

# 7 Minute Briefing – Honour based Abuse/Violence

## 1. What is Honour Based Abuse / Violence?

Honour Based Abuse / Violence (HBAV) 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.

(National Police Chiefs' Council definition - Sept 2019).

## 2. How common is HBAV?

Homes Office Figures suggest there are approximately 12 honour killings in the UK each year, not counting individuals who are taken abroad and never seen again. Between 2010-14 UK police forces recorded more than 11,000 'Honour Crimes'.

This is a cultural NOT a religious practice that involves: South Asian, Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, African, Romany and Traveller communities, Middle Eastern, Southern and Eastern European communities.

## 3. Who is vulnerable

Girls and women are most at risk of HBAV and are vulnerable following a refusal or breakdown of an arranged or forced marriage, termination of an unwanted pregnancy or defying parents. HBAV can also affect boys and men.

HBAV might also be committed against people who become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion; and whose attitude and behaviour (clothes, activities, and career) might not be considered traditional within a particular culture. LGBTQ+ and disabled people are amongst the most vulnerable.

## 7. Responding to HBAV

Take extreme caution, consider the one chance rule and seek specialist advice and guidance. Consider local tools, pathways and MARAC.

Adult Safeguarding Contact 01522 782155 Child – Customer service centre 01522 782111 Immediate risk - Contact the Police on 999

Rochdale Women's Welfare Association 01706 860157 Project Choice 0161 770 2999 or Karma Nirvana 0800 5999 247 Revised Honour Based Abuse/Violence training available from autumn 2020 at [www.rbscp.org](http://www.rbscp.org)

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## 4. Forms of HBAV

HBAV can take many forms: domestic abuse / violence, sexual harassment, assault and rape, psychological abuse, child abuse, kidnapping, false imprisonment, FGM, threats to kill, forced marriage, coercive and controlling behaviours, stalking, house arrest, servitude, isolation from family and community, denial of further education or employment, excessive restrictions on freedom, and social activities, abandonment or sending someone back to their country of origin, dowry abuse, forced suicide, and murder/"honour killing".

## 5. Why does HBAV happen?

Children are introduced to the notion of honour at a young age. Perpetrators can often find it difficult to balance family, community and UK culture. Adults and young people can experience HBAV when a relative including spouse, in-laws and community members perceive that shame has been brought on the family and community and the honour code has been broken. Many crimes are planned and organised by more than one individual. Families may deploy networks to locate an individual e.g. by circulating photographs within a taxi service or by hijacking social media appeals for missing persons. Location services within phones and other technology can be used to find an individual.

## 6. One Chance Rule

Never turn a person away! You may only have ONE CHANCE to speak to a potential victim and may only have ONE CHANCE to save a life! Listen carefully and believe the victim. Place wellbeing and safeguarding central to your response. See victim alone away from chaperones. Do not involve or speak to family or community members. Use professional curiosity and critical analysis when assessing risk and safety planning. Consider additional complexities and adversities such as: immigration status, language, disabilities, mental capacity and sexuality.