



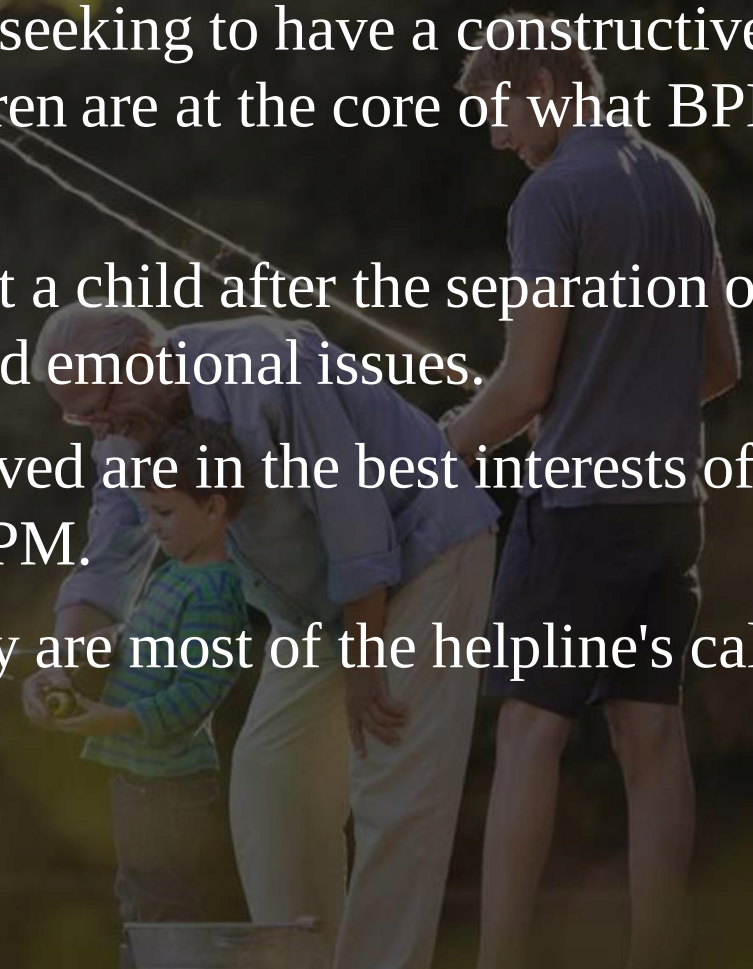
Both Parents Matter Cymru

Supporting and Helping Separated Families

<https://bpmuk.org>

Introduction

- A Child's Rights charity is what BPM are and they work under the UN Convention on the rights of the child.
- Non-resident parents and caregivers that are hoping and seeking to have a constructive and beneficial relationship with their children/grandchildren are at the core of what BPM business consists of.
- The enormous stress and difficulties that adversely affect a child after the separation of the family are considered to face practical and emotional issues.
- Facilitating an on-going relationships between all involved are in the best interests of the child and is a focus for BPM.
- It is unfortunately mostly but not invariably, fathers, they are most of the helpline's callers.



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- A background image showing a hand reaching out from the top right corner towards a field of golden wheat stalks. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, while the hand is slightly blurred, creating a sense of depth and connection.
- Assist families with court applications
 - Providing a service that can help with legal aid applications and information
 - BPM also offer a service which can allow free access to solicitors for legal advice
 - BPM offer a service that supports male victims of domestic abuse
 - There is a Buddy Group project that provides emotional support to those in need
BPM research and campaign on associated issues

Discussion

- BPM recognise that some socially distanced parents play a positive role in the children's life due to acute psychological distress. Non-resident parents are reported to being mostly fathers, and men, are generally assumed that they do not or require any assistance, although through BPM the daily experience does indeed tell a different story.
- Prior to the Covid19 Pandemic, BPM was mainly operated through meetings that happened monthly in ten different locations. Although the helpline was used which has seen a rise in numbers due to ongoing pandemic situation's.
- BPM and the Welsh Government Strategies for working fathers (2016) acknowledge the issues and problems that fathers face, including “social isolation, the fear of the unknown, judged and watched at every move they make.

Demographic

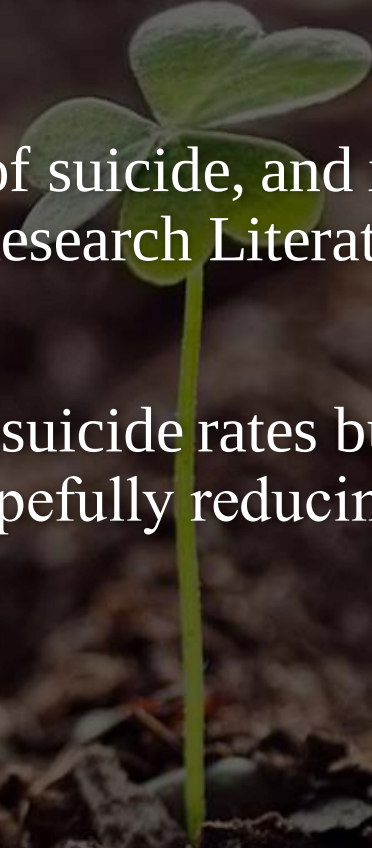
- The users of the BPM service are generally greatly and unfairly prejudiced to the lowest socioeconomic groups.
- Half of the users are unemployed and have difficulty in gaining access to legal advice.
- Two-thirds are reported by BPM to have an income of less than £12,000 annually.
- Twenty percent of the service users indicate a disability and Eight percent are BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic).

Domestic Abuse

- Part of the BPM service is to act as a specialist service provider to help male victims of domestic abuse. Two thirds of BPM service users are victims of domestic abuse.
 - Drop in DV centres are based in Neath and Swansea.
 - Supported with monthly meetings, helpline and referrals.
- Funded by NPT County Council and Big Lottery Awards For All and has been successfully won for another grant for this year.

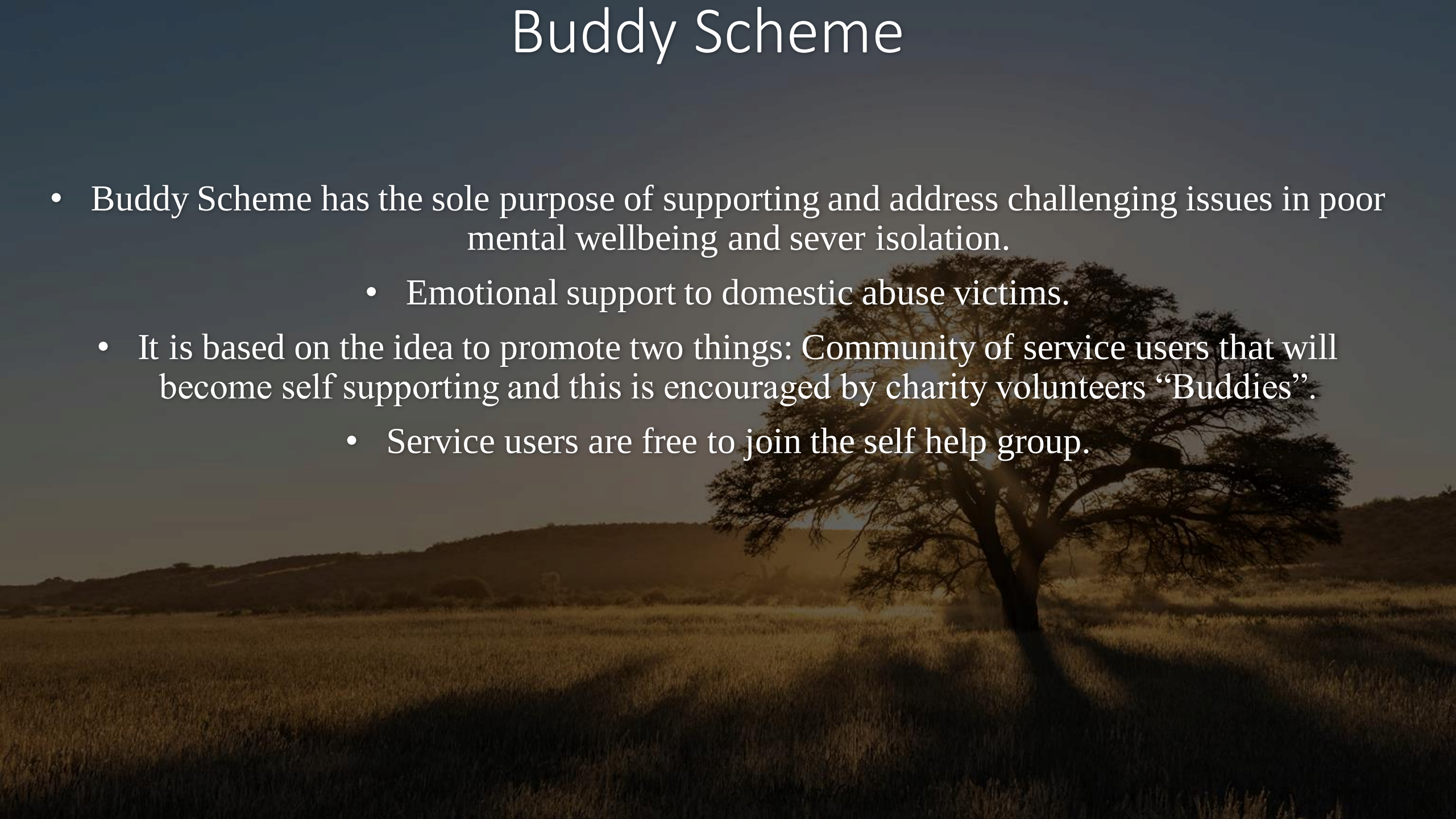
Male Suicide

- Statistically highest group at risk of suicide.
- Divorce and separation are connected to the raised risk of suicide, and is greater in men than women according to Samaritans and Research Literature.
- BPM recognise there is no fix for prevailing the high suicide rates but through the “Buddy Scheme” this a one contribution to the hopefully reducing the risk.



Buddy Scheme

- Buddy Scheme has the sole purpose of supporting and address challenging issues in poor mental wellbeing and sever isolation.
 - Emotional support to domestic abuse victims.
- It is based on the idea to promote two things: Community of service users that will become self supporting and this is encouraged by charity volunteers “Buddies”.
 - Service users are free to join the self help group.



Future Implications

- Recognising and understanding the male suicide rate and what is needed to be done.
 - A more positive impact to families and children
 - Children being able to have a deserving positive upbringing
- Domestic Abuse Victims getting the help they need and require in a respectful and safe place without being judged.

References

Both Parents Matter, (2021). <https://bpmuk.org>