

### Honour Based Violence

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#### What is it?

Honour Based Violence (HBV) is not one specific crime; it can include: murder, fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, domestic abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional), child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, assault, harassment and forced abortion. This list is not exhaustive. The violence can include planning, premeditation and family /community conspiracy; often the belief held is that the victim(s) is 'deserving' of the punishment.

Such crimes cut across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities.

HBV may occur when the perpetrator(s) perceive that a person (or persons) has shamed the family / community by breaking an honour code.

#### Why does it happen?

Justifications given for HBV may include: unapproved make-up or dress; having an unapproved girlfriend /boyfriend; intimacy in a public place; rejecting a forced marriage; pregnancy outside of marriage; being a victim of rape; inter-faith relationships; same-sex relationships; and / or leaving a spouse or seeking divorce.

HBV involving children and young people means that they are at significant risk of actual physical harm, neglect and emotional harm through the threat of, or witnessing violence. Families may feel shame long after the incident that brought about 'dishonour' occurred; therefore the risk of serious harm can persist.

#### Who is Involved?

Victims can be any age or gender and from any background.

#### What does the law say about this?

HBV does not cover one specific crime. The Home Office definition of domestic abuse (2013) includes HBV and Forced Marriage. Offences of HBV are prosecuted under the specific offence committed e.g. common assault, grievous bodily harm, harassment, kidnap, rape and murder.

#### Signs that a person is at risk of or has been a victim of HBV include:

- Going missing (from home, work, school or college) in an attempt to keep themselves safe;
- Self-harming, appearing depressed, angry and/ or desperate;
- Being restricted in movements and overly supervised;
- Restricted access to the internet, mobile phones, their passport, family members, education or work;
- Being forced to marry, or forced to live elsewhere.

## What should practitioners do?

It is important that staff of all agencies understand the difficulties that children, young people and adults face when living with the threat or consequences of HBV. In addition, they are likely to have no experience of living outside the family and may face rejection and harassment by the family and by the community. The *One Chance Rule* is that sometimes there will only be one chance to help a person facing HBV.

If a child, young person or adult tells a practitioner about HBV in respect of themselves or another family member, the practitioner should:

- See them alone in a safe and private place to obtain their wishes, views and feelings and explain confidentiality fully, including the need to share information;
- Record carefully; caution is required about how information is recorded and shielded within the organisation to ensure the person's safety; and
- NOT make contact with the family or community leaders, and should not under any circumstances, tell the family or their social network about what the person has said, attempt mediation or use members of the community to interpret on behalf of the child, young person or adult.

Concerns about a child or young person under 18 should be referred to Children's Social Care Services using Child Protection referral processes through MAST (see below). Concerns about HBV should not be shared with other agencies without the express consent of the child/young person, unless it is necessary to protect them and is in accordance with the Information Sharing and Confidentiality Procedure.

Concerns relating to those aged 18 and over should be reported to the police. If the person has needs for care and support, and is unable to protect themselves as a result, a safeguarding concern should also be raised with the Safeguarding Adults Team (see below).

## Who are the key contacts and who can provide more information?

**In an emergency** ring the Police on 999.

**For children and young people** call MAST (Multi-Agency Screening Team): 01422 393336.

**For adults** call Gateway to Care on: 01422 393000.

**Out of hours** call the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on: 01422 288000.

**For advice and support** call the Police on 01422 337013 or Calderdale Staying Safe (Domestic Abuse Support Service) on 01422 323339  
The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has a confidential helpline 020 7008 0151.

The local procedures for Honour Based Violence can be found here:

Children: [http://westyorkscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p\\_honour\\_based\\_violence.html?zoom\\_highlight=honour](http://westyorkscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_honour_based_violence.html?zoom_highlight=honour)  
Adults:

<http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/socialcare/safeguardingadults/Multi%20Agency%20Safeguarding%20Adults%20Policy%20and%20Procedure%20for%20West%20Yorkshire,%20North%20Yorkshire%20and%20York%20December%202015.pdf>