

4LSAB and 4LSCP Multi-Agency Guidance on 'Honour' Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation

A multi-agency guidance document for agencies and organisations to use with cases or suspected cases of Honour Based Abuse in Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

**Hampshire, IOW, Southampton and Portsmouth
Safeguarding Adults Boards & Children's Partnerships**



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1. ABOUT THIS GUIDANCE

1.1. This guidance explains how pan Hampshire agencies respond to incidents, (crime and non-crime) where 'Harmful Practices' - Honour Based Abuse (HBA), Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Breast Flattening may be a consideration.

1.2. It should be noted that Honour Based Abuse does not and should not stand alone. **It is inexorably linked with domestic abuse and is part of the wider Government strategy to reduce violence against Women and Girls (VAWG).** This guidance should be used in conjunction with existing domestic abuse guidance, policy and procedures.

1.3. It should also be noted that this is generic guidance designed to maximise agencies' responses to cases of HBA, FM and FGM (forthwith referred to as HBV). The following information outlines a range of possibilities and issues that need to be considered in HBA cases. It should also be recognised that HBA occurs across a range of differing and diverse communities for a number of different reasons, and the information needs to be applied on a case by case basis.

1.4. This guidance is primarily directed at:

- Hampshire, Portsmouth Southampton and the Isle of Wight Adult and Children's Services
- 4LSCP (Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships: Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight)
- 4LSAB (Local Safeguarding Adults Boards: Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight)
- Health Service providers and commissioners including Primary Care, Mental Health Services and Acute and Community Hospitals
- Health and Social Care Commissioners
- Voluntary and Community sector organisations
- Criminal Justice System (Police, CPS, Probation, Courts and Prison Service)
- Education sector, schools, colleges and universities.

1.5. The advice and guidance within the document enables pan-Hampshire agencies to provide an enhanced victim focussed response to incidents of HBA across the area, reflecting national guidance and best practice.

2. RISK ASSESSMENT/ HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no specific risk assessment or health and safety considerations for staff when following this guidance. However, you must follow your own agencies' normal procedures on keeping yourself safe. It is advised that a domestic abuse risk

assessment (SAFELIVES DASH model¹) is undertaken in all circumstances. For more information go to: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domesticabuse>

3. EQUALITY STATEMENT and HEALTH WARNING

All professionals working in the field of Domestic Violence must be sensitive to the diversity of their clients and be aware of their circumstances and backgrounds (age, sex, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, culture, language, marital status, sexual orientation, physical and mental and emotional ability and socio-economic status)

All professionals are bound by relevant legal instruments, professional codes of conduct and standards and local policies and procedures and organisational commitment to Equality, Diversity and Human Rights. Equality and human rights principles and legal obligations underpin all policies, strategies and procedures. This includes education and training to ensure fairness, elimination of discrimination and harassment on any person or group.

Do not assume that all people from any particular race or ethnic group or religion are all going to have the same views about honour and its significance within the family or community. Communities are very diverse and may not react negatively to ‘dishonour’ with any form of abuse or violence.

Please do not be judgemental of the victim or their background. Ensure that the response is proportionate and fair, whilst being aware of your own values and judgements.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Harmful Practices

Harmful practices are a violation of human rights that put women, men and children’s health and rights at great risk. Harmful practices have often been embedded in communities for a long time and are born out of community pressure. They are often committed and actively condoned by the child’s parents or significant adults within the child’s/young person’s community.

They may include rituals, traditions or other practices that have a detrimental effect on the physical, mental and emotional health of the victim. Many involve physical abuse and pain leading, in some cases intentionally, to death or serious injury.

The most common forms of Harmful Practices are:

¹ SAFELIVES – Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse, DASH – Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment RIC – Risk Indicator Checklist.

- so-called 'honour' based abuse
- forced or early marriage
- female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM).
- breast ironing, also known as breast flattening

Other forms include:

- spirit possession
- son preference
- bride kidnapping
- acid attacks
- abuse linked to menstruation

4.2 Harmful Practices and Domestic Abuse

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Harmful practices constitute a form of violence and are deeply grounded in discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, age and other grounds. The Government definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, including FGM and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group. Perpetrators of HBA often extend beyond the circle of partners and family members who would be considered perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Victims of HBA accessing support from domestic abuse services experienced the full range of abuse seen by other domestic abuse victims and were on average

considered to be at higher risk of serious harm or murder compared to those not identified as at risk of HBA. 'SafeLives'.

5. HONOUR BASED ABUSE

5.1. The Context

'Honour'-based abuse is in evidence across countries, cultures and religions. Circumstances which may lead to the abuse are wide ranging and not culturally specific. It is important to remember that, despite the use of this label, there can be no 'honour' in abuse, and where culture or tradition are used to exert power or control over others, this can only be a misuse of that culture. Often the control is established without obvious violence against the victim, for instance through family members threatening to kill themselves because of the victim's behaviour

HBA is normally associated with cultures and communities from Asia, the Middle East and Africa as well as Gypsies and Travellers² also occurs in communities in parts of Europe and Eastern Europe. In reality, HBA cuts across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities and transcends national and international boundaries. (Source; Safelives)

HBA is also a Domestic Abuse issue, a Child Abuse concern and a crime. In terms of Domestic Abuse risk assessment, HBA is a significant risk factor for victims and must be regarded as a significant predictor of the likelihood of future harm or homicide.²

5.2. Honour Based Abuse – Definition

The term 'Honour Based Abuse' is the internationally recognised term describing cultural justifications for violence and abuse. It justifies the use of certain types of violence and abuse against women, men and children.

The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) defines HBA as:

'A crime or incident, which has or may have been committed, to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community'.

The Crown Prosecution Service's definition of "honour" based abuse to be used is:

"an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/ or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour."

² In addition, but not exclusively, HBA often affects people from Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian (India, Pakistan etc.), Muslim Malaysian and Indonesian, African, middle Eastern (Oman, Yemen, Iraqi, Kurdistan etc), European (Albania, Chechnya, Greece, within immigrant population in France and Germany to name but a few), and some travelling families regardless of origin.

The prevalence of 'honour' based Abuse (HBA) is extensive in the UK and around the world, but the true scale of the problem is unknown. In 2014, a Freedom of Information request to UK police forces revealed that over 11,000 cases of so-called 'honour' crime were recorded between 2010-14. Forced Marriage is a significant part of the abuse for many victims of HBA, with the Government's Forced Marriage Unit supporting over 1,400 cases in 2012. Many more crimes are never reported, with numerous barriers preventing victims from coming forward. For instance, reporting the abuse may trigger further HBA, and can lead to isolation from family and communities. (Source; Safelives)

5.3. Honour

Women are particularly at risk of 'honour'-based abuse, and as such it is important to recognise this form of abuse within the wider context of violence perpetrated against women and girls, resulting from an underlying denial of their human rights. Data from the Crown Prosecution Service on cases flagged as 'honour'-based abuse reveals that (where gender was recorded) 76% of victims were female.

The term 'honour' has widely varying interpretations. For the purposes of this guidance however, honour relates to the concept that the reputation and social status of an individual, a family or community is based on the behaviour and morality of its members.

Honour is a fluid and entrenched concept passed down through family generations. It is generally a non-verbal and subtle aspect through the socialisation of children and young people as they are growing up and implemented through the hierarchical structures within families and communities.

Honour rules and codes of behaviour are anchored within the hierarchical patriarchal framework where men have the overall power and control which ensures that women and girls behave appropriately, and their physical and sexual purity is safeguarded.

Any behaviour outside the boundaries of the behaviour codes and rules brings dishonour, disrespect, humiliation, disgrace and shame not only for the family and the community, ethnic or faith group but also impacts on the individual concerned.

5.4. Background to Honour

It is important to try and understand the part 'honour' plays in an individual's life because this can help to understand a perpetrator/s' mindset, what might prompt

someone to feel 'shamed' or 'dishonoured' and hence the lengths they might go to restore their reputation, honour and status.

The following are ways in which a person may perceive the importance of honour.

5.4.1. Self-awareness/pride

Honour is important to people in all societies. However, there are some communities / societies where standards of behaviour are a significant part of an individual's image, identity and status.

5.4.2 Increased security and prospects for offspring

Families who are seen to have high standards of honour and moral behaviour enjoy respect and social status including increased marriage and career prospects within their community.

5.4.3 Improved contacts and business opportunities

Families with high social status can gain material benefits such as increased income for the self-employed and greater trade for owners of shops and businesses.

5.5. Common ways in which honour can be damaged

Among some communities in the UK, where family and community honour and reputation are of great importance, there are many factors which are viewed as dishonourable and may be considered as bringing shame and dishonour on the individual, their family and their community. For instance:

5.5.1. Defying parental authority

Where parents and extended family are expected to control and manage the behaviour of their children, and particularly girls and young women, and who are perceived to have publicly failed to do so may lose status in the community as a result.

5.5.2. Dress, behaviour and attitude

Changing patterns of dress, behaviour and attitude whilst living in the west can impact upon their relationships within the family and the community. A modest code of dress is generally preferred.

5.5.3. Sexual relationships/ behaviour before marriage

Pre-marital or extra-marital relationships (even of a non-sexual kind) are not acceptable in many communities and from a faith and cultural perspective may be seen as a violation of the key principles and values of that family.)

5.5.4. Use of drugs or alcohol

Drinking alcohol and abusing drugs or using illicit or illegal drugs which are prohibited by religion, culture or tradition and the law can bring shame on families. The children are seen to be abandoning or rejecting the values of their parents, the family and the community and breaking the law of the land.

5.5.5. Gossip

Rumours and gossip, even if untrue, can damage the status and reputation of an individual and of course the family and community.

5.6. Dishonour

Specific behaviours, attitudes and actions that may constitute 'dishonour' are wide ranging and include:

- Reporting Domestic Abuse
- Smoking cigarettes or drugs
- Perceived inappropriate make-up or dress
- Running away from home
- Rape, sexual harassment or assault
- The existence of a boyfriend or other 'non-approved' relationship
- Pregnancy before or outside marriage
- Inter-faith, inter-caste, or inter-ethnic relationships
- Rejecting a forced or arranged marriage
- Leaving a spouse and/ or children
- Seeking divorce particularly where the dowry may be large
- Seeking child custody
- Bearing a female child/ children
- Kissing, holding hands or other intimacy in a public place
- Sexual relations, sexual integrity and behaviour prior to marriage, within marriage, post-divorce or when a widow
- Homosexuality – being 'outed' or 'coming out' to others

5.7. Consequences of damaged honour

The consequences for a person who is perceived to have damaged their honour or that of their family or community can be extreme, and includes the following:

5.7.1. Exclusion by family and community

Individuals who are viewed as having dishonoured themselves or their families can be ignored and ostracised by other members of the community. Their children may also be rejected at school by fellow members of their cultural, ethnic or religious group.

5.7.2 Economic and Business disadvantage

Families whose honour is damaged may find their shops and businesses being boycotted or physically attacked by community members who believe that their collective honour has been damaged.

In some cases, the dowry paid out in marriage may be much smaller than expected and that may increase the risk of abuse for the victim.

5.7.3 Social and Political consequences

Community leaders and politicians can lose support, prestige and influence as a result.

5.7.4 Health Impact

Individuals who are perceived to have damaged their honour or members within their families may lose self-esteem and confidence and may become depressed, self-harm, suicidal or abusive. Feelings of shame can affect their interactions with other members of their families/ community and can leave them isolated and lonely.

5.7.5 Abuse and violence as a consequence of dishonour and shame may include:

- Self-harm, Suicide or attempted suicide as a result of controls and abuse
- Forced suicide/ attempted suicide as an inflicted act or punishment
- Controlling sexual activity (e.g. forcing or withholding sexual activity)
- Child abuse
- Rape
- Kidnapping or false imprisonment
- Threats to kill
- Assault
- Harassment/ stalking
- Bullying
- Forced abortion
- Being forced into marriage
- Pressure to return home
- Pressure to go abroad
- House 'arrest' and restriction of movement within and outside the home.
- Excessive restrictions on home life (not allowed a phone, to use internet or develop friendships outside of wider family / friends circle etc.)

This list is not exhaustive, but highlights abuses of human rights and/ or criminal offences over and above the disapproval by family/ community.

5.8. Honour Killings

Honour killings are an extreme example of violation of the human rights of men and women who are perceived to have brought shame or dishonour.

Articles of the European Convention on Human Rights which apply:

Article 2: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person, Article 3: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, Article 12: Men and women of marriageable age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family.

There have been a number of high-profile cases in the United Kingdom where women have lost their lives in a brutal and 'symbolic' manner in recent years.

5.9. Forced Marriages

Arranged marriages are not forced marriages. In many countries, marriages are/ may be arranged where both bride and groom voluntarily and willingly marry after being introduced by their families or close family friends and, sometimes, through a marriage bureau.

However, it is important to note that processes and structures used for arranged marriages can also be used to bring about a forced marriage.

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.

Forced marriage is now an offence, even if legal in the country where the child will be married. If a child is to be forced into marriage this is also child abuse. Both adults and children require urgent responses.

Forced Marriage UK definition: a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties where duress is a factor.

Forced marriage definition United Nations: a forced marriage is a form of human rights abuse, since it violates the principle of the freedom and autonomy of individuals.

Agencies should also work to the national guidelines on forced marriage issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Forced Marriage Unit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

Practice guidance has been issued to help professionals dealing with forced marriage of people with learning disabilities:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322310/HMG_Statutory_Guidance_publication_180614_Final.pdf

5.10. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM (also known as ‘cutting’) **is a form of child abuse and is an act of abuse against women and girls. It should therefore be dealt with as part of existing child and Safeguarding Adults policies and procedures.** It is an extreme form of domestic abuse. The term FGM is used to refer to the removal of part or all of the female genitalia for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. This is extremely painful and has serious consequences for physical and mental health. It can also result in death.

It is illegal to practice FGM in the UK. It is also illegal to take a child abroad for FGM even if legal in that country. It is crucial that prevention is the focus of interventions in cases of FGM and Child Protection procedures should be adhered to in all cases where FGM is suspected (see www.4LSCB.org.uk).

There are four types of FGM:

Type 1 (known as sunna): Injury to or partial/total removal of clitoris hood or clitoris hood and clitoris

Type 2: Injury to or partial/total removal of clitoris and partial or full removal of labia minora (inner vaginal lips)

Type 3: Removal of clitoris labia minora with narrowing/stitching of the vaginal opening (known as infibulation)

Type 4: Any other forms of piercing, inserting substances (corrosive substances or herbs), burning of the clitoris and surrounding tissue.

For further information, go to;

<https://www.forwarduk.org.uk/violence-against-women-and-girls/female-genital-mutilation/>

or <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

or <https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>

5.11. Indicators and warning signs for HBA, FM and FGM

Some of the possible triggers have already been outlined above, but it is important to be aware of and respond to any warning signs that might become apparent to you. These can include:

- Truancy/ poor attendance in the workplace
- Decline in performance or punctuality
- Low motivation at school
- Poor exam results
- Being withdrawn from education by those with parental responsibility
- Not allowed to attend extra-curricular activities
- Self-harm/ attempted suicide
- Eating disorders
- Depression
- Isolation
- Substance misuse
- Siblings forced to marry (history of siblings leaving education early)
- Family disputes, including child custody issues
- Running away from home
- Unreasonable restrictions e.g. house arrest
- Excessive family restrictions and control of movements
- Other young people within the family reported missing
- Reports of domestic violence/abuse or breaches of the peace at the family home
- Frequent gynaecological problems; e.g. Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs), menstruation problems and consummation of marriage / conception.
- Concerns raised about other behaviours e.g. shoplifting or substance misuse
- Unreasonable financial control e.g. confiscation of wages/income
- Family control of career choice
- External agencies being involved in family matters

5.12. Dowry Abuse

Dowry is the payment in cash and/ or kind by a bride's family to the bridegroom's family, along with the giving away of the bride. It is worth noting that, depending on the culture/ faith, dowry payments can be made by either the bride or the groom's family.

Dowry abuse is often where the bride or groom is perceived to have brought in less dowry than expected (monetary or otherwise) by the in-laws. Alternatively, the dowry could have been a 'promised' amount, and in the event of a relationship breakdown, this is not paid. Both situations can result in the mistreatment or abuse of either party.

5.13. Breast Flattening

Breast flattening (often called breast ironing) is the pounding and massaging of a young girl's breasts, to prevent and stunt breast growth. It is usually carried out by pressing, massaging or pounding the breasts using hard or heated objects.

It is typically arranged or performed by the girl's mother, to make the girl less attractive to males by delaying the signs that the girl is maturing into a young woman. Reasons for this include, protecting the girl from sexual harassment and rape. It also carried out to discourage pre-marital sex, unwanted pregnancy and prevent early marriage. Often one of the drivers is that the mother will want her daughter to avoid pregnancy so that they receive an education.

6. GUIDANCE

6.1 Take it Seriously

It is essential to take 'honour' based abuse, forced marriage or female genital mutilation, breast flattening or even a suspicion or suggestion of it, with the utmost seriousness. Women, girls and men at risk of 'honour' based abuse may understate the risks posed to them.

The one chance rule: A potential victim may only have one chance to ask for help. You may only have one chance to provide help. It is important to get it right on the first occasion.

Do not underestimate the risk to life that can be posed to individuals experiencing 'honour' based abuse. Also, be aware that other family members or friends who may be seen to be condoning or supporting the behaviour of the victim may also be at risk. Always seek advice from the Police Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team and/ or Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (if the individual is under 18), and/ or Adult's Services (if the individual is vulnerable/ at risk).

In an emergency ALWAYS dial 999. FGM in a child is mandatory reporting to the police via 101 or 999 as per mandatory guidance. FGM in an adult is not an emergency. It is not mandatory to inform the Police of FGM in an adult. Report to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub within 24 hours of disclosure/the case becoming known.

6.2 Investigating and Responding to Reports or Suspicions of Harmful practices- HBA, FM, FGM and Breast ironing - Initial Actions

In all cases when responding to reports of HBA, the victim's immediate safety must be the overriding concern. At the earliest opportunity inform and discuss the matter with your line manager and in line with your own organisation and locally agreed Safeguarding Procedures.

A victim of Harmful practices will have overcome immense cultural/ traditional and personal beliefs, to have spoken to a trusted friend or professional, or make contact with your agency. Alternatively, a professional or friend may raise their concerns or

suspicions about actual or intended HBA. It is vital that agencies respond immediately and effectively to keep the victim safe. The need for 'positive action' is fundamental to an effective and timely response.

- It is crucial to listen to the victim or potential victim's concerns – remember that they may not be able to articulate why they believe they are at risk or provide tangible evidence of the risks.
- **Do not** attempt any form of mediation or reconciliation with the family and/ or community members,
- **Do not** approach the victim's family or community leaders -this could heighten the risk to the victim, (**Please Note - this does not apply to FGM victims**),
- **Do not** make assumptions or judgements based on perceptions of 'cultural difference,'
- Reassure the victim, take the threats to their safety very seriously and offer support. It is imperative to treat all individuals with the utmost sensitivity and seriousness
- Ensure confidentiality as this is essential – particularly from the family and other community members,
- Assess the situation and clearly highlight all options to the victim to ensure safety measures are in place whatever decision the victim makes even if it is returning back home,
- Remove the victim to a place of safety, not known to family and friends if that is the option chosen by them,
- Ensure that your local Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team is aware right from the outset – they will be able to put the victim in touch with local and/or national support services,
- If it is necessary to use an interpreter, always use a professional service. NEVER use friends or family (including children) or community members. Ensure that interpreters are not connected to the individual or community. Seek the details of the interpreter and check this with the individual where possible for their consent to use that interpreter. Always brief and debrief the interpreter. Seek counselling for the interpreter in extreme cases, under your duty of care,

- Offer options to the individual, where available, to ensure they are comfortable with the contact person they have; this may be someone from the same or opposite gender, or someone from their own or another community.
- If living away from home, advise the victim to change their mobile if they have one so that relatives cannot make direct contact, cause the signal to be 'tracked' or use billing details to locate the victim.
- Establish a safe means of keeping in contact with the victim, including the use of 'code-words' to verify identities. This is also important when text messaging.
- Establish a means of continued contact. Agree safe times to call and explain practicalities, especially if your telephone number may come up on a mobile as unidentified or withheld.
- Keep in touch with the individual using their preferred method of communication – ensuring this is safe.
- Assess the risk to any children, e.g. offspring, siblings etc. and make any necessary referrals.
- Advise the victim's employers of the situation if it is deemed safe to do so.
- **Remember**, HBA is everybody's concern and vigilance is required at all levels in all agencies.

In addition, the police will:

- Take the DNA, photograph and fingerprints of the victim (with their consent) (see further information below)
- Establish a safe means of keeping in contact with the victim, including the use of code-words to verify identities. This will not be put onto the Records Management System working sheets or in other accessible places where sympathisers may be able to gain access to it.
- Request the victim to give their passport for safekeeping, in the event that family or friends attempt to force the victim to leave the UK. (Ask if the victim holds dual-nationality – they may hold more than one passport)
- Devise an action plan so that in the event of an emergency, responding officers understand exactly what they are going into
- Consider advising the victim to change their identity via deed poll for the purposes of their safety.

The Police will not send the victim away believing that HBA is not a police matter – HBA is a police matter.

Hampshire Constabulary policy and procedure 02408 outlines the force response to Honour Based Abuse.

6.3. If the individual is under 18

If the individual concerned is under 18 existing Child Protection procedures should be instigated, using the 4LSCP procedures³. This means making contact and / or a referral.

FGM in a child a mandatory reporting to the police via 101 or 999 as per mandatory reporting guidance.

For an outline of what Children’s Services will do, see Appendix A.

6.4. For individuals over 18:

Encourage those over 18 to make a report to the local Police Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team who specialise in responses to domestic abuse, child protection, adult abuse, honour abuse and forced marriage. They are sensitive to the needs of individuals experiencing and reporting crimes of this nature.

If the adult is considered as being ‘at risk,’ adult safeguarding procedures should be instigated using the 4LSAB framework.

For an outline of what the Adults’ Health and Care will do, see Appendix B.

For an outline of what the Police will do, see Appendix C.

6.5. Forced Marriage

If Forced Marriage is an issue you should also contact the Government Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), where experienced caseworkers are able to offer support and guidance, by calling 020 7008 0151 or by visiting the FMU page⁴ of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website. You can also contact the Specialist Safeguarding Team (101).

6.6. Missing People

Missing people, especially young women or girls require further consideration when assessing their motivations for ‘running off’. Documented cases have shown that

³ See <http://hipsprocedures.org.uk/>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>

girls and young women have, for instance, left a family home in order to escape both arranged and forced marriages.

Staff should be aware that family and community members may attempt to enlist the police and other agencies in their efforts to locate someone who has 'gone missing.' They may seek to embellish the report by exaggerating the subject's vulnerability, when in fact the person is trying to flee HBA.

Similarly, family and community may allege false crimes and name the missing person as the perpetrator, again, to enlist police resources into finding the subject. Likewise, there have been cases in the UK where families and community members have attempted to thwart police investigations into missing people by withholding information or actively seeking to misdirect police enquiries.

6.7. No Recourse to Public Funds

Women who have recently arrived in the UK are often unable to escape violence and abuse from their husbands or in-laws because of the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) rule which prevents immigrants from claiming many forms of benefits within two years of arriving in the UK⁵.

The introduction of the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession aims to protect those eligible under the DDV concession who are victims of domestic abuse. This allows them to notify the UK Border Agency that they need to access public funds as a victim of domestic violence while they make a claim for indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

Refuges housing women with no recourse to public funds are provided with funding for four weeks (20 working days) to cover essential living and housing costs. During this time an application should be made for indefinite leave to remain under the domestic violence rule.

Guidance has been produced for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on how to access funds for women experiencing domestic abuse, including those subject to 'honour' based abuse. This is available at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domesticabuse>

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1. All Staff

It is the responsibility of all staff to comply with this guidance and to take up the training offered to them by their organisations to ensure they have the necessary

⁵ Centre for Social Cohesion, Crimes of the Community, 2008

level of awareness to meet their own duty to safeguard. Front line supervisors, in particular, have a crucial role to play in ensuring that when staff respond to a HBA, FM, FGM, breast flattening or domestic abuse incident or disclosure:

- They do so promptly and in compliance with protocol, policy and procedure,
- That action is taken to protect the lives of victims and any children involved,
- That initial risk identification procedures are carried out,
- That perpetrators are held to account,
- That relevant assessment and referrals regarding children have been completed where applicable and account taken of other children in the family who may also be at risk, now or in the future,
- That supervisors ensure cases are progressed expeditiously and this guidance is adhered to,
- That victims are updated regularly with the progress of their case.

8. ADMINISTRATION

Reported incidents of HBA and domestic abuse should always be recorded using your agency's formal procedures.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Individual agencies should regularly monitor compliance of their staff with this guidance and notify the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Management Group of any issues arising. This group also holds overall responsibility for the review and monitoring of this guidance.

10. REVIEW

This guidance will be reviewed annually by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Management Group, taking into account Home Office policy and guidelines published from time to time.

11. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND INFORMATION SOURCES

11.1. Policy and procedure

The guidance should be read and used in conjunction with other domestic abuse policy, procedure and protocol be that multi-agency policy, or that specific to your own organisation.

Risk assessment procedures

Agencies should also strongly consider adopting and working with a formally recognised risk assessment procedure, for example, those based on SAFELIVES's DASH risk assessment process. A multi-agency version of this risk assessment toolkit is available from www.Safelives.org.uk or at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domesticabuse>

12. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – What Will Children’s Services do?

Once contacted, Children’s Social Care will evaluate the information or referral immediately (within one working day) and make a decision about the next course of action. No contact should be made with the family until there has been an agreed strategy with the police due to the need to consider the possible protection of the victim from abuse/ disappearance.

All referrals involving suspected Honour Based Abuse, forced marriage or female genital mutilation potentially involve complex and sensitive issues and social workers should:

- ④ Inform and discuss the matter with their first line manager,
- ④ Consider the need for expert/ cultural advice from Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) and/or any local sources and,
- ④ Refer to the Police Public Protection Department, because of the likelihood that crimes may have been committed,
- ④ Consider the need to consult the lead safeguarding/ child protection manager for expert advice,
- ④ Complete a SAFELIVES DASH risk assessment for children 16 years and older.

Police and Children’s Social Care will liaise to agree the appropriate level of intervention required. They should try to obtain the following information:

- ④ Details of referrer and relationship with child
- ④ Details of individual child under threat (including nationality, date of birth, passport details, school and employment details)
- ④ Full details of the allegation
- ④ Name and address of those with parental responsibility
- ④ Background family information and any history of forced marriage

In all cases, efforts will be made to see the child immediately, on her/ his own in a secure and private place. This should be done jointly with Police following a strategy discussion/ meeting which includes an assessment of risk to the child/ren.⁶

You should also contact Children’s Services if you have concerns about a child as a result of the risk faced by their mother/ father/ primary carer.

⁶ Taken from HIPS Procedures.

APPENDIX B – What Will Adults’ Health and Care do?

Once contacted, Adults’ Health and Care will evaluate the information or referral immediately (within 24 hours) and make a decision about the next course of action. No contact should be made with the family until there has been an agreed strategy with the police due to the need to consider the possible protection of the victim from abuse/disappearance.

All referrals involving suspected Honour Based Abuse, forced marriage or female genital mutilation potentially involve complex and sensitive issues and social workers should:

- ② Inform and discuss the matter with their first line manager
- ② Consider the need for expert / cultural advice from Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) and/or any local sources and
- ② (Because of the likelihood that crimes may have been committed) refer to the Police Public Protection Department.
- ② Consider the need to consult the lead safeguarding /Strategic Safeguarding Adult’s manager for expert advice
- ② Complete a SAFELIVES DASH risk assessment
- ② Police and Adults’ Health and Care will liaise to agree the appropriate level of intervention required

In all cases efforts will be made to see the adult immediately, on her/his own in a secure and private place. This should be done jointly with Police following a strategy discussion / meeting which includes an assessment of risk to the adult(s).

If Forced Marriage is an issue you should also contact the Governments Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), where experienced caseworkers are able to offer support and guidance, by calling 020 7008 0151 or by visiting the FMU page⁷ of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

APPENDIX C – What Will the Police do?

The Public Protection Departments consists of teams made up of officers and staff who manage dangerous offenders and support vulnerable groups. Within the unit there are specialist Safeguarding Officers and Co-ordinators who follow county and national police guidance on responding to Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage>

In short, they will:

- Carry out a full risk assessment of the situation with the individual
- Ensure that the case is appropriately dealt with normally by the Criminal investigation Department (CID) or Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT).
- Carry out immediate action to ensure the safety of the individual.

The Police will not:

- Send the victim away believing that it is not a police matter
- Approach the family or community leaders
- Attempt any form of mediation

APPENDIX D

USEFUL CONTACTS AND ORGANISATIONS

In an emergency, or if you suspect you or someone else is in immediate danger, phone 999.

Hampshire Children's Services

Public phone number: 0300 555 1384 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm)

Out of Hours Service: 0300 555 1373

Professionals should complete the online [interagency referral form](#). For urgent Child protection enquiries, Professionals can phone: 01329 225379.

Hampshire Adult's and Care

Phone: 0300 555 1386 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm)

Out of Hours Service: 0300 555 1373

Isle of Wight Children's Services

Public: 0300 300 0117

Professionals should complete the online [interagency referral form](#). For urgent Child protection enquiries, Professionals can phone: 0300 300 0901.

Isle of Wight Adult Services

To report abuse or neglect to IOW Adult Services, email:

safeguardingconcerns@iow.gov.uk or call: 01983 814 980

For advice on how to make a referral, and to access a referral form, please visit:

<https://www.iowsab.org.uk/making-a-safeguarding-referral/>

Southampton Children's Services

Phone: 023 8083 3336

Email: mash@southampton.gov.uk

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/health-social-care/children/child-social-care/>

Out of Hours (5:00pm – 8:30am): 023 8023 3344

Southampton Adult Services

Phone: 023 8083 3003

Email: adultsocialcareconnect@southampton.gov.uk

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/health-social-care/adults/help-for-vulnerable-adults/>

Out of Hours (5:00pm – 8:30am): 023 8023 3344

Portsmouth Children's Services

Phone: 023 9268 8793

Email: MASH@secure.portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Out of Hours (5:00pm – 8:30am): 0300 555 1373

Portsmouth Adult Services

Phone: 02392 680810

Out of Hours: 0845 6000 388

Email: PortsmouthAdultMASH@secure.portsmouthcc.gov.uk

For advice on how to make a referral, and to access a referral form, please visit:

<http://www.portsmouthsab.uk/reporting-concerns/>

LOCAL CONTACTS

Portsmouth area contacts:

Portsmouth IDVA Project (PIP), supporting high risk victims of DVA: 023 9268 8472 or idva@secure.portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Early Intervention Project: 023 92 688586

Aurora New Dawn: 023 92 479254

Stop Domestic Abuse: 023 9206 5494

Hampshire Police MARAC Coordinator:

portsmouth.mash.admin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or 101.

Hampshire Domestic Abuse Service

03300 165 112

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/domesticabuse>

Southampton & West Hampshire Yellow Doors

023 8063 6312

<https://www.yellowdoor.org.uk/>

Local Interpreting & translation services

Access to Communication

023 8024 1300

Camy.bailey@scpct.nhs.uk

Angela.wyatt@scpct.nhs.uk

Lingland

01489 576657

Barbara.storey.lingland@o2.co.uk

Wessex Translations

0870 1669 300

SG Translations Services

023 9287 3345

www.sgtranslation.net

South Coast Translations

023 9273 4200

<http://www.southcoasttranslations.co.uk>

National Contacts

24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline

0808 2000 247

www.womensaid.org.uk

Aanchal (Newham-based, London)

0845 4512547 (24-hour helpline) Asian languages spoken

www.aanchal.org.uk

Afruca (Africans Unite Against Child Abuse)

0161 953 4712

www.afruca.org

Ashiana Project (London)

020 8539 0427

www.ashiana.org.uk

Ashiana (Sheffield)

0114 255 5740

www.ashianasheffield.org

Asylum Aid

020 7247 8741

www.asylumaid.org.uk

Border & Immigration Agency

01304 873 126

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk

Forced Marriage Unit

020 7008 0151

www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage

Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid (Glasgow)

0141 353 0859

www.hematgryffe.org.uk/

Imkaan

020 7473 9945

www.imkaan.org.uk

Immigration Advisory Service

020 7976 1200

www.iasuk.org

Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation

0207 490 0303 (24 hrs)

Email: ikwro@yahoo.co.uk

Karma Nirvana

0800 5999 247

www.karmanirvana.org.uk

NASS (Public Enquiry Office)

0870 606 7766

Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR9 2BY

NRPF Network

020 7527 7107

www.islington.gov.uk/nrpfnetwork

NSPCC FGM Helpline

0800 028 3550

www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/

Refugee Action

023 9285 7561

www.refugee-action.org.uk

Refugee Council

020 7346 6700

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Legal Centre

023 9286 1469

www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk

Roshni (Nottingham Asian Women's Aid)

0115 948 3450 24 hour

Southall Black Sisters

020 8571 9595

www.southallblacksisters.org.uk

Survivors' Network

01273 720 110

www.survivorsnetwork.org.uk

The Law Centres Federation

Provides free independent legal advice and representation to the most disadvantaged members of society.

www.lawcentres.org.uk

Women's Aid Survivor's Handbook

www.womensaid.org.uk

Quick reference guide (see overleaf) for how to deal with cases or suspected cases of HBA, FM & FGM: (print double sided)

Honour Based Abuse
is suspected, disclosed or identified

Is the person concerned
under 18 years old?

Under 18

Over 18

Follow Child Protection Procedures

Immediately contact Children's Services on:

Hampshire:
0300 555 1384
Southampton:
023 8083 3336
Isle of Wight:
0300 300 0117
Portsmouth:
023 9268 8793

Encourage those over 18 to make a report to the Police.

Dial 101 and ask for your local Public
Protection Department Safeguarding Unit.

In an emergency dial 999.

Professionals can also speak to their PPD
for advice, if necessary, without giving
details of the client.

If an adult is 'at risk', follow Safeguarding
procedures, Adults Procedures & contact
Adult's Health & Care (see overleaf for
contact details).

INITIAL ACTIONS

- Reassure the victim, take the threats to their safety very seriously and offer support. It is imperative to treat all individuals with the utmost sensitivity and seriousness.
- Ensure confidentiality as this is essential – particularly from the family and other community members
- NEVER send an individual back to their family
- Do not make assumptions or judgements based on perceptions of 'cultural difference'.
- Remove the victim to a place of safety, not known to family and friends
- Ensure that your local Public Protection Department Safeguarding Team is aware right from the outset – they will be able to put the victim in touch with local and/or national support services
- If it is necessary to use an interpreter, always use an official service; never use friends or family or community members. Ensure that interpreters are not connected to the individual. Seek the details of the interpreter before using them and check this with the individual where possible
- Offer options to the individual, where available, to ensure they are comfortable with the contact person they have; this may be someone from the same or opposite gender, or someone from their own or another community.
- Advise the victim to change their mobile if they have one so that relatives cannot make direct contact or cause the signal to be 'tracked'.
- Establish a safe means of keeping in contact with the victim, including the use of 'code-words' to verify identities. This is also important when text messaging.

- Establish a means of continued contact – agree safe times to call and explain practicalities for example if your telephone number may come up on a mobile as unidentified or withheld.
- Keep in touch with the individual using their preferred method of communication – ensuring this is safe.
- **Do not** approach the victim's family or community leaders – you could well heighten the risk to the victim
- **Do not** attempt any form of mediation or reconciliation with the family and / or community members

USEFUL CONTACTS

Hampshire Constabulary: 101 or 999 in an emergency

Children's Services

Hampshire	0300 555 1384
Isle of Wight	0300 300 0117
Portsmouth	023 9268 8793
Southampton	023 8083 3336

Adults' Health and Care

Hampshire	0300 555 1386
Isle of Wight	01983 814 980
Portsmouth	02392 680810
Southampton	023 8083 3003

24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 200 247

Karma Nirvana: 0800 5999 247

Southall Black Sisters: 020 8571 9595

REMEMBER: Always assess the risk of any children involved and make any relevant referrals!

Where appropriate or necessary:

- Seek the advice of the Forced Marriage Unit if this is an issue for the individual by calling 020 7008 0151 or by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage>.
- Provide contact details for support organisations or make contact on the individuals behalf if required
- Follow procedures and guidance agreed for your organisation for domestic abuse, forced marriage and / or female genital mutilation and Hants Domestic Abuse Forum guidance for assisting individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)
- <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/domesticabuse>