



## Male Victims of Domestic Abuse

Thurrock Council 1 October 2020 Mark Brooks OBE



# **Overall Picture**

## **British Crime Survey (2018/19)**

- 1 in 6 men and 1 in 4 women will be a victim in their lifetime
- 800,000 men and 1.6 million women are victims of domestic abuse (500,000 and 1 million – partner abuse)

## Essex

- 5,988 men (17,018 women) reported to Essex Police in 2018
- DA organisations in Essex are supportive of male victims including Changing Pathways
- No refuge or safe house in Essex nearest is Northamptonshire (90 miles away)



# Who Do Men Tell?

### Who do men tell

- Male victims (49%) are nearly three times as likely than women (18%) not to tell anyone they are a victim.
- 15% of male victims will tell the police (18% women), 6.6% (4.7% women) will tell a local council and specialist support service 1.2% (7.3% woman)
- Only 5% of people using DA services are male and same with MARAC referrals
- 53% of the men who call the ManKind Initiative helpline have never spoken to anyone
- 70% would not have called if the helpline was not anonymous

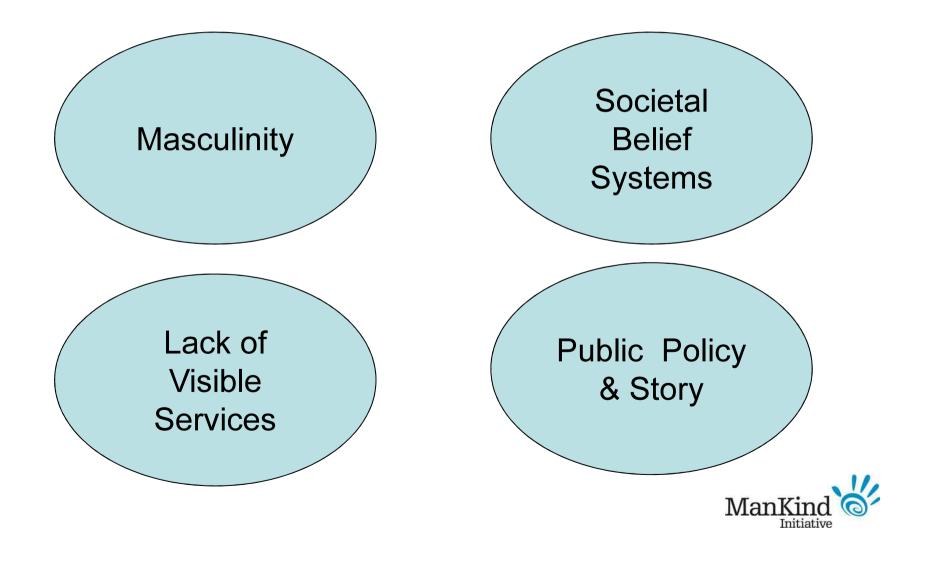


# Who Can It Happen To?

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# (1) Masculinity

It is not masculine to be a victim:

- Do not understand or recognise they are a victim
- They are not strong, resilient and providing security
- Shame, embarrassment and pride
- Fear of ridicule



## (2) Societal Impact

#### **Male Victims**

- They won't be believed
- Will face ridicule
- They will be the ones accused
- Stigmatised for getting help
- Losing contact with children

#### **Societal Response**

- Not believed
- Ridiculed
- Not encouraged to get help
- Not enough personal or professional curiosity
- Men cannot be victims / Women cannot be perpetrators
- Men generally need less help
- A man has done something to deserve it



## (3) Lack of Visible Services

How do you get men to understand and connect to support?

- Are services available to men (and are they well funded)
- Are services proactive and clearly visible to men (communications)
- Are all local agencies and organisations looking out for male victims
- Do all local agencies and organisation know who to signpost to
- Are local agencies and organisations trained to support male victims



## (4) Public Policy and Story

### Being gender inclusive and gender informed

- Local policies not clear for male and LGBT+ victims (VAWG) too (are they more than a footnote)
- Assumptions that all men have the ability to leave (no accounting for children)
- Are services proactive and clearly visible to men (communications)
- Website and PR clear for men
- Are case studies included of men
- Male specific campaigns



# **Being Male-Victim Friendly**

### A male-victim friendly and inclusive approach

- Do not try and change men because you will fail to support them adequately.
- Bring services closer to men, do not expect men to bring themselves closer to you (access hours, location, anonymous/telephone, decent website)
- Ensure male victims are equally recognised and validated as female victims throughout policies, training and situations
- Make clear you support men (same service or parallel)
- Ask the question "and what about men (and their children)"

Ask yourself and test – "does a man with the same level of risk as a woman receive the same level of support and recognition?"



# **ManKind Initiative**



#### mankind.org.uk

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**Training Courses** 

Male Domestic Abuse Network



Presentations, Conferences and Speakers

DHRs

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