

HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE / ABUSE (HBV)

1 BACKGROUND

The issue of HBV is important in safeguarding people of all ages from South East Asian, African, Middle Eastern, Eastern European, LGBT and Gypsy/ Romany/ Traveller communities.

11,000 cases of so-called honour crime were recorded by UK police forces from 2010-14 (BBC, 9.7.15). Around 11 % of these in Lancashire alone. Our experience is that HBV is often connected to forced marriage (and associated issues), either preceding a forced marriage or following a refusal of forced marriage. This briefing should be read in conjunction with the briefing on forced marriage

2 WHY IT MATTERS

Any professional can come across a victim of HBV and so everyone needs to be aware of the 'one chance rule'. That is, you may only have one chance to recognise someone's cry for help, however subtle and then have that one chance to save a life. This means that all professionals need to be aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they come across these cases. When a case of HBV is first identified it is important to obtain as much information as possible as there may not be another opportunity for the individual to reach out. People can be subjected to murder, kidnap, assault and years of sexual abuse & servitude when they are not supported at that first opportunity.

3 INFORMATION

The Crown Prosecution Service definition of Honour based violence: "A collection of practices, which are used to control behaviour within families or other social groups to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code."

It is important to note that this is a cultural, not a religious experience and is also a form of domestic violence being perpetrated in all the same ways - physical, emotional, mental, sexual or financial abuse as well as stalking and harassment. It is the combination of behaviours that can be very dangerous and the risks are almost always high.

4 WHAT TO DO

- Listen carefully to what you are being told. You may be presented with subtle clues rather than told outright immediately for example "my brother's controlling me", "I don't go out or have friends" or "I'm not allowed to have a job or go to college".
- Never turn a person away, leave them behind, expose them to their family, expose their secret phones, or tell them it's someone else's responsibility.
Victims aged 16 and over should be assessed using the CAADA- DASH and, if assessed as high risk, referred to the MARAC.

http://panlancashirescb.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/caada_risk_ind_checklist.pdf

- This Assessment Tool can be used to identify the risk of violence or abuse and can be used for situations of HBV.
- If you are concerned about risk to a child or children, you should make a referral to ensure that a full assessment of their safety and welfare is made.
- In urgent cases and where safeguarding is of immediate concern ring the Police on 999 or 101 and refer the matter to your supervisor.

5 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

How might we come across cases of HBV?

Are we absolutely clear about what to do, especially in light of the 'one chance rule'?

Who else can we turn to for advice?