

### **Case study 3**

A call to Stephen from a Housefather revealed the control that a woman can have over a man as can be seen below ;

- He was rebuked daily for things he had either done incorrectly or not at all by his wife as soon as she returned home. Each day there was an inspection of the house to ensure she missed nothing. He would sit in an armchair clutching the sides firmly while he was being admonished.
- His wife bragged how all of her friends did the same to their husbands stating that they were teaching men a lesson.
- Police callouts – she would call the police at regular intervals making false claims of domestic abuse. He would be routinely taken down the police station and held overnight.
- On one occasion he was getting his daughter to sleep and he saw blue flashing lights outside. He was shaking as he knew what she had done – yet another trip to the police station.
- On the final occasion he sat her down to try and resolve their differences. She offered to go to the kitchen and make a cup of tea which made him very happy. Not to be – while in the kitchen she phoned the police - it was the blue lights flashing and another trip to the cells.
- He finally sought a divorce and hoped for custody of the child. It was not to be and he was kicked out of the house.
- He decided to take up carpentry again but she had placed all of his tools into a locked garage and would not let him access them. He sought assistance from the police explaining the situation. They declined to help him as they did not have anyone available. On trying to get in his garage, two carloads of police arrived and he was taken away. So much for no one available.
- A couple of years later he joined our group for a sponsored walk in support of Prostate Cancer and admitted that he could not have done it on his own as he had no confidence left.

### **Case Study 4**

Stephen received a call one Sunday from a man who had reached the end of his wits. He explained the following :

- He had two children and his wife would ritually admonish him physically and verbally in front of his children. On one occasion his daughter told her mother off for beating him and in return the mother beat her.
- He was financially abused as she used to take his unopened wage packet off him. She gave the children more pocket money than him.
- Near the end of the call, Stephen started to give him some advice on what to do. He broke down in tears stating that he had reached the end of the road and needed to find a place of safety. There was nothing Stephen could do as ManKind did not have access to any refuges at that time and could only suggest that he left and found a flat somewhere.

### **Case Study 5**

Stephen received a call one evening from a distraught father whose 25 year old son has committed suicide through fear of his violent wife. Earlier in the year she had thrown a pan of boiling water over him – it was not an impulsive act but one carefully

planned. Fortunately a next door neighbour who was a nurse heard the commotion and came in to help him. She took him upstairs ran a bath of cold water and helped him into it. On her way down stairs to seek further help she found his wife coming up with another pan of hot water. Naturally, she barred her way.

A few months later he committed suicide as he was always fearful of what she might do next. The woman was never prosecuted.

### **Case study 6**

Stephen received a call from a man whose wife was sexually abusing him. She would enjoy a session at the local gym and on her return subject him to humiliating sex telling him that some men would pay her for what she was doing. Once again, Stephen could only advise him to leave as ManKind did not have access to any refuges.