



Impact Report – 2023/24



Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse Day 2022 was launched by the charity.
The second year (2023) saw it supported by 160 organisations

Produced by

**Professor Emeritus, Nicola Graham – Kevan (University of Central Lancashire and
TRAC Psychological)
Draco-Graham-Kevan (TRAC Psychological)**

(1) Introduction

This concise Impact Report sets out the key reasons why the charity exists, how it is fulfilling its mission and vision, and importantly, the impact it has on the lives of male victims of domestic abuse.

The charity has been at the forefront of domestic abuse support for men for nearly 25 years. As well as the direct support that it provides, equally as important has been its ability to enable and change the delivery landscape and national conversation. These three pillars were part of an internal trustee-led strategy review in 2007, and continue to form the foundation of what the charity does. Naturally, this strategy and how this is delivered, evolves over time.

The continual need for the charity's independent helpline is evident, receiving 2,400 calls every year. The importance of an independent helpline, rather than one reliant on government funding, is that it insulates the service from changing government decisions in terms of funding and also political narratives. This was a purposeful strategic decision. The charity has enhanced its website to include an online directory of services (which helps to reduce demand on the helpline). Our Acorn survivor recovery programme is important as the evidence-based research is clear that just because a relationship is over, it does not mean the victim's trauma ends.

The charity has been a key driver of change and has enabled the landscape to the extent that every area of the UK has a domestic abuse service that will support men (primarily the local council commissioned services). Additionally, the police/NHS are now better trained; and more men are now being supported in their local community. Our national conferences, practitioners' network ((MDAN), training and presentation support has been instrumental in leading this work. This was a core part of our trustees as in 2007 the police/NHS/employers largely did not recognise male victims and therefore were very few services for men.

Lastly but importantly, ensuring male victims had a voice has been key. It has been central to our work engaging with stakeholders, our work in partnership with sector colleagues, and, work with government, parliamentarians, academics and the media. It has led to greater societal awareness, better legislation (including the delivery of the legislation), and most importantly, more men coming forward to seek help.

This impact report provides a snapshot of the charity's activities in 2023/24 and the impact they have had on the real lives of these men experiencing domestic abuse. I would like thank our staff, fellow trustees and supporters for their continuing work on behalf of those we serve.

Mark Brooks OBE DLitt
Chair of Trustees

(2) Vision and Mission

(A) Vision

All male victims of domestic abuse (and their children) are supported to enable them to escape from the situation they are in.

To ensure recognition and support for male victims is fully integrated and mainstreamed in society's view of domestic abuse and in the statutory, and non-statutory, delivery of domestic abuse services (gender inclusive and gender informed)

(B) Mission

- Provide direct help and support for male victims of domestic abuse;
- To enable the domestic abuse sector, public bodies and non-statutory bodies (employers and the third sector) to provide more gender-informed/inclusive and higher quality services/support for male victims. This includes continually improving professional practice; and
- To give male victims and their families a voice.

(C) Core national statistics

Government figures show:

- One every seven men (one in four women) will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime (comparative figure for women are presented in parenthesis);
- An estimated 712,000 men aged 16 years and over (31% of all victims), experienced domestic abuse in 2023/24, a prevalence rate of 3.0% of men (6.6% of women);
- An estimated 448,000 men aged 16 years and over (29% of all victims) experienced partner abuse (including from ex-partners) in 2023/24, a prevalence rate of 1.7% (4% of women);
- 27.5% of domestic abuse-related crimes reported in 2023/24 were reported by men;

- 59% of the men who call the ManKind Initiative helpline have never spoken to anyone before about the abuse they are suffering and 64% would not have called if the helpline was not anonymous (ManKind Initiative);
- 6.5% of male victims (2.8% women) have considered taking their own life due to partner abuse in 2022/23;
- In 2022/23, 13 men died at the hands of their partner or ex-partner (56 women). (ONS 2022/23); and
- Currently in the UK, there are 43 organisations with 302 refuge or safe house spaces available for men (99 dedicated for men and 203 for men or women). These figures however, are greatly skewed by one organisation with 37 spaces. If these were removed, the spaces would be 42 organisations with 265 places. The median number per organisation is four spaces.

(3) Direct Services

(A) National Helpline

The charity has run a helpline since 2001 manned by a trained team who provide a listening service, practical information and signposting on all aspects of domestic abuse.

The helpline receives over 2,000 telephone calls every year from male victims or concerned friends, family (often mothers and sisters) and work colleagues. It also receives over 200 calls from the police, councils, support services and members of the legal profession.

The helpline is funded through public donations, is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm and has also changed to include a Freephone number.

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male victims	1675	1735	1692	1672
On behalf of a victim	539	503	523	520
Total victim calls	2214	2218	2215	2192
Other Calls**	247	205	185	212

** primarily police, councils and housing departments

Abusive ex banned partner from using the toilet



Gareth Jones says it has taken a long time to get his life back on track

“Around that time, Gareth made a call to the Mankind Initiative.

They confirmed he was suffering domestic violence - and hearing it from someone neutral helped him understand he needed to get out.”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8djrl18v81o>


The feedback from Gareth chimes with the general feedback that helpline receives with 59% of men stating that the helpline is the first ‘person’ they have turned to. When they call us they are looking to validate their experiences, check they are a victim and seeking information. Its anonymity appears critical, based on the experiences of other anonymous helplines (Samaritans, for example) and academics working in the men's health sector. That is, many men will want to initially seek help without letting others know they are doing so.

(B) Website

The charity's website provides information for male victims and survivors, as well as wider society (friends, family, public bodies and employers). It has the only directory (called the Oak Book) in the UK listing every service supporting male victims, a directory that is continuously updated. This helps men find the support service where they live.

The charity's website also hosts the only UK research library covering national and international research, statistics and media coverage on male victims of domestic abuse. It also has an extensive case study library (under the banner “Survivors’ stories”) which is increasingly popular as many men look for validation and an understanding that they are not alone.

The charity's website had 193,446 visitors in 2023/24.



Directory of Services

Our Oak Book Directory contains information about domestic abuse support services for male victims of domestic abuse that we are aware of in the UK. It is regularly updated as we become aware of new and changing services to enable you to more easily find your local support service.

Find local support:

Directory Filters

Filter by region: ▼

Filter by county: ▼

Filter by location: ▼

Directory of Services

(C) Survivors' Recovery Programme (Acorn)

In addition to self-service help offered by the website and phone line, the charity's team of expert qualified professionals (Independent Domestic Violence Advisers) has created a Recovery Programme for Male Survivors of Domestic Abuse called ACORN. It is designed to help them:

- Break the cycle of isolation and loneliness they experience;
- To recognise the impact that domestic abuse has on their children;
- Help them move forward with their lives; and,
- Form healthy, respectful and loving relationships in the future.

This is an online programme delivered by Zoom, over nine weeks and up to ten survivors can be accommodated. It is currently funded by two Police and Crime Commissioners and the Armed Forces Covenant. This programme has been academically peer reviewed by the UK's leading experts as well as male survivors.

Of men accepted onto the ACORN course between 2023 and 2024, 60% of those completed the whole programme. Of those who completed and responded to a questionnaire 75% wanted to remain in contact and hear about any similar services or campaigns.

Quotes by those who completed the programme:

“It was a breath of fresh air to finally feel like I was being listened to and that I had a voice. I was spoken to and treated in a friendly reassuring manner.”

“I have found my time on the course very rewarding and validating. Having been through what I have, it is the best of feelings to know there is a chance of a change, and that hopefully in time both victims and society generally will have a different understanding of male victims of abuse and how and where they are abused.”

“The presentation is clear and concise with interesting video segments to help convey the message of each session in a way immediately understandable and memorable. The person running the course is very affable and does a good job helping myself and others feel at ease and that we’re in a safe environment where we can relax and discuss our past abuse without judgment.”

“I would recommend anyone who finds themselves in a similar position to that which I was in, to approach Mankind. As a serviceman, it is all too easy to ‘slope shoulders’ and ‘crack on’, but if you are a victim of DA then the sooner you find help the better and Mankind specialising in male victims, means that they are easily approachable and are able to support far better.”



ACORN
RECOVERY PROGRAMME FOR MALE
SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Are you, or someone you know, serving in the British Armed Forces, a veteran or a male family member of serving military who has previously experienced domestic abuse?
- Want to join up with other men with similar experiences, learn new skills and make sense of what happened?

ManKind Initiative are now taking referrals for their online ACORN Recovery Programme

For more information contact training@mankind.org.uk

If you are experiencing domestic abuse you can view our directory of services at www.mankind.org.uk, contact our national helpline on 01823 334244 or in an emergency call 999

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(4) Enabling

The charity plays an enabling role to ensure there is wider availability and better quality support for male victims where they live. That is, the local commissioned domestic abuse service provide high quality support and that there is a better level of support from the police, NHS and others. There are a number of facets to that support and the overall service is called ManKind Initiative Domestic Abuse Support Service (MIDASS). All of the training and presentations are CPD accredited.

(A) Training and Presentation

The charity provides trainer-led online CPD accredited training for professionals, practitioners, organisations, agencies and employers on how to best recognise, understand and support male victims of domestic abuse. The training is for professionals currently working with or taking disclosures from male victims/survivors of domestic abuse. This training is offered both virtually and face to face.

The charity has also been delivering, under a three-year grant from the Armed Forces Covenant, a range of training and support for their welfare, and other, support services. This involves delivering training sessions throughout the whole of the UK at armed forces bases

In terms of the feedback and impact arising from the overall training, almost all (97%) course participants agreed that this course would equip them to perform their jobs. The findings from 35 delegates are presented below:

	Good/Very Good
The outcomes of the course were fully met	97%
You were given a clear idea of how to implement what you have learned	100%
You are satisfied that you are able to implement the learning from the course	100%
The course will better equip you to perform your job	97%

Some quotes from those who completed the training:

“The day was very insightful. The content, I believe, made us all take a step back and think how we respond to male victims. Very informative and helpful” Police Officer

“Fantastic, brilliant training and should be provided to all.” Army Welfare Officer

“Great insight into the impact of domestic abuse on a male and how this can be magnified by the perception of men in society and how professional experience bias has an impact.” Local Council Officer

In addition, the charity provides short “lunch and learn” style presentations and courses. Some quotes following this CPD training:

“A really informative and well-designed course.”

“Excellent layout, really engaging”

“I enjoyed the course and have gained valuable knowledge”

Overall during 2023/24, the charity delivered 61 training and presentation sessions.

(B) National Conference

The charity has run a CPD-accredited annual conference since 2002 which moved from face to face conferences to an online conference during the pandemic. Feedback that was received was that face to face delivery would still be preferred. The conference features an introduction from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, a review of the latest research from a leading academic, a practitioners' session and then an interview with two survivors. The conference is free.

The conference in 2023 attracted 450 delegates who attended and all those who responded said they would recommend the conference to others, 98% said the conference content were very satisfied (81%) and satisfied (17%). All also said it would positively impact their work.

Quotes from attendees include:

“Excellent Conference, thank you to everyone for putting this together.”

“I felt this conference was really well balanced with professional and survivor speakers.”

“The conference really helped to refocus on validating men’s experiences of domestic abuse.”

(C) Male Domestic Abuse Network

The charity runs a practitioners’ network called the Male Domestic Abuse Network. It has 622 members consisting of domestic abuse professionals, police officers, local authority workers and housing specialists.



This network hosts the National Quality Service Standards for male victims and survivors. These are aimed at support services, public bodies and commissioning agencies such as council and police and crime commissioners. These are used and quoted in the Statutory Guidance governing the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and Victims and Prisoners Act 2024.



Uniquely, the network has a list of all of the safe accommodation providers who provide this type of help (refuges, safe houses and dispersed accommodation) as well as a weekly updated vacancy list. This means any service looking for safe accommodation for a male victim can come to this closed site and know exactly where there are safe accommodation vacancies. This saves them valuable time.

In addition, the network hosts monthly webinars on the last Friday of every month, featuring the latest research, discussion on government consultations, and also allows service providers to share their best practice. These webinars are popular with on average 80 registered attendees.

(5) Voice

Being a voice for male victims and their families is an important part of the charity's work to influence the creation of public policy and broaden societal views.

The charity attends the major Home Office, Ministry of Justice and NHS stakeholder groups on domestic abuse. The Chair is also a member of the select Expert Reference Group on Safe Accommodation, speaks regularly to the media and at Select Committees, and all the team works with councils, police forces and others.

The charity is a trusted and expert reader on government guidance working with ministers and civil servants on legislation, policies and research, in advance of publication.

Key features of this work include:

- Two popular social media platforms (X and Facebook) –with 11,700 and 4,600 followers respectively;
- Media appearances numbering 75 every year in addition to working with documentary makers such as Discovery Plus' Crime Investigation and the award-nominated Channel 5 documentary "My Wife: My Abuser". The charity features in the credits and /or appear in the documentaries;
- The charity's two newsletters have collectively reached 3,670 subscribers;.
- The charity also ran the second ever "Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse Day" in November 2023. It is aimed at asking organisations (police, council services, for example) to publicise abuse support they have for men in their community. Overall, 160 organisations took part in 2023 by placing the campaign logo on their front page;
- Members of the charity sit on eight domestic homicide reviews ensuring their expertise and insights are embedded in these statutory reviews to ensure the deceased male's voice is heard;

- Members of the charity sit on various local and regional safeguarding and domestic abuse boards; and
- The charity has always worked with the academic community and it is the home to a page bringing academics and victims/survivors together so that academics can hear the survivor voice and the lived experiences of men directly.



BBC Breakfast: Richard Spencer, with the charity's chair (Mark Brooks) talking about the Channel 5 Documentary: My Wife, My Abuser

ManKind Initiative, Impact Report 2023/24

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Professor Emeritus, Nicola Graham – Kevan (University of Central Lancashire
and TRAC Psychological)

Draco-Graham-Kevan (TRAC Psychological)

The ManKind Initiative, Flook House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1BT
admin@mankind.org.uk : www.mankind.org.uk 01823 334244

Registered Charity No. 1089547 – Company Registration No. 3869893

Honorary Patrons – John Penrose, Ann Goodchild, Sara Westle, Clive Lever and Erin Pizzey CBE

Trustees - Mark Brooks OBE (Chair), Ass. Prof. Elizabeth Bates, Prof. Dr Ben Hine, Lori Busch, Roz Willis, Jon Service, Rob Parkes and Dr Alex Papamichail.

Contact: Mark Brooks on chairman@mankind.org.uk and 07834 452357