

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COUNCIL REPORT

MEETING DATE AND TIME	7 th December 2023	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Councillor Amanda Martin		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	Item 17 Support for Male Victims of Domestic Abuse		
Background	<p>The Mankind Initiative charity claims that one in six men will be a victim of domestic abuse in their lifetime.</p> <p>The charity provides a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence across the UK as well as their friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues and employers.</p> <p>They provide information, support and signposting services to men suffering from domestic abuse from their current or former partner (including same-sex partners). This can range from physical violence or object throwing to abuse such as coercive control, bullying or insults.</p> <p>The helpline is a listening service which provides emotional support, practical information and signposting.</p> <p>They receive up to 2000 calls a year from male victims of domestic abuse across all age ranges and professions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From dustmen, doctors, bankers to builders• From men in their 20s to men in their 80s• From men in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. <p>The helpline also welcomes calls from friends, family members, neighbours, colleagues and employers of male victims seeking information.</p> <p>For many men, calling ManKind's anonymous helpline is the first step they have made in talking to someone else about the problems they face. Surveys have shown that this is more welcome than attempting to contact professional services initially. There is a fear that if the perpetrator finds out, there could be repercussions. For more about ManKind you can click this link which takes you to their website.</p>		
Next Steps	<p>Congleton Town Council's support for the White Ribbon Campaign focuses on stopping male violence against women and girls. The Town Council's current support for male victims is more passive.</p> <p>We need to get the message out to any male victims of domestic abuse in our town that:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You are not to blame You are not weak You are not alone</p> <p>We can do that via Bear Necessities and also by ensuring all Councillors are aware of the problem so that they can be watchful for signs of abuse and direct sufferers to the helpline.</p>		

Finance	The cost of the suggested publicity should be negligible, but if we invite a speaker to give a presentation, rather than providing a remote presentation to Councillors, we will need to pay the speaker's expenses. There would also be the cost of the use of a room at the Town Hall for a presentation.
Environment	Not applicable.
Equality	The Town Council is already proactive in addressing the domestic abuse of females. A more proactive promotion of men's advice and support lines would help to create more balance.
Decision Requested	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publicise the Mankind Initiative helpline in Bear Necessities, together with a brief explanation of the various forms that domestic abuse can take. 2. Arrange for the Mankind Initiative to present a seminar for the Councillors, either in person or remotely, to provide them with more information about the problem of male domestic abuse. 3. Recognise Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse Day on November 2nd every year.