



# Male Victims of Domestic Abuse

Thurrock Council  
**1 October 2020**  
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# 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?

STONEMASON POLICEMAN  
ACCOUNTANT  
SOLICITOR POLITICIAN  
CAREER TEACHER LIBRARIAN  
BRICKLAYER DOCTOR NURSE  
PLUMBER GARDENER AUTHOR  
LAWYER GAMEKEEPER  
ELECTRICIAN CARPENTER ARTIST  
ACTOR MECHANIC  
STUDENT PILOT ANALYST PRISONER  
SOLDIER DRIVER  
RETIRED BUILDER

# Barriers

Masculinity

Societal  
Belief  
Systems

Lack of  
Visible  
Services

Public Policy  
& Story

# (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](http://mankind.org.uk)

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Training Courses

Male Domestic Abuse  
Network

Presentations, Conferences  
and Speakers

DHRs

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