,155 men reported to five police forces (Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside) as being victims of domestic abuse (54,419 women) – making up one in four of the total (24%). Only 7 men (822 women) successfully used the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme in the Lancashire police force area in 2017.

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. Three leading academics will also talk about research into the experiences of male victims and also the behaviours of female perpetrators.

The conference is chaired by Ian McNicholl, a domestic abuse survivor who is an ambassador for the charity and Mark Brooks, the charity’s chairman.

**Ian McNicholl, conference chair, said:**“This conference brings together professionals, charities and survivors from across the UK to Manchester 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 to mark International Men’s Day (Monday 19 November 2018) and also forms part of a calendar of over 100 events in the UK marking the Day – all under the theme of Making a Difference to Men and Boys ([www.ukmensday.org.uk](http://www.ukmensday.org.uk))

## ENDS

### Notes to Editors

#### 1 Speakers include:

- Three male survivors of domestic abuse including Conference Chair , Ian McNicholl
  - Dr Elizabeth A. Bates (University of Cumbria)
  - Dr Ben Hine (University of West London)
  - Dr Sarah Wallace (University of Cardiff)
  - Alex Atkinson (SafeNet Charity, Lancashire)
  - Lori Busch and Marilyn Selwood IDVA (The ManKind Initiative)
- 2 The address of the conference is Premier Meetings, Premier Inn Manchester (Piccadilly), 72 Dale Street, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M1 2HR
3. Conference website:
- 3 Members of the public reporting to the police stating they were a victim of domestic abuse (2017)**

<b>POLICE FORCE</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male %*</b>
CHESHIRE	2533	7133	30	9696	26%
CUMBRIA	331	1212	17	1560	21%
GREATER MANCHESTER	9084	27431	2593	39108	25%
LANCASHIRE	2289	7507	3424	13220	23%
MERSEYSIDE	2918	11136	4689	18743	21%
TOTAL	17155	54419	10753	82327	24%

\* these percentages discount the unknown gender

### **Media Enquiries**

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07834 452357 [chairman@mankind.org.uk](mailto:chairman@mankind.org.uk). The media are welcome to attend the conference (albeit some sessions will not be allowed to be filmed/recorded).

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](http://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 1,600 calls from male victims (or from people on behalf of victims – often mothers and sisters) every year.