



Registered Charity No. 1107795

Equal Rights for Men and Women

Patrons:

Sir Peter Bottomley MP

Mr Mark Brooks OBE

Contact: secretary@parity-uk.org

PARITY NEWS BRIEFING – APRIL 2020

Contents

Page

• Both Parents Matter Contact Survey	1
• Men are 50% More Likely to die from COVID-19	2
• Dad With Breast Cancer 'Rejected From Support Groups Because he's a Man'	2
• Ground-breaking TEDX Talk by Male Victim of Domestic Abuse	3
• Graham Goulden's TEDX Talk -- How Can we Support Boys to Become the Best Men They Can Be?	3
• A More Inclusive Decade: Ten Policy Measures to Better Support the Well-Being of Men and Boys in the UK	3
• MP Describes Suicide Attempt in His Maiden Speech at Parliament	5
• Boys' Education Leads BBC Coverage of School League Table Results Following Collaboration with MBC	5
• COVID-19 — Resources and Support for Men And Boys	7
• Disadvantages of Men and Boys	11

BOTH PARENTS MATTER CONTACT SURVEY

Both Parents Matter is conducting a parental contact survey.

Effect of Covid-19 on Child Contact: Survey

<http://empathygap.uk/?p=3263>

One of the many issues which arise during the Covid-19 "lockdown" is that of parents living apart, and the movement of children between two different domiciles where such arrangements were in place prior to the lockdown. Ditto, where contact arrangements with the non-resident parent were less than shared care.

The Government has issued guidance on this matter, and the President of the Family Division, Sir Andrew McFarlane, has reiterated the main point, which is this,

"Where parents do not live in the same household, children under 18 can be moved between their parents' homes.

This establishes an exception to the mandatory 'stay at home' requirement; it does not, however, mean that children **must** be moved between homes." (*emphasis as in the original*).

However, a very obvious question is what will actually happen in practice. Moreover, the effect of the lockdown may change as time wears on. To capture data on the actual effects, the charity FNF Both Parents Matter Cymru has created an online survey "[Survey of separated parents' shared care](#)

[of children during Covid 19 pandemic](#)". If you are a separated parent with shared care or contact arrangements, please complete the survey via that link. Also, please pass the link on to anyone else for whom it may be relevant. UK residents only, please.

If you have problems with that link you can also complete the survey on the [charity's web site](#) (<https://www.fnf-bpm.org.uk/> - it's the first thing you see). Many thanks.

This entry was posted in [children](#), [Health](#), [Marriage Divorce Families](#) on [6th April 2020](#).

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/07/lawyers-inundated-by-divorced-parents-arguing-over-lockdown-custody>

MEN ARE 50% MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM COVID-19

As you will be aware, COVID-19 appears to be hitting men who are infected much harder than women, with some data indicating men are twice as likely to die from the disease.

Global Action on Men's Health have been tracking data and research related to the gendered impacts of coronavirus.

Follow @Globalmenhealth for updates

The latest figures show that Men are 50% more likely to die from COVID-19*

<https://shop.menshealthforum.org.uk/products/webinar-men-covid-19-april-20-2020-2pm>

Why is this and what can be done about it?

Professor Alan White, Peter Baker and Martin Tod will be discussing the biological and behavioural factors that appear to underlie these problems and the action that needs to be taken to address them.

Date: Friday, April 24th, 2020

Time: 2 pm

It is acknowledged that the meeting will have gone by the time you read this. However, it is hoped that the link may give you further information and report about the discussion that took place and access to a recording, if available.

** Deaths Registered in England & Wales "involving" Covid-19 to week ending April 10th - 10335; 61% male, 39% female.*

DAD WITH BREAST CANCER 'REJECTED FROM SUPPORT GROUPS BECAUSE HE'S A MAN'

Metro Harrison Jones Monday 24 Feb 2020 11:03 am

A dad diagnosed with breast cancer says he felt isolated and lonely after being rejected by Facebook support groups because he is male. David McCallion, 55, was diagnosed with the illness shortly before his 30th wedding anniversary and even his own doctor assumed that his wife was the patient when they talked about the diagnosis. Facing a mastectomy and being left to feel as though 'real men' don't get breast cancer, he turned online to look for support. But, he was told that he could not join because he was a man and it would prevent other members from opening up about their own concerns. He said: 'I was made to feel like I was muscling in, but the last thing I wanted to do was jump up and down saying, "Look at me I've got breast cancer too".' Every year 390 men are diagnosed as having the condition in the UK and 80 of them die. David, from Manchester, said: 'If the other 389 men feel anything like I did, something needs to be done. I will never be the same person I was before my diagnosis. Cancer is lonely, full stop. But being a man in what I call the 'pink world' of breast cancer - that's even lonelier.' TOP ARTICLES 2/5 READ MORE One in five people apply for benefits as coronavirus turns lives upside down David with his wife Julie. The couple recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary (Picture: PA Real Life) He said: 'When I tell other blokes about my diagnosis, half say, "Men don't get breast cancer," and I lift up my shirt and say,

"Yes they do." 'Some ask why I've had it, as if to say, "Are you really a man?" David, who is married to Julie, 54, and they have two sons, want to break taboos around male breast cancer. He was diagnosed in 2015 with gynaecomastia, a common condition causing men's breasts to become larger than normal. Then in April 2019, David noticed his right nipple was inverted and thought it must be linked to the condition. He was referred to the Royal Oldham Hospital but he was not initially concerned. But then the results for tests came back. He said: 'Twenty minutes after the biopsy the doctor said that, in his opinion, there was a 99 per cent chance it was going to be cancer'. The first thing I thought was, "How the hell am I going to tell my family?" David does not want reconstructive surgery (Picture: PA Real Life) 'My second thought was, "How am I going to tell everybody else I have breast cancer – as a man?" My head was completely gone.' David went back to hospital with his wife a few days later to find out more. He said: 'For the next eight minutes everything the doctor said was addressed to my wife and, in the end, I had to tell him to talk to me and not to her. 'He explained that he breaks this news to women day in day out, which is why he didn't address me at first.' He was told that he would need a full mastectomy on his right breast, which he delayed until after celebrating his wedding anniversary in August last year. Speaking about going under the knife, he said: 'I gave (Julie) a quick hug and said, "See you later." I didn't want her to think I was worried.' He later needed another 24 lymph nodes removed, that were found not to be cancerous, but is now on a gruelling regime of chemotherapy, which will last until the end of next month. David has since had to undergo chemotherapy (Picture: PA Real Life) He is also facing further tests to find out if the condition is hereditary as his mother also had breast cancer. He was told his surgery had been a success but, after the lymph node tested positive, on October 4 David – who was not offered reconstructive surgery and does not want it – had a further 24 removed. As his treatment progressed, he found the #bluegetittoo awareness campaign about male breast cancer. Now David is keen to make men aware that breast cancer can affect them, too, and is urging them to check themselves for tell-tale symptoms.

To find out more about breast cancer in men and how to spot the symptoms, <https://preventbreastcancer.org.uk/about-breast-cancer/men-and-breast-cancer/>.

Read more: <https://metro.co.uk/2020/02/24/dad-breast-cancer-rejected-support-groups-man-12291570/?ito?ito=cshare>

GROUNDBREAKING TEDX TALK BY MALE VICTIM OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Andrew Pain is a public speaker, productivity coach, and a domestic abuse campaigner. In his first TEDx Talk he describes the years of domestic abuse he suffered at the hands of his wife.

He describes the wider struggle faced by male survivors of domestic abuse and shares his own experiences of the abuse he suffered during his first marriage: why he stayed, how he rebuilt and how he forgave.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HgPICMQLIs>

GRAHAM GOULDEN'S TEDX TALK -- HOW CAN WE SUPPORT BOYS TO BECOME THE BEST MEN THEY CAN BE?

Check out this insightful talk by Graham Goulden, a former police officer with 30 years experience, who applies this expertise to his role as an educator and public speaker.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrDGmEqiU2U&feature=youtu.be>

A MORE INCLUSIVE DECADE: TEN POLICY MEASURES TO BETTER SUPPORT THE WELL-BEING OF MEN AND BOYS IN THE UK

The Men and Boys Coalition are asking the new Conservative Government to commit to implementing a range of measures that will improve public services, public policy and make a positive difference to lives of men and boys. By doing so, this will also improve the lives of women and girls who all care, support and share society with men and boys.

We believe for this new decade to continue on the path of creating a more inclusive, equality-based and fair society; it now requires a greater focus on the wellbeing of men and boys, whilst continuing to also focus on wellbeing issues affecting women and girls. The past two decades of this century have largely ignored the wellbeing of men and boys creating a real public policy deficit. These ten simple policy requests, we believe, will start to make a difference.

Men and Boys Coalition – Top Ten Policy Measures

1. To commission an official inquiry into the Educational Underachievement of Boys. Over the past 30 years, boys have been behind girls at every stage of education from Key Stage 2 to University but previous governments and the educational establishment in the UK have been indifferent at best. We believe an official inquiry into the causes alongside positive measures to be implemented is now required. This should include schools identifying boys with absent fathers as having an 'additional need.

2. To introduce a Men's Health Strategy similar to those introduced in Ireland and Australia – and advocated by the World Health Organisation Europe. Health outcomes for men are generally poor in the UK as is the level of engagement (by men and by services). In addition there are a number of particular diseases (such as male cancers) and high rates of suicide. We believe a fresh approach is needed in the UK based on international success in Australia and Ireland and that a national men's health strategy is created. This is supported by a range of organisations (alongside the coalition) including the Men's Health Forum and the Women and Equalities Select Committee. The World Health Organisation Europe has also published an overarching men's health strategy.

3. To introduce a Male Suicide Prevention Action Plan and to create and implement easy to access, male-friendly mental health services, with improved signposting. The rate of suicide in the UK has reached a 16 year high with just under 5,000 males taking their own lives (three in every four suicides). As part of a national suicide prevention strategy, we believe there has to be a specific plan to tackle male suicide (and a parallel plan one for females too). We believe and support the wider recommendation by the Women and Equalities Select Committee on increasing male-friendly mental health services.

4. Better support for those at risk or suffering from prostate and testicular cancer. Prostate Cancer UK has proposed the following, which we fully support: "We want men with prostate cancer to get better diagnosis, better treatment and better support. This includes ensuring every man with prostate cancer – or at risk of it – to have access to the same high-quality diagnosis, treatment and care, no matter where in the UK they live."²

5. To introduce a parallel strategy to the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) entitled Ending Intimate Violence Against Men and Boys. Currently male victims of a wide range of crimes including sexual abuse/violence, domestic abuse, stalking and forced marriage are classed by the Government (and other agencies) as being victims of crimes against women and girls. As well as being factually wrong, it places additional barriers to service support, societal attitudes and male help seeking. We believe the UK Government should take a more inclusive approach and introduce a parallel strategy to the welcome and successful VAWG strategy. This is a position endorsed by the former Victims Commissioner Baroness Newlove (Conservative Peer).

6. To review and reform the legal definition of rape to include male victims who are raped by women. In British law, the treatment of male victims of rape is different depending on the gender of the perpetrator with a harsher law being applied to male perpetrators than female perpetrators. We believe there should be equality in law so that section 1 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, is to now include cases where women force men to engage in non-consensual intercourse (these cases are currently criminalised under section 4 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, a less serious offence).

7. To promote the importance of active fatherhood in a child's life. This policy measure, taken straight from the 2017 "Manifesto to Strengthen Families" policy document (published by Fiona Bruce MP and Lord Farmer – supported by over 60 then Conservative MPs) will "ensure fathers are involved as much as possible from day one, maternity services should review and improve their support for fathers. Legal changes mandating fathers to be named on birth certificates should be brought into force (with appropriate exemptions)"

8. To change the remit of the Government Equalities Office to include men and boys (currently the remit only covers women and girls). The current remit does not include men, who are not mentioned without any inclusive explanation or rationale for this omission. This is not in keeping with an inclusive, fair and equality-based government or society. At the heart of Government Policy, this has to lead to the continuing public policy deficit in tackling well-being issues affecting men and

boys. This change, rightly, will not have a negative effect on any focus on issues affecting women and girls.

9. Change the title of the Minister for Women and Equalities to the Minister for Equalities with a clear remit to also cover male inequality. The current remit (and the remit for the past decade) is only to cover female inequality, not male equality too. In a similar point 8 above, this must change.

10. To appoint a Special Adviser on Men and Boys Wellbeing within the Government Equalities Office. This is to ensure that within the Department there is an appointed official or adviser with a clear remit to ensure that the Department takes into account inequalities and issues affecting the well-being of men and boys in its policy work and policy recommendations.

<http://www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk/newsevents/the-top-ten-policy-measures-to-boost-the-well-being-of-men-and-boys/>

MP DESCRIBES SUICIDE ATTEMPT IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH AT PARLIAMENT

Take a watch from 2:56 in the video below, of the maiden speech by former soldier Stuart Anderson MP, in which he movingly describes his suicide attempt after leaving the Army.

Huge respect to him for setting this profound example -- a former soldier, opening up about his mental health, in the House of Commons.

<http://disq.us/t/3lqy3ku>

https://www.expressandstar.com/news/politics/2020/01/30/i-was-going-through-life-in-a-virtual-coma-squaddie-turned-mp-says-he-contemplated-suicide-after-hitting-the-booze-to-block-out-pain-after-being-shot/#disqus_thread

BOYS' EDUCATION LEADS BBC COVERAGE OF SCHOOL LEAGUE TABLE RESULTS FOLLOWING COLLABORATION WITH MBC

The 30-year educational attainment gap between boys and girls led the BBC's coverage of England's annual school league table results, following close collaboration with the Men and Boys Coalition.

The Men and Boys Coalition worked with BBC Online's Education Desk ahead of publication of the league tables, offering guidance on data and background to the issue; suggested contribution for expert analysis from Coalition member Mary Curnock Cook and comment from Men and Boys Coalition CEO, Dan Bell. The story was consequently picked up by the day's edition of The World at One.

The BBC Radio 4 show's segment featured an opening interview with MBC's Dan Bell on the causes of boys' educational underachievement, in which he raised questions as to the lack of political and policy action on the issue.

School league tables: Boys behind girls for three decades

England's schoolboys have had worse exam results than girls for 30 years, secondary school league table data just published confirms.

Girls are now 14% more likely to pass English and maths GCSE than boys, with 64% of girls doing so and 56% of boys. Yet there is little national focus on the difference in results or measures addressing why boys lag behind. And campaigners and academics accuse consecutive governments of ignoring the issue.

'Left behind'

On current trends, the gap between rich and poor is set to be eclipsed by the gap between males and females, in terms of university entrance, within a decade, campaigners say.

Data going back 30 years shows the gap between the percentage of girls' and boys' GCSE passes more than doubled between 1989 and 1999, from four to nine percentage points - a change often attributed to the introduction of GCSEs.

But there was little change over the next two decades. It remained stable for a few years, then dipped slightly to seven percentage points in 2009, then widened again over the next decade to nine percentage points.

Secondary schools league tables published - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-46947617>

The former head of university and college admissions services, Mary Curnock Cook said she was "baffled by this yawning inequality", which revealed a "massive policy blind spot".

"On current trends, a girl born today will be 75% more likely to go to university than her male peers," she said.

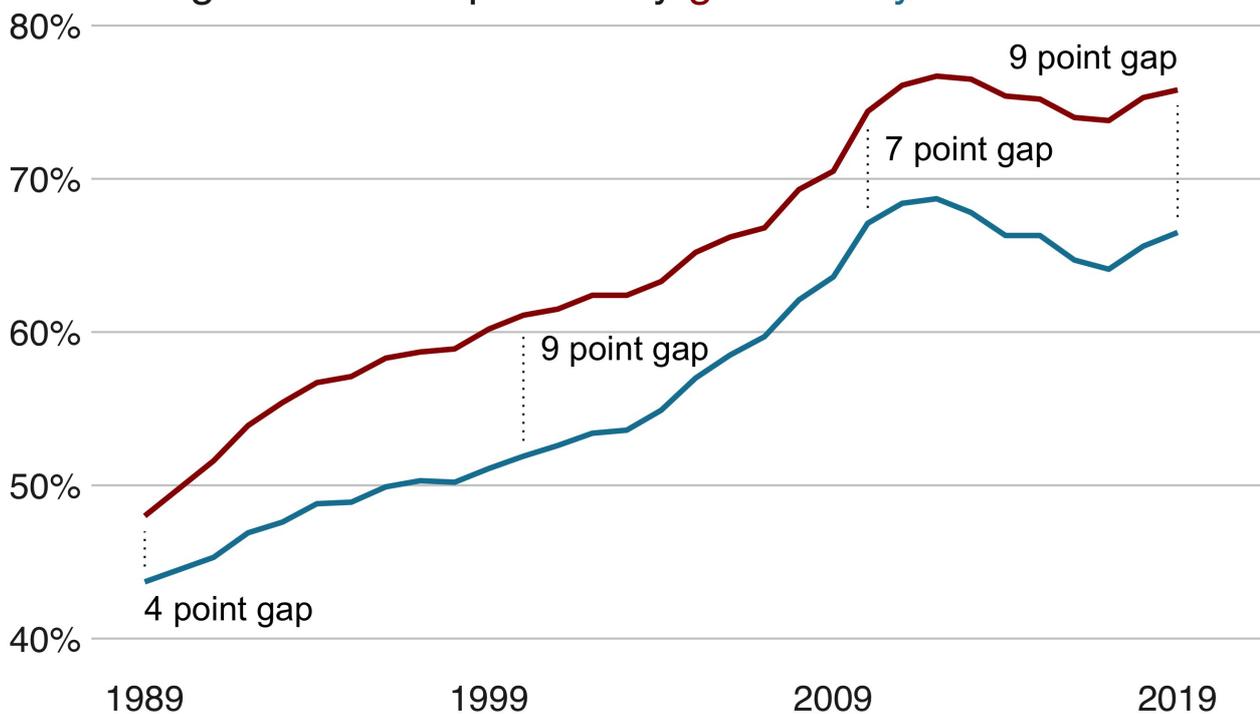
"By then, the gap between women and men will be larger than the gap between rich and poor."

It shows girls are one and a half times more likely to pass all components of the Ebacc, with 28% of girls passing compared with 18% of boys.

The data also shows the gender gap is apparent in the EBacc, which measures those pupils who achieve a grade 4 or above across the core academic subjects of English, maths, science, history or geography and a language.

Persistent gender gap

Percentage of GCSEs passed by girls vs boys



Source: Buckingham University (1989-2009) / DfE (2010-2019)

BBC

There is now a clear need to tackle the underachievement of boys, according to the Men and Boys Coalition - a group of organisations, academics and individuals campaigning on male equality issues.

'Critical inequality'

Chief executive Dan Bell said: "For decades, this problem has existed but successive governments and the wider education establishment has buried its head in the sand and, in effect, ignored it.

"There has never been an explanation for this attitude despite clear evidence that generations of boys and young men are being left behind.

"That attitude can no longer be tolerated if we are to live in a modern inclusive society that truly tackles inequality.

"The time has now come that we must see positive action from the government and the wider education establishment to not just recognise this critical inequality faced by boys and young men but to systematically create strategies to tackle it."

School Standards Minister Nick Gibb focussed on the achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and their better off peers, saying it remains stable, but highlighting that it has dropped by about 9% since 2011. He added: "The EBacc is instrumental in driving up educational standards. "Overall more pupils are studying these core academic subjects than at any time since the EBacc measure was introduced and the entry rate is particularly high in our free schools."

COVID-19 – RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR MEN AND BOYS

<http://www.menandboyscoalition.org.uk/newsevents/covid-19-resources-and-support-for-men-and-boys/>

Men and Boys Coalition (MBC) members, along with the men and boys sector as whole, have risen to the challenge of providing vital support to those they work with despite the lockdown with extraordinary speed and ingenuity.

Here are a number of services MBC are aware of that are still operating. This is intended as a live document to be updated, time permitting, as we gather more information.

1. COUNSELLING AND PERSONAL SUPPORT

Mengage – free therapy for male COVID-19 key workers

www.mengagetherapy.co.uk

"In light of all they are doing, I am offering free therapy for fellas on the frontline delivering services; doctors, nurses, delivery drivers and such like. All by Skype/Zoom. Hit me up if you are one of these guys!"

Spectra

The charity has moved counselling and mentoring services online, and has seen a lot of uptake following the transition. They are planning webinars for their youth service, and are making sure their 121 mentoring work continues to be as safe as possible for young people.

https://twitter.com/Spectra_London/status/1245332121591451649?s=20

MenSpeak Men's Groups – daily check-ins, by donation

"Kenny and some of the more experienced MenSpeak facilitators are offering daily lunchtime check-ins to keep men calm, connected, safe and sane in these turbulent times of extreme vulnerability.

"We share our thoughts and feelings, fears and pressures, whatever buttons are pressed and whatever comes up is welcome. We relieve pressure by speaking it out, listening and being heard."

Due to coronavirus we are holding many more online men's groups and online men's group facilitation trainings to help foster more connection and community

MenCheck-in : Daily Check-ins, Connection and Community

<https://www.meetup.com/menspeak/>

METRO Charity

METRO have launched a youth sexual health phone line for young people in the London boroughs of Greenwich and Bexley.

The phone line is running Monday to Friday from 12pm-3pm on 0208 305 5001

<https://metrocharity.org.uk/>

Jonny Benjamin MBE

Jonny has made this excellent video sharing his practical strategies for managing mental health while self-isolating:

https://www.youtube.com/watchv=_TkXh8ReEIU&feature=youtu.be

Natasha Devon MBE

Natasha's feed is a wealth of resources and practical advice on how to tackle everything from lockdown induced anxiety, to dealing with even-greater-than-normal exam stress and information about her online consultancy.

<https://twitter.com/NatashaDevon/status/1241820101889929216?s=20>

Her latest book: Yes You Can: Ace Your Exams Without Losing Your Mind <https://t.co/6oRyNFvIHW>
Mind the Men

The peer-to-peer suicide prevention support group have moved their meetings online. "Our online video meeting is available on Monday nights 7pm – 9pm .

Download the Zoom app and email mindthemen@gmail.com for a meeting ID to join.

We may be isolated but we can still connect."
Follow @mindthemen to find out more.

Student Minds

The charity is has made available a range of resources and advice for students on maintaining good mental health during the pandemic.

Available here:

<https://www.studentminds.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

The editorial team is also running a blogging series bringing the student community together online to share tips and strategies for looking after mental health and well-being during the pandemic.

Find out more write for them here:

<https://www.studentmindsblog.co.uk/p/write-for.html>

2. FORUMS AND DISCUSSION

RockingUrTeens video conferences for teens on lockdown

Through their conferences and workshops, RockingUrTeens connects 13 and 14-year-olds with organisations and industry experts to help them increase their career aspirations and understand the benefit of collaborations, whilst supporting them to create vibrant futures for themselves and their communities.

They are running a series of online conferences for teenagers dealing with the pressures of lockdown. Watch the first event that took place on April 6th here:

<https://tinyurl.com/w5eapfp>

Follow @RockingUrTeens to keep up to date with the next events scheduled for the end of April and mid-May.

Australian Men's Health Forum

In addition to managing the huge challenges of the lockdown to the Australian Men's Health Forum, MBC co-founder and Trustee, Glen Poole, has written on how increased social isolation from coronavirus, is a risk factor for suicide in men of all ages and should be carefully managed to avoid an increase in suicide deaths.

<https://t.co/s5IVBo5Ync> <https://t.co/yX9DhV1Ya4>

<https://twitter.com/MensHealthAMHF/status/1243324180080340994?s=20>

Graham Goulden's 'Shed Talk'

Fresh from his successful TedX Talk, Graham has shared his own anxieties and ways of dealing with them in his "Shed Talk".

https://twitter.com/Graham_Goulden/status/1245319244604194817?s=20

Global Action on Men's Health

As I'm sure you will be aware, COVID-19 appears to be hitting men who are infected much harder than women, with some data indicating men are twice as likely to die from the disease.

Global Action on Men's Health have been tracking data and research related to the gendered impacts of coronavirus.

Follow @Globalmenhealth for updates

3. MENTORING AND EDUCATION

Lads Need Dads

Remote mentoring "Lads Need Dads take a group approach, so social distancing restrictions have a direct impact. The charity has adapted by pairing each boy with a known mentor and providing weekly remote mentoring sessions which help the boys explore their use of time, set goals and manage conflict that might be occurring with siblings and mum/carer. Mums / carers receive telephone support as and when needed."

Pen pal scheme "To help keep the boys engaged in their community, we have started a new pen pal initiative which matches boys to elderly gentlemen in care homes. A great way of encouraging inter-generational communication and reducing the impact of social isolation on men and boys mental health."

<https://ladsneeddads.org/>

Future Men

In partnership with parents and schools, the Boy's Development Team are continuing the service by offering regular 1:1 mentoring support over the phone.

The Fathers Team and Community Engagement and Outreach Team are maintaining their support over the phone.

www.futuremen.org

4. COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR OLDER MEN

UK Men's Sheds

As with so many of our members, UK Men's Sheds brilliant work is built around the incalculable benefits of human interaction.

But despite the barriers to this created by social distancing, the charity have found all sorts of ways to maintain connections within their community of "shedders".

Highlights are the new weekly radio show 'Shed Happens' and the their Facebook group:

<https://twitter.com/UKMensSheds/status/1239817384388702208?s=20>

<https://www.facebook.com/UKMensSheds/>

5. FATHERS

Music Football Fatherhood

MFF have been putting out some fantastic videos addressing the unique challenges parents are facing due to the lockdown. Check out their Twitter feed to see the latest editions.

https://twitter.com/MFFonline_/status/1240397150024011782?s=20

Families Need Fathers – Both Parents Matter

The lockdown has created a series of new concerns for parents, especially those who are already struggling to spend time with their children.

The charity has put together guidance for concerned parents. Register with them to receive updates.

<https://t.co/FrTKYMw8RE>

Guidance PDF here:

<https://fnf.org.uk/component/phocadownload/file/259-navigating-child-arrangements-amid-covid-19-concerns-09-04-2020>

Shared Parenting Scotland

In addition to moving support online, Shared Parenting Scotland have also been doing excellent work securing clarification from authorities on visitation and contact with children in the context of lockdown and social distancing.

<https://twitter.com/SharedParentSco/status/1243854163236315136?s=20>

Follow them for latest updates @SharedParentSco

Fathers Network Scotland

The charity has set up a Facebook group specifically for dads and family workers, enabling them to catch up with peers, to share the challenges each other are facing at the moment, solutions, ideas and insights.

To join in at their next Zoom meeting, you'll find joining details in the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dadsworkersscotland>

6. MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

ManKind Initiative

This is an extremely dangerous time for people forced to self isolate with their abusers.

Male domestic abuse charity Mankind Initiative has posted dedicated information about safety planning during self isolation on their website.

<https://t.co/9mZDknOFh3>

Men's Advisory Project, Northern Ireland

MAP has re-doubled its efforts to encourage men to reach out for help.

"Many of the men we support may find staying at home, due to COVID 19 restrictions, difficult due to the domestic abuse they are enduring. Please give us a call.

"We can safety plan and offer legal solutions for those most in need. We want you to be and feel safe. Call 02890 241929"

<https://twitter.com/MensAdvisoryP/status/1238526320289685507?s=20>

7. MALE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Survivors Manchester

"Following NHS and Government guidelines, we have temporarily closed the centre for face to face appointments and all group activity. However, I don't want you to worry that you won't be able to get support because our services will continue – although in a different way.

"We've worked hard to ensure our email and telephone support immediately continue; our ISVA service continues without a break but via telephone and email; we re-model the way we deliver the Safe Room and community activities; and our therapy team have the right equipment to ensure your sessions continue.

"We have also worked hard on adapting our processes to continue to offer support to people who haven't used our services before and wanting to make a referral."

www.survivorsmanchester.org.uk

The National Male Survivor Helpline and Online Service

This MSP national service partner is continuing to operate throughout lockdown, providing a vital resource. Check their website for opening times:

www.safeline.org.uk

Email: support@safeline.org.uk

Phone: 0808 800 5005

Text: 07860 027573

- Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm
- Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00am to 8:00pm
- Saturday: 10:00am to 2:00pm

DISADVANTAGES OF MEN AND BOYS – STATISTICS

Educational disadvantage of boys, from aged 5 to university

- Men's shorter life expectancy (3 year gap).
- Male suicide rates are 3.8 times that of females, suicide being the commonest cause of death in males under 45.
- Around 90% of homeless rough sleepers are men.
- Men are the victims of majority of violent crime
- Men are 96% of workplace fatalities.
- 99% of war deaths and casualties are men.

Paternity and fathers

- Men have virtually no paternity rights.
- One in three fathers do not live with their children, most often against their wishes.
- Fathers are greatly disadvantaged in child contact arrangements after partner separation.
- Paternity fraud is rife, is extremely damaging to men, but society regards it as just fine.
- False allegations are commonly used as a tactic against men in the family courts.

Sexual and physical assault, criminal justice

- The bar is being ever lowered on what is regarded as sexual assault by males on females, whilst the penalties are becoming more severe. The result is that women have the power to destroy a man for minor offences or issues of perception.
- In contrast, sexual assault of males (of all ages) by females remains largely unrecognised by society and the criminal justice system alike.
- Lack of recognition of, or assistance for, male victims of partner abuse.
- Men (or boys) are more likely to be the victims of violence than women (or girls) – despite the constant exhortations that we should "end violence against women".

- Grossly inequitable treatment of men and women in the criminal justice system. Three out of every four men in prison would not be there if they were treated like women.
- Ratio of spaces in shelters for men and women.

Work and pay

- Whilst we hear a great deal about the “pay gap”, it is women who spend most of the money, whoever earns it.
- For full time workers under 40 years old the gender pay-rate gap is negligible.
- For part time workers the gender pay-rate gap is in favour of women (about 5%).
- Men work 609 million hours per week compared to women’s 394 million hours. Men also work for more continuous years over life. Hence, men work more and are home less – this is contribution, not privilege.
- Women seek “equality” with men only in desirable occupations (consultants, professors, Board members, MPs, etc) not in the jobs that 99% of men do – the nasty, dirty, dangerous jobs that lead to the above fatalities.
- There is a lack of action on under-representation of men in certain professions, contrasting with the huge focus on assisting women into areas where they are under-represented (e.g., STEM, though women now dominate in STEMM).

Medicine and health

- Female genital mutilation is illegal and universally reviled. Male genital mutilation is regarded as perfectly acceptable and without disbenefit to the man (it isn’t). Half a million African boys killed or maimed in the last eight years by botched circumcisions goes unnoticed.
- Substantially less research funding on men-only diseases compared with women-only diseases.

Relative value of men and women

- Female suffering is newsworthy, male suffering is not (e.g., Boko Haram – how many people know that their main activity is killing boys?).
- ‘Women and children first’.

Freedom of expression

- Woman can choose to operate on a wide range from ‘girly-girl’ to ‘tomboy’ without social disapproval and wear appropriate clothing, make-up etc.
- Women can have physical contact with other women without the assumption of homosexuality.

...and also

- Male-only organisations have systematically been obliged to accept females, whilst the reverse is not true.