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Press Release
29th December 2018

Chair of the ManKind Initiative receives OBE, in tribute to the work of the charity, its staff, volunteers, fundraisers, donors, survivors and victims.

Mark Brooks, the Chair of Trustees for the ManKind Initiative charity has received an OBE in the New Year's Honours List 2019 for services to male victims of domestic abuse. The charity runs a national helpline, popular website and trains organisations, including police forces, councils and the armed forces across the country. It is a member of a number of national level advisory groups in the field of domestic abuse and is prominent in the media.

Mark, became chair in 2007 of the national charity, based in Taunton, Somerset which helps men escape from domestic abuse. Since the charity was formed in 2001, it has:

- supported thousands of male victims across the UK through its helpline and website;
- played a key role in supporting an increase in the range of services available to male victims across the UK;
- changed and influenced national domestic abuse policy so that it is more inclusive when traditionally government, police forces and councils only focused on female victims with male perpetrators, and,
- changed society's views so the public more readily understand that men, as well as women, are victims of domestic abuse. This leads to better support and help from friends, family and work colleagues.

Current statistics show that one in three victims of domestic abuse are male, one per month is killed by his current or former partner and that 700,000 suffer domestic abuse every year¹.

On receiving the news about this honour, Mark Brooks OBE, said:

“This Honour is dedicated to all those men who have survived domestic abuse alongside those currently suffering but have yet to escape. I hope in some small way that this helps those going through this to find the strength to reach out and get help, knowing it is not acceptable to be a male victim of this, in the same way it is not acceptable for a woman either. It will also reinforce the fact that they are not to blame, not weak and not alone.

“It also sends a strong message that the public, the police and politicians along with others providing domestic abuse support do now recognise that men are victims of this terrible crime as well as women. Ten years ago, it would have been inconceivable that an Honour would have been given to this cause. It shows that the traditional old-fashioned view that domestic abuse is a solely a crime with a female victim and a male perpetrator has changed. It means that more and more people are taking a far more inclusive and 21st Century view of the realities of domestic abuse in the UK today.

“I would like to thank everyone who works and volunteers for the charity alongside those who make donations and hold fundraising events. Without them, this would not have been possible and the Honour is very much for them.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- 1 ONS BCS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2016/17 <http://bit.ly/2G9nGPY>
2. Mark Brooks is listed in the New Year's Honours List 2019 as being from Belvedere, Kent (in the London Borough of Bexley) as this is where he lives.

The ManKind Initiative (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.

Media Enquiries

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07834 452357 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