

Press release

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**Nearly 900 men told Lancashire police
they were a domestic abuse victim in first two months of 2016**

Following a Freedom of Information request to Lancashire police by domestic abuse survivor, Ian McNicholl, the ManKind Initiative charity which supports male victims of domestic abuse has revealed that in the first two months of 2016, 879 men reported they had been victims of domestic abuse.

The number of men reporting to Lancashire Police in the previous two years were 4,817 (2015) and 6,003 (2014). The figures for female victims were 3,089 (January and February 2016), 18,175 (2015) and 20,672 (2014).

The charity asked the police for the figures as a means of encouraging more men in Lancashire to come forward. This would help them to realise they are not the only men suffering in silence behind their front door in the county – a common reason why men do not come forward. The Office for National Statistics reports¹ that only 10% of male victims will tell the police (26% women), only 23% will tell a person in an official position (43% women) and only 11% (23% women) will tell a health professional.

In addition, the charity wanted to highlight to domestic abuse professionals in Lancashire who are working for local authorities, the police and the health service how many men in the county are suffering. This will help to ensure sure these organisations and their staff fully recognise male victims in the same way

they recognise female victims, their domestic abuse services are male-victim friendly and to encourage them to support local organisations in the domestic field who support male victims.

These figures will also encourage friends, family and work colleagues to recognise that men are also victims of domestic abuse and will help them look out for them and offer a helping hand.

Ian McNicholl², domestic abuse survivor and honorary patron of the ManKind Initiative, said; “I never came forward to the police when I was a victim and it nearly cost me my life.

“These figures show there are men right across Lancashire who have come forward and told the police, so if you are suffering in this way, you are not alone and there is help out there. Don’t be like me, please call the police, speak to friends and family and get the help you need.”

Mark Brooks, chairman of the ManKind Initiative, said; “The number of men coming forward to Lancashire police sends a clear signal to those supporting victims of domestic abuse in the county. It is vital that their services and staff are male victim-friendly.

“They must be able to provide the same level of support to a male victim as they rightly provide to a female victim in the same circumstance. They have a legal duty to do so.

“Support includes adequate emergency housing provision such as a refuge or safe house, running awareness campaigns and ensuring they commission services to support men. This also includes making sure relevant staff are trained to recognise and support male victims.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. ONS BCS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2014/15 <http://bit.ly/1p8CGI0>
Table 4.28 on Appendix Table: <http://bit.ly/1M1diC5>
2. Ian McNicholl is a domestic abuse survivor. His partner was sentenced to seven years in prison in 2008. Since that time, Ian has campaigned across the UK to ensure the voices of male victims are heard and that services are provided.

About the ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative (www.mankind.org.uk), based in Taunton, Somerset, is a national charity which runs a help-line, information and referral service for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence. The help-line number is 01823 334244 (weekdays 10am-4pm).

It received 1,400 calls from male victims (or from people on behalf of victims – often mothers and sisters) every year.

5. Media

Journalists requiring further information please contact Mark Brooks on 07834 452357
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