



Mankind UK Research into male gendered service delivery

We gathered the views of 55 male survivors - Feb 21

CONTENTS

1 Objectives	2
2 Methodology	2
3 Evidence of what male survivors say they need	3
3.1 - More focus on prevention	3
3.2 - Clearer distinction between perpetrator services and survivor services	4
3.3 - Greater variety of support options	5
3.4 - Enable survivors to feed into strategy and co-produce services	6
3.5 - Equality of access to free specialist services for all	7
3.6 - More specialist male survivor services	8
3.7 - Action to address misinformation and minimisation of male victimhood.	10
3.8 - Stop geographical inequality	12
3.9 - Make more resources available for support services	13
3.10 - Better support through the criminal justice process	13
3.11 - Don't just focus on criminal justice	16
3.12 - More effective links with NHS services	16
3.13 - Better links to education and other social care services	17
3.14 - Take a more intersectional approach	18
4 - Quantitative questions	20
4.1 - How confident would you feel in accessing support?	20
4.2 - Do you agree that victims need more support?	20
4.3 - Which do you think should be the most important priorities?	20

1 Objectives

Mankind UK offer:

- Self help resources via www.1in6.uk
- Online 121 counselling
- Online psych-ed group courses
- Group therapy

Mankind UK support people who:

- self identify as male (regardless of their assigned gender at birth)
- are over 18
- are affected by unwanted sexual experience(s).

In Feb 21 the Government did a consultation to support their refreshing of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

We shared this VAWG refresh consultation survey with our group of lived experience advisers when it was first released. Within a few hours we received several emails from people who were very upset by how the whole thing was framed.

One man said:

‘they mention the phrase ‘women and girls’ constantly and every time was like being spiked in the chest. I couldn’t finish the executive summary let alone complete the survey’.

Another man said:

“I was forced to stand perfectly still while my abusers did horrific things to my penis - tell me how that is a ‘crime against women and girls’. Tell me how the crime I experienced ‘disproportionately affects women and girls’. The whole thing is a nonsense.”

Mankind would normally want to share this kind of call for evidence as widely as possible.

However we are first and foremost a therapeutic organisation and with our therapist hats on, we realised that we couldn’t forward the survey to our male service users to ask them to complete it. It wasn’t ethical, given that the way it was framed, and the language used, was so undermining and potentially triggering to male survivors.

So we took the decision to set up our own consultation using a more trauma informed approach which could be shared safely with male survivors.

Our goal was to find out what male survivors what their services to be like. This is to help us internally improve, but also so we can share the information with policy makers and funders.

2 Methodology

Mankind UK created a google form and shared the link with 268 organisational contacts. We also shared it via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The survey was open for a week from 10-17 February 2021. The form mirrored the exact language of the Government’s demographic questions. It contained an edited version of some of the qualitative questions. We received 55 responses.

We sorted the requests respondents made into themes.

We have also included the views of 7 Mankind practitioners who also completed the questionnaire.

You can view an excel file of the full dataset and survey questions at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1FTT5uyHvHJRmdQQA_DDMVQYFjhNlxGgN_jN0BMVyxps/edit?usp=sharing

"My only ask is that this is taken seriously. People dance about the topic of abuse, particularly child abuse with a sort of automatic disgust. It's almost a "given" that everyone knows it's bad. But I think it's really important that you, as people who have the power to help, really take a moment to understand the horrifying nature of these crimes. Really pause when you read these accounts and take a minute to meditate on it. This isn't just policy, this is stuff which will change the course of millions of people's daily lives to come. It might seem a little obvious to ask someone to take this issue seriously but all too often these surveys can become rudimentary or typical whereas in my mind, every survivor like me should be taken on an individual and extraordinary basis."

3 Evidence of what male survivors say they need

3.1 - More focus on prevention

Male Survivors say:

- Institutions known to perpetuate rape culture need to be held to account. The Catholic Church, private schools, universities and sports teams need proper investigating and to be held accountable, on both an individual and institutional level. They cannot be relied upon to discipline and hold their own members accountable and must be scrutinised externally
- Further education/action is needed about sexual trafficking and organised groups, aka ritual abuse groups.
- Understanding and tackling the reasons for perpetrating in the first place. Focus on raising awareness of the help that is available to perpetrators and increasing the services to support prevention.
- From my experience the legal system is not good at dealing with it especially historical child abuse crimes. Then again the prime minister said this was 'spaffing money up the wall' an utterly disgusting thing to say considering what spaffing is in a sexual context. I didn't think I could hate the PM anymore than I did considering he is an amoral lying lazy mendacious charlatan but when I heard him say that I was so angry that as the head of Government he could be so dismissive of vile and repulsive crimes against children. I think part of the problem is many in the legal profession around 70% went to public school and it's known that sexual abuse at public schools in the recent past was very common. I think judges and barristers and senior police seem to accept male sexual abuse as something that happens and to just get on with it we survived it and so should you stop being a moaning little trouble maker basically.
- 'Hook up sites' (Grinder etc) are an example of how technology is facilitating crime, its important to increase education to tell people to be careful with people they don't know

- We need more education in schools and mandatory parenting classes.
- More education & support in schools/colleges/universities
- More education in schools so that boys can identify what happened to them is wrong and how they might be able to report it safely. Telling kids what sexual abuse is might be awkward and uncomfortable for some parents, but those feelings simply don't matter if it can save children from enduring anymore pain.
- Notices *in every public building of any kind* saying "if you are drawn to molest a child here is the confidential number to call" . And that number must exist and be manned. Exactly as was done in the 80s for HIV/AIDS.
- Vastly more research into treatment for perpetrators or those tempted.
- Notices saying "If you *have* molested a child, or someone you know has molested a child, here is the number for *you* to call for *help*, so you don't do it again".
- an understanding that 1% of the population reach puberty to discover their primary sexual attraction is to children. This must be faced and not ignored. What provision for educating these young people exists in schools.
- vastly more education for teenage boys and girls who through sexual frustration may turn to experimenting with underage siblings

Mankind Staff say:

- There are not enough therapy or support programmes for perpetrators or people who feel they are at risk of perpetrating.
- There is no free counselling available for people who believe they are at risk of perpetrating to seek support and help. The few services there are are unaffordable for most people.
- More needs to be done to change systems such as naming strategies as VAWG which encourages the myth that sexual abuse is rare or only an issue for women and girls. This stops men and boys speaking out and is very enabling for abusers.

3.2 - Clearer distinction between perpetrator services and survivor services

Male Survivors say:

- It has been a nightmare to find support which meets my needs - male survivors are treated like potential abusers everywhere - its wrong and needs to stop - we need more service which meet our needs - which are safe spaces - women's service are not always safe for male survivors
- We need to work hard to counter myths as regards male survivors - see one in six website. Even now people say to me you're so brave working with male survivors when so many grow up to abuse children themselves.

Mankind Staff say:

- There are several organisations who work with male perpetrators as well as male survivors and this blurring can be quite difficult for some male survivors because they feel it perpetuates the myth that male survivors will go on to perpetrate. This myth stops male victims coming forward to get support.

3.3 - Greater variety of support options

Male Survivors say:

- Surviving sexual violence (for all genders) to be a protected characteristic in legislation so that we cannot be fired for not recovering fast enough, and so that EDI initiatives include our needs.
- More access to groups and other survivors
- More funding and longer help for victims for 1 to 1 counselling and group support.
- One on one mentorship
- Easier access to services.
- Group support and 1 to 1 counselling
- Holistic trauma informed services which can meet the complex needs of survivors
- Therapy, financial support, support groups
- Better information on help lines only one officer from start to finish
- Initiatives to support communities of male survivors (especially spouses/partners).
- Funded counselling support, advocacy or ISVA support when reporting, funded peer support groups. Easily accessible literature and signposting.
- I was fortunate to have support that was tailored to my specific needs. We need to continue and also to recognise the length of support required. Need to be mindful of putting sex abuse into a quick fix model of support. Although this model means more people receive support the support is not long enough and creates a circle of coming back to really address it. This is an area which requires a significant time to receive counselling to fully provide an opportunity for the victim to make progress and leave with coping strategies, self awareness and coping skills for the future. Sexual abuse never goes away.
- As a victim of child sex abuse, I have acute flashbacks and have made attempts on my life several times. I'm 25 now, I run my own successful business and love my life. But the memories I have to live with every day are too much to bear sometimes - I just want them to stop. Currently, the only option for me is to wait months for therapy or undertake CBT (which has never worked for me) in a group setting. Another option is to wait until it gets so bad and I go to A&E where I'll likely be let go that day to sit at home with my problems. There is plenty of "crisis" support for when things get fatally bad, but other than a handful of charities which have great therapy services which are over-subscribed, there is no help. There are no preventative measures in place to

protect my life, only crisis measures that might catch me before I am at the very end of my tether. It's not sustainable and it terrifies me.

- Young men particularly have a high suicide rate especially if they are victims of sexual assault. Both my stepsons have considered suicide and undertaken dangerous coping methods such as using drugs to cope with it. There just isn't enough mental health support available unless they are suicidal, which is ridiculous. Prevention better than cure, I say.
- Long term support needs to be developed so men can step in and out of support as their lives recover from sexual abuse and violence can take years not 6 sessions but it can and does happen.
- More access to groups and other survivors
- longer term support for housing, finances, job market and the cross over to offender status
- Awareness raising that it can and does happen to men, befriending I think it may support if you know others have experienced something

Mankind Staff say:

- Innovative research led interventions are not widely available because local statutory resources are channelled into ISVA provision.
- Small grass roots and survivor led organisations are coming up with great solutions all the time but they are unable to access funding through PCCs.
- Mankind has a brilliant online psych-ed course which 91% of participants in Sussex say has improved their quality of life. We could be offering this to men across the UK if only there was a National funding route to cover the staffing costs.
- Specialist agencies need to be able to put more resources into research and design of support options which meet people's needs at all stages of their journey to recovery, not just focus on ISVAs and counselling.
- Survivors tell us that they want more peer support or community building services but it is hard to access funding for them because PCC commissioners prioritise ISVA services
- More support for services which help survivors address the outcomes of living with PTSD such as homelessness, accessing training and employment or drug and alcohol services.

3.4 - Enable survivors to feed into strategy and co-produce services

Male Survivors say:

- I believe that it is extremely important for our Government to ensure that in all they do with regard to policy or indeed anything to do with improving these matters for those of us who have suffered such crimes is to include actual victims of it in any and all teams that create these things! Doing any work on any and all of these matters without us being proactively involved and right from the very first thoughts of

something happening or being done too! Would be an absolutely failure in process and an absolute failure to us too! And it would also be deeply offensive and insulting as well.

- Services which are funded to support male survivors needs to have male leadership visible within them at all levels - staff and boards. They should proactively recruit staff and boards which identify as survivors of CSA or adult rape - the Govt wouldn't fund a racism support service which didn't have people working within it who hadn't experienced racism - its unethical and victim blaming not to have visible staff who identity as survivors CSA and adult rape
- Survivors must form a large part of the informing process and management process
- What is developed must be developed with experts in trauma and abuse, people with lived experience and good research.
- Lived experience involvement need to be in at the beginning in the actual design not just asked or consulted and measures need to be in place to ensure involvement is genuine not tick boxing.

Mankind Staff say:

- You have to ensure that small grass roots and survivor led services are able to feed in to the policy and have an influence, not just the large ones.

3.5 - Equality of access to free specialist services for all

Male Survivors say:

- There was none available and all help I have had to this point has been funded by myself, apart from a brief time with victim support
- I continue to be denied therapy from the NHS for the Complex PTSD and other conditions that affect me as a result of my abuse. were i a woman i would have received these services a long time ago
- Free trauma focused counselling should be widely available
- Most men don't have that money to get such therapy they rely on services that to often let them down and some I know have not survived
- My preference is that males should receive the same access to services as females, given the same understanding, improving raised awareness, increased information being given to boys within schools and then protecting those services who provide a very much needs led provision and not a tokenistic male provision linked to a pot of funding. If people are being paid to support males and females, males should not be the bottom of the list just because numbers are less. Numbers of males disclosing are increasing. We need to ensure that we increase the services (or simply keep going) so that those needs can be met.
- Despite being abused as a child for 9 years by multiple abusers and achieving 2 criminal convictions of my abusers, I received no therapeutic support via the statutory authorities. I received only £9,000 from the CICA which not only did not compensate

me for what happened and the impact it has had on my life, this in no way covered my counselling needs and was quickly exhausted.

- I feel male victims should have the same access to support that is offered to females and children.
- Equal access to mental health services.
- There are thousands of men and boys affected, but it's not considered as serious as females
- Young men who are also involved in the criminal justice system for unrelated offence/s do not get the support they need for the sexual violence they experienced.
- Establish equality in support and therapy. for every girl or women treated, a boy or man will be treated.
- I received one-to-one therapy until I couldn't afford it anymore. And last year I attended SurvivorsUK's group therapy. It was the most affirming and life-altering experience I've had in years. Having never knowingly met another male survivor, I felt a sort of togetherness I didn't think was possible from men who were more than twice my age from backgrounds totally different to mine. On the NHS side, I've been brought into hospital several times from suicide attempts and never offered any sort of help. I'm now on a waiting list to see a psychiatrist but have been told it could be several months.

Mankind Staff say:

- In many areas there is no free provision of therapeutic services open to male victims so the only option is to pay for private counselling.
- Men and boys are being discriminated against by being denied equal access to services in many areas.

3.6 - More specialist male survivor services

Male Survivors say:

- Government should fund male survivors organisations to undertake detailed research and understand the needs of their beneficiaries, not just deliver core services.
- I think it is important to recognise who the specialists are in each area and avoid the pop up groups who have no experience of delivering these services as they can cause more damage than good.
- The very few national organisations who specialise in this support need extra resource. The cultural history for female only spaces does not lend themselves to the add on of male work. Therefore funding should mostly be directed to male specialist organisations.
- People to talk to who have experience in dealing with this also the police are not very approachable. Many who work in this field are women and men might feel uncomfortable talking to a woman about this.

- I think there needs to be emotional and psychosocial support specific to the male experience.
- The vast majority of support services are targeted towards women and even where support is offered to men this can be problematic e.g. with mixed support groups where the presence of men may impact on female members.
- Many services now advertising that working with males but males are still secondary in considerations. Need to ensure that those being funded for supporting males do so equally with females.
- Those who are specifically working with males - we should ensure we do not lose the years of expertise that they have built up in working with males. Important to keep those and not simply accept that they will be treated equally if coming under a mixed gender approach.
- We must see to it that all agencies involved with the care and management of male victims are fully aware and trained to behave in the gathering of and protecting of evidence is done in exactly the same way and too the exact same high standards as for females.
- services need to work together on this and need to be able to demonstrate an understanding of sexual abuse and trauma and reach policy and training standards.
- Please just fund support for all men - I know it's unpopular but don't discriminate against me because I'm white, able bodied and relatively affluent in favour of anyone with a protected characteristic. My life has been seriously affected by this too.
- Better education / public awareness and increased support for victims - more male advocates with an understanding of male abuse survivors etc.
- male only services
- Recognition that it is not an add on to womens sexual assault. It is equally important.
- The most important part of any future policy to me would be ample support from mental health agencies. I was unable to find any talk therapy with someone prepared to help a young person of my gender deal with rape. The stigma against men having healthy emotional lives needs to end.
- We also need to support those that work with survivors the risk of vicarious trauma is very real as is burn out. Ultimately time and time again services have failed male survivors and a proper trauma service is needed for these boys and men. in addition we don't all have to be experts just kind human and trauma informed this needs to be rolled out.
- You should be listening to research conducted by activist campaigns and academics who write on this issue rather than bothering the victims of these crimes
- I only know one agency that offer support specifically to men and boys. There is not enough choices, as one person needed choice, but wanted to be sure it was for men and boys.
- more provision for men- everything is very woman focused

- Support services should also have outreach funding for building relationships with men's institutions (sports clubs etc), BAME and working class communities, and to resource them to maintain strong connections and coordination with the women's sector.

Mankind Staff say:

- We need to enable and resource more specialist men's services, rather than just funding pan-gender ones or encouraging women's organisations to 'branch out'.

3.7 - Action to address misinformation and minimisation of male victimhood.

Male Survivors say:

- We need way more research. We don't yet understand how sexual violence affects men as fathers/partners/employees etc. We also need resources to collaborate with the women's sector to better protect and support men who experience violence which is connected to VAWG (e.g. nonabusive men who are assaulted by their wife/girlfriend's abusive ex).
- Cohort and longitudinal studies need to happen so we can understand the impact of these crimes in the long term. We also need to look at prevention and rehabilitation of offenders who primarily target men and do better there.
- Reduce the stigma associated more on male sexual abuse
- Raise public awareness of how common it is for men/boys to experience sexual crimes and the consequences on society.
- Most support is aimed at the female sex. There are some incredible charities that focus on Male victims... but there isn't much discussion or talk from Government on it or other higher ups.
- International awareness programmes and ongoing information in all newspapers and television networks and online awareness training run through reputable websites.
- I did not tell anyone for 32 years for fear of the reaction of those around me; the taboo around male sexual victims was the biggest barrier.
- I have been date-raped and sexually abused by both women and men. the perceived wisdom and media coverage that it is only women who get abused by men has to be replaced by the truth that there both men and women can be perpetrators. what a man can do, a women can do too but that so often isn't reported nor recognised. the shame attached to this has blighted my whole life and at the age of 61 i am finally being heard.
- There's also the fact that people simply don't understand that men are abused. For about a decade I ignored my memories because I just simply didn't see representation in the media/society. I didn't believe what happened to me had happened because I couldn't believe boys were abused - it sounds mad but this is genuine. Awareness of these issues is so important - it'll make survivors like me feel validated and believed: the two things we're most scared of not feeling.

- As a generalisation I think male victims are less likely to report a crime so anything that can give them confidence to come forward and seek help would be beneficial. I think young men are particularly vulnerable and those in prison for a non-related offence.
- More media coverage that abuse can happen regardless of sex of perpetrator or victim. stigma surrounding abuse of males by females and males needs to be addressed and publicised.
- There needs to be a lot more awareness of sexual crimes against men and particularly boys to combat bias in public perception and prejudices such as only vulnerable men suffer abuse or it is limited to protected characteristic categories.
- Training on the way men are victim blamed by police officers, health professionals (especially primary care).
- There was no conversation growing up about gay sex, the gay experience, queer life, anything. Being queer is so fetishized that situations which are unsafe often only come into focus when its too late. Raising children in an ungended way would help them be better prepared for their own emotional life, and perhaps lead to less dangerous circumstances, or harmful outcomes.
- I struggled to get support initially & am still deeply embarrassed, ashamed & humiliated by what happened, it has destroyed my life in many ways, every day is a huge struggle. Also, organisations such as ATOS, etc, fail to recognise the immense damage being raped causes & may seek at times to attempt to trivialise it
- There does also need to be an awareness campaign to say too our society that this does exist and does happen to boys and men, and there also, even more importantly! Needs to be a campaign by our Government that says too boys and men that, the police do care, and do want you to come forward, and that you will be taken seriously, and you will be fully supported through the process.
- I feel masculine identity and social norms that suppress men need to be addressed in order to break down barriers for men speaking and sharing and seeking support.
- With Ritual abuse, it is rare to get male victims asking for help, and female victims/survivors do come forward for help/support. Which means male victims stay within the power of the group.
- Counselling is really important, sometimes employers need to be more supportive to enable employees to access services
- Acknowledging that men are victims of sexual abuse, it's more difficult for men to come forward for help so encouragement is needed, they need to feel understood when coming forward seeking help

Mankind Staff say:

- The fact that our own Government still insists on addressing the needs of male sexual abuse victims under a strategy called VAWG is a great example of the systemic denial at play in UK society.

- We need a cross departmental National approach within Government which recognises that sexual violence is human rights issue which affects everyone before this inclusive approach can filter through to it's institutions.

3.8 - Stop geographical inequality

Male Survivors say:

- I only know one agency that offer support specifically to men and boys. There is not enough choices...more provision for men- everything is very woman focused
- Nothing, no support, I can't find anyone but so grateful someone just told me about Survivors UK and I might get something online from them.
- Victims of SV don't always seek criminal justice outcomes, support should be available for victims to have physiological support regardless of where they are in the country.
- Victims of SV should be able to access support within their local area, the support offered should be specialised, trauma informed support and not generic.
- Support services need more funding, particularly for core services for male survivors around the country (still areas with no specialist provision).
- Specific organisations and people attached to police, NPS, local authority etc. So the country is covered fairly and adequately
- More therapeutic services are required across the UK because the small number of services is not enough and there are long waiting lists.
- Counselling which is available when it is needed, in a form acceptable to a survivor (face to face, telephone etc...) and, if face to face, at a venue reasonably close to where a survivor lives.

Mankind Staff say:

- In many areas the only available services are led by women's organisations who quite rightly want to focus on women and girls so don't offer services for men.
- Some areas have pan-gender organisations who are open to men. However they all started as women's services, so while open to men they don't always adequately meet their needs or advertise adequately to them.
- Only Manchester, Sussex and London have a specialist men's organisation. While the majority of money is filtered through PCCs it is very difficult for services to move into other areas or create innovation on a National scale.
- So we need more resources and funding opportunities to support and expand existing services who work with men and boys across the UK, or across regional areas.

3.9 - Make more resources available for support services

Male Survivors say:

- We need much more access to psychologists and counsellors who are specially trained in this kind of trauma. - We need access to 24 hour 365 days a year support services. - and - All the voluntary services that help us are on their knees, absolutely on their knees! And they need to be fully funded.
- Our Local Rape support service has only been seeing men now for a year with 30 percent of referral from mental health services they are swamped and men can wait many months even a year to be seen. Many men get letters from services saying you can call the Samaritans and the details of our support group moMENTum.(momentumdevon.org.uk) we always intended to be as well as not instead of due to gaps in services.
- Waiting lists for support in my city were way, way too long. Functionally, that means support did not exist.
- Counselling. I stopped self harming aged 54 after 6 sessions of counselling but I need more
- Just a faster and more open door, not just a phone line real face to face
- From my many meetings I know we need to put these survivors of trauma first above targets clusters packages and what is the current thing to highlight survivors need consistency and a service needs to reflect that. I think above all what the government needs to know many people campaigning for something quite reasonable don't trust the government to act we have all been let down time after time as have male victims of sexual abuse and violence.
- Quicker, holistic support.
- I feel more funding should go into rape crisis centres as this is where I received my support excellent services that were delivered by professional women

Mankind Staff say:

- Since Covid Mankind UK's referrals have gone up by 95% and the wait time is now 1 year.
- We have had to close our waiting list despite the fact that 300+ people visit our website each week.
- In March 20 The Home Office funded us to create www.1in6.uk to reach the thousands of men who were not seeking help. Now they are all responding and saying yes we do need help and there is no capacity to support them.

3.10 - Better support through the criminal justice process

Male Survivors say:

- The court process end to end often lets people down as taking matters to court can be long winded with poor communication from the police. This leads to many withdrawing their report and I feel the whole criminal justice experience must be improved. This leads to the way criminal sexual crimes prosecutions take place and what victims are put through remains unfair and intrusive. There should be changes to criminal processes that does not allow victims to be sabotaged through the process. Training and insight for all professionals involved in this process needs to be looked at and who is delivering this as lack of empathy remains an issue.
- Survivors should have their own lawyers when engaging with the criminal justice system, or ISVAs should be given legal training and allowed to know the details of their clients' cases.
- The CPS are inept and shockingly bad at their job. Several mistakes made. No apologies. poorly handled the entire situation. Needs an overhaul.
- My stepsons were both sexually assaulted by their half brother. It took 6 years to get any communication from CPS. At first they said it wouldn't go to court due to insufficient evidence. We appealed, asking what more evidence they would require for a prosecution, and they responded saying they had reviewed the case and it would be taken to court. Two months later we received a letter stating they had changed their mind and it wouldn't go to court. CPS need to take more cases like ours to court and if they make a decision to prosecute they shouldn't backtrack on that decision. The CPS need to follow through once they have made a decision to prosecute. This decision was made and then revoked and that has been the worst part for my stepsons.
- They also lost interest in my case when they found out the perpetrator was white.
- If a decision is made to prosecute an assailant it should be followed through.
- Victim of sexual abuse , found it hard as it took years to get to court and no support or help after going to court.
- Support from the legal system/police in terms of open cases
- To be believed, to be allowed a closed gallery at court
- When reported the police should have information on help lines
- The police treating me like a crime number, zero support, Had to give my evidence again because They lost my initial evidence. (First account)
- Better support in the workplace for survivors, more awareness and empathy training. During the court process the CPS lawyer barrister did not even say hello to me before the trial the next minute you're in the box no support at all from the CPS.
- Counselling was excellent. There was a lack of understanding of the issues form the Police, courts and from solicitors etc about trauma and the affects.
- Police officers appeared to be deploying their understanding of victim blaming to discourage me from pursuing my case, and even made me feel guilty because I was taking their attention away from female victims.

- Investment in proper and greater support for their needs, whether it be in relation to the legal and court processes, or actual support with their recovery needs, whatever they might be! (All their care needs need to be met fully!) - There needs to be a complete look at all the laws and procedures for managing victims currently in place, with victim participation in that process of scrutiny, to ensure that they actually meet the needs of male victims - because as a male victim, I am not convinced that they are.
- Far more understanding & empathy for victims, as well as increased jail sentences for the scum responsible.
- We need much more support when dealing with the police and the whole justice system with specially trained support workers.
- We need much more support to make our applications with regard to the Criminal Injuries Board with specially trained support workers
- Long term sentences for the criminals.
- Action, even on historic sexual abuse cases... Boris Johnston said that the CPS were "spaffing money up the wall" on such things. This is abhorrent and wrong
- Ongoing support during reporting to the police right through until after the court process
- Sense of what justice is, criminal proceedings, witness support other than ISVAS/IDVAS,
- Historical sex crime should be taken seriously it happened and happened a lot. I notice that the press seem to fixate on 1 or 2 cases of discredited high profile accusers and the way its reported is to cast doubts on others and I expect it stops people coming forward to report crimes. It's vanishingly rare that someone makes up these claims yet one high profile case blows out of the water many true crimes that should be punished. Again I think the elites who still hold immense power in this country want to sweep these crimes against men under the carpet. Why would a Prime minister say such awful things claiming spending cash on investigations of historical child sex abuse is spaffing cash up a wall? If you have the head of government saying such a thing it follows that the judges, police and legal profession might also see that their careers could be damaged if they take cases seriously.

I think what the PM said was to set back the work against bringing those who commit these crimes to justice by decades. It was not even challenged by many at the time just accepted when in reality it was a repulsive thing to say and any normal minded person would find it wrong. We need much greater leadership from the police and the judiciary system and acknowledgement that male sexual abuse is wrong whether happening today or in the past. Sentences should not be different for historical abuse because laws at the time didn't recognise that a man could be raped. Some of the sentences for crimes that if committed today would see a guilty person sentenced for up to 10 years get suspended sentences ! This is not right and adds greatly to the pain of those who have gone through the difficult choice to come forward in the first place. Sentences should and could be harmonised so that historical abuse is taken as seriously as abuse is today.

3.11 - Don't just focus on criminal justice

Male Survivors say:

- "I feel there needs to be more information on what to do and where to go if you have suffered a sexual crime that is not the police. Many victims will be afraid of going to the police and alternative options that are accessible need to be highlighted and promoted."
- "Victims of SV don't always seek criminal justice outcomes, support should be available for victims to have physiological support regardless of where they are in the country."
- Listening and counselling- permission to tell
- Access to high quality Sexual Assault Referral Centre services - non-judgemental support services made available whether or not the victim is ready, willing and able to report a criminal offence to law enforcement

Mankind Staff say:

- Money comes from the Ministry of Justice and the Police and Crime Commission into this space but where is the route for easily accessing health, social care or education budgets?
- Mankind UK offers social care support, education and a health service, so why are we solely reliant on the justice system for our funding?
- If we are going to tackle sexual violence across society it needs a cross departmental approach.

3.12 - More effective links with NHS services

Male Survivors say:

- We also need swifter referrals into specialist services. Men are dying by suicide while on waiting lists for trauma services.
- In many areas men are offered non-specialist support which can often do more harm than good.
- Swifter access to appropriate service, not being pushed around from one service to another.
- I was quickly diagnosed as mentally ill which in time cost me my career and I even ended up highly medicated and on an ill health pension. I was not helped to understand what was going on for me. No one asked about my childhood or helped me understand I was suffering from trauma for 15 years. At times I was in psychiatric hospital and at others I was denied support. I was even denied support 3 months after coming out of hospital telling me I did not meet the criteria and was never told what the criteria was. The responses of services with lack of compassion has been a major stress. In contrast later I gave up on services managed to find a good trauma therapist who I worked with for 2 years along with the support of a survivor group now I am coping well in life working when services had written me off. What made the

difference treating me like a human being kindness working with me not at me giving me hope. I think it's important to note I managed to calculate the stays in Psychiatric hospital cost £62,000 to no avail the trauma therapy and peer support which worked £3,000

- I run a support group for male survivors of childhood sexual abuse and I can only describe current support as not only poor but very often retraumatising. Many of the men we see find because of the trauma and distress of their childhood sexual abuse or rather the symptoms of that they are referred to mental health services most are turned down in primary care as too complex.
- We see many men with complex trauma turned down by primary and secondary mental health services in short they are turned down by the NHS and they rely on voluntary and third sector organisations working on a shoestring.
- Counselling to be more readily available without a long waiting time, More resources for mental health treatment
- Instant support, no waiting, its a big decision asking for help and the more trap doors the more suicide rate rise.
- Direct signposting immediately with confidence that the service is appropriate for their individual needs. Too many referral partners simply do not check services out enough and this has led to males being directed to female agencies from their GPs. Enough to stop the male asking again for support.
- The NHS delivered an incredibly inconsistent standard of care. Some practitioners were excellent, some were frankly unacceptable and ignorant of my needs. Why are doctors/nurses delivering high standards of care not being enabled and resourced to share their knowledge with colleagues?
- better education of medical professionals to ensure male abuse is taken seriously. because of the shame, males are far less likely to open up or admit their truth.

Mankind Staff say:

- In most areas there is a false divide between services for victims of crime and NHS or health services.
- We know that recovering from trauma is a health issue and it should be treated and funded as such.
- In Brighton and Hove everyone referred with symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) into the mental health service are asked if they have ever had an unwanted sexual experience. If the answer is yes they are offered a specialist trauma therapy which suits their gender. We are the only area in the country with this kind of partnership with the NHS. This should be the norm not the exception.
- GPs across the UK should be asking anyone who presents with PTSD 'have you ever had an unwanted sexual experience?'. If the answer is yes they can refer directly to a specialist service. They would pick up so many cases so much earlier.

3.13 - Better links to education and other social care services

Male Survivors say:

- More needs to be done to end the stigma against mens/boys mental health and safeguarding in schools needs to be improved so that staff are more aware of what sexual abuse looks like
- Many men are survivors, I run a homeless charity, Sussex Homeless Support we see the end results every day. I would be happy to engage with anyone including Government in this
- Just that it is often still not acknowledged enough, despite the prevalence in society.
- Support for male survivors of sexual abuse remains poorly provided if provided at all and disjointed between services such as judiciary mental health drug and alcohol etc. This is added to by poor policies and recognition of sexual abuse and violence lack of staff training in this regard and trauma.
- Audits I have seen in local services confirm this. What is needed urgently is good joined up trauma provision. This is known with a great deal of evidence available but my experience on service committees trauma informed boards on the front line with survivors and my own experience as a survivor is this remains largely ignored and hindered.
- Where child sexual abuse is concerned local Authorities, especially Education Authorities are experts at lip service. Child Protection all too often means not Protection of Children, but rather Protection of the Authority from Reputational Damage or worse Litigation. Here is a genuine quote from a local government officer: "Those officers at the top of the chain see reds under the bed everywhere and steer clear of possible dangers to their careers and it's not about the survivor of the abuse, it's about their own futures that they worry. Historic sexual abuse is just not part of their current strategic priorities. This stuff happened so long ago. We don't need to respond to it" For men the average length of time between an incident/s of sexual abuse and even speaking about it, is 26 years. During those 26 years the survivor is living with the psychological consequences. Don't let anyone fob you off with that "you should have got over it by now" excuse.

3.14 - Take a more intersectional approach

Male Survivors say:

- Make sexual crimes against boys and men as high priority as women and girls - make sexual crimes against 'people' a high priority without having to make us fit into boxes
- Government should be clear about the genders of the people it's talking about when it releases data.
- It should mirror VAWG.
- I don't think there's enough support specifically for LGBT+ men who are victims of sexual violence.
- We need an independent strategy for supporting men, boys and nonbinary people so that we are not in competition with the women's sector. This should include supporting experts to find their own points of collaboration with VAWG organisations, rather than government dictating what those should look like.

- I have very very severe mobility problems and difficulties and their office space has very steep and narrow stairs and no lift but, because of the nature of what I need to talk about, meeting my support worker in a public is 100% not suitable so, I have absolutely no choice but to struggling with the stairs at her office.
- Survivors of sexual violence and domestic abuse (of all genders) should be awarded protected characteristic status.
- All services for male survivors receiving statutory funding should be required to make provisions for trans and nonbinary survivors, either in house or through referral to specialist services.
- Strategy should include unique standards for measuring violence against men and boys; we often don't use traditional terms like 'rape' to describe our experiences, even if they fit the legal definition so the way we measure this needs to be bespoke.
- Forced penetration should be explicitly included under the legal definition of rape.
- The conversation about sex crimes is so gendered, and is definitely led by female voices. That leadership is fantastic, I am personally very grateful for it, but when the conversation is less victim/abuser, and more woman/man, it's so daunting to join in. When conversations I've tried to engage in get heated and any anger comes up from other participants time and time again it isn't about being hurt, I hear a conflating of pain and the male gender, and as a male its then hard to join in. Its not inaccurate but the generalization feels invalidating, like the privilege I do enjoy as a cis male should outweigh any trauma I've experienced. I think those privileges have to be acknowledged but I also think the resentment towards men within the community of survivors can discourage men and boys from joining in. Whether from self-preservation or self-loathing.
- Stop focussing on the of abuse of women by men and widen the topic to include ALL abuse man/woman, woman/man, man/man, woman/woman

Mankind Staff say:

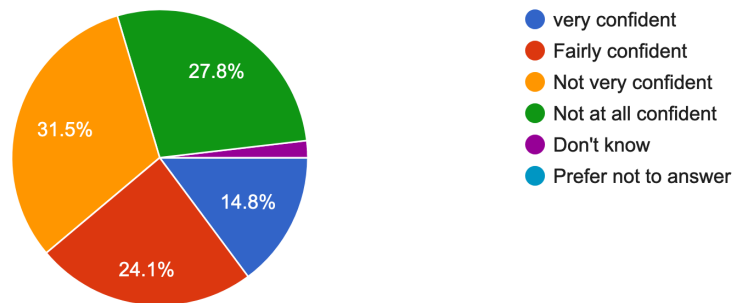
- This is an opportunity to take VAWG to the next level. The pillars of the VAWG and the international VAWG movement was always about changing National structures and systems to address crimes against women and girls at an institutional level. It was never intended to keep them separate forever. It's about highlighting the issues in order to change the core structures.
- The time has come to take the next step and create a proper strategic approach to tackle sexual crimes and support all those who they affect.
- If we just create a VAWG equivalent for men and boys it splits the sector further when we need to be finding common ground. Also where does that leave trans and non-binary people?
- This strategy is defined by gender. What about the other characteristics? Will we end up needing another strategy for people who experience racism and another for people with disabilities, and another for LGBTQ+ people. It makes more sense to have 1 over arching strategy which allows for a sensible way of addressing the common goals as well as mandating a deeper focus on the needs of particular groups.

4 - Quantitative questions

4.1 - How confident would you feel in accessing support?

How confident would you feel in being able to access support if you, a friend or family member was a victim of a sexual crime.

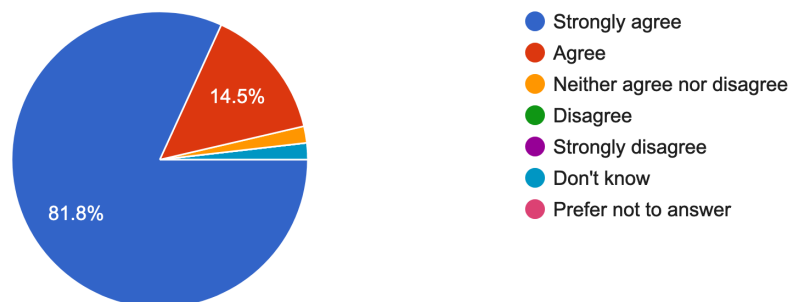
54 responses



4.2 - Do you agree that victims need more support?

To what extent do you agree that victims of sexual crimes need more support than is currently available?

55 responses



4.3 - Which do you think should be the most important priorities?

- 1st - Increased funding for support services and helplines to increase the number of victims that can be helped
- 2nd - More action to prevent sexual crimes against men and boys from happening, for example, education programmes in schools to teach children about these crimes

- 3rd - Better training for police, judges, prosecutors and court staff on victimisation