

Press Release

17 November 2015

Doncaster hosts national domestic abuse conference for male victims: “Experiences, Services and Solutions”

On 18 November 2015, Doncaster’s Keepmoat Stadium plays host to 130 delegates from across the UK who are coming together to find out how they can create or improve services to support male victims of domestic abuse.

Speakers¹ at the conference organised by the ManKind Initiative charity include Doncaster City Council and Bradford based Men Standing Up, a support service run by Bradford Cyrenians. They will speak alongside survivors, academics and organisations running helplines, refuges and advisory services supporting male victims.

Figures obtained by the conference organisers² show that between 2012 and June 2014, 18,217 men reported to the three Yorkshire police forces stating they were victims of domestic abuse (24,025 if Humberside Police included) -19% of all victims. In South Yorkshire, between 2012 and August 2015, 19,459 men had reported to this police force. The charity believes the real figures are likely to be higher due to the high level of under-reporting by men. In the UK, over 500,000 men³ suffer from partner abuse every year.

The conference is chaired by Ian McNicholl, a Yorkshireman who is a domestic abuse survivor and is now an ambassador for the charity.

Ian McNicholl, conference chair, said:“This conference brings together professionals, charities and survivors with people from across Yorkshire and the whole of the UK all wanting to reach out and provide services for male victims. Far too many men feel they’re to blame, they’re weak and they’re alone often because they do not think there is support for them. This conference aims to

change that so no man suffers in silence and they realise they can escape and rebuild their lives.”

The conference is also being held a day before International Men’s Day, which has the theme of Keeping Men and Boys Safe (www.ukmensday.org.uk)

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Notes to Editors

1 Speakers (subjects) include:

- Ian McNicholl: Domestic abuse survivor and charity ambassador
- Ian Young: Domestic Abuse survivor
- Dr Nicola Graham-Kevan: Reader in the Psychology of Aggression, Central University of Lancashire (*The psychology of a female perpetrator and a male victim*)
- Dr Ben Hine: Lecturer in Psychology, University of West London (*The barriers men face*)
- Dr Jessica McCarrick: Senior Lecturer in Counselling Psychology, Teesside University(*The barriers men face*)
- Donna Shepherd, Montgomery Family Crisis Centre (*Housing Options & Solutions – refuge/safe house/supported housing*)
- Sandra Norburn, Crime and Reoffending Manager, Doncaster City Council (*Creating a Male IDVA service*)
- Humayun Islam, Men Standing Up in Bradford (*Running a helpline*)
- Lori Busch, IDVA, ManKind Initiative (*Running a helpline*)

2 Obtained by Freedom of Information requests

3. ONS BCS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2013/14
<http://bit.ly/1BNXig1>; Table 4.01 and 4.04 on Appendix Table:
<http://bit.ly/1xBrlHG>

Media Enquiries

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The media are welcome to attend the conference.