

Statement

26 October 2015

### **Future of the ManKind Initiative helpline**

The ManKind Initiative's national helpline for male victims of domestic abuse which receives 1,600 calls from men and those seeking help for men (often mothers, sisters, daughters, friends and work colleagues) will be closing at the end of January 2016 unless further funding can be found. In an ideal world the charity would be looking to increase the capacity of the helpline due to the demand from those seeking help rather than close it.

The cost of the current helpline is £45,000 per annum which pays for the cost of three part time members of staff and any bills associated with the helpline. It is currently open from 10am to 4pm weekdays. The costs have been met for the past ten years primarily through grants by grant-making bodies and also supported by private donations. The latter has paid for the helpline for the past 18 months.

The charity has been unsuccessful over in the past 18 months in securing additional funding through the applications that it has made. In addition, there are only a limited numbers of grant makers who will fund domestic abuse services.

If in 2016, it can find enough skilled volunteers who are regularly able to commit to support a helpline, the charity may be able to resurrect some form of helpline service.

Donations to the charity can be made:

Online: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/mankindinitiative>

Cheque: Payable to the ManKind Initiative and sent to:

The Treasurer, The ManKind Initiative, Flook House, Belvedere Road, Taunton. TA1 1B

While the helpline remains the core part of the charity's activity, the organisation will continue to run an information website, conferences, training and campaigning. The charity has a qualified Independent Domestic Violence Adviser. The training for this role was kindly provided by the Avon and Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner.

**ENDS**

**Media Enquiries:**

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