

PRESS RELEASE

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New sources of support for men who are victims of domestic abuse

Photo caption : West Mercia Women's Aid has launched a Helpline for male domestic abuse victims

A leading domestic abuse charity has launched a new Helpline specifically for men.

The Helpline – which was funded by Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion, after securing £28,000 from the Ministry of Justice – is covered by staff trained to provide support to men who need information, advice or just a listening ear. Men are encouraged to call the Helpline if they are, or have been, subject to bullying, coercion, violence or other forms of abuse in their intimate partner relationships and need advice and/or support. Calls can be made to the Helpline at any time. Those living in Worcestershire or Herefordshire can also ask to be referred for further support from the specialist workers commissioned by these local authorities.

Sue Coleman, Chief Executive Officer at West Mercia Women's Aid said: "We know from our specialist safety work with those at high risk of harm from domestic abuse, that men are also placed in impossible situations because of the abuse that they experience at home. There are few local services that can respond immediately and with confidence to those men who reach out for help and

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support; we are pleased to be able to step into that space and offer men that lifeline”.

The service will provide information, advice and support for men who have experienced domestic abuse, including:

- One to one listening support;
- Opportunity to participate in group programmes with other men with similar experiences;
- Access to emergency safe accommodation if needed;
- Advice in seeking legal representation;
- Help in looking for permanent accommodation if they are homeless as a consequence of domestic abuse.

Sue concluded: “Domestic abuse is a hidden crime and men often feel that they won’t be believed or they may feel too embarrassed to access support. We are here to provide that support and make sure the voices of all domestic abuse victims are heard. We know that it can be hard to ask for support but please do call our Men’s Domestic Abuse Helpline; we are here to help.”

PCC John Champion said: “There are too many victims of domestic abuse who do not receive the help they deserve or need, often through fear or because they don’t see the point in speaking up. This includes male victims of domestic abuse. Therefore, this funding, which has allowed support to be put in place for males, will provide invaluable help and advice for those who need it.”

The Men’s Domestic Abuse Helpline is 0800 014 9082; it is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

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For further information about how West Mercia Women's Aid supports men please visit

<https://www.westmerciawomensaid.org/services/support-for-men/>.

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For further information please contact Kabbie Langford on 07940 371 794 or at kabbie@kabbielangford.co.uk.