

STOCKPORT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & ADULTS BOARD

01 Background

So called Honour based violence & abuse (HBVA) is a collection of practices, used to control behaviour within families, in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. Girls and women are most often the victims of honour based abuse but it can also affect boys and men.

07 Questions to consider

- Who is at risk?
- Do I know the signs?
- Am I clear on what I need to do if someone makes a disclosure?
- Where do I go to find out more?

Visit the Stockport's Adult and children's safeguarding websites for more information

06 What to do

Take all disclosure seriously. Know the signs. Never turn a person away or expose their secret. You may only have one chance to save a life!

For young people under 18 years, HBVA is a child protection issue.

Immediate risk - call 999 or contact Police on 101

Refer to MARAC

02 Why it matters

More than 5,000 cases of 'honour' crime were recorded by UK Police forces in 2016 alone Home Office figures suggest that there are approximately twelve 'honour killings' in the UK per year. This does not take into account the many women and young girls who are taken abroad by their families and never seen again. The many hidden elements of 'honour abuse' include suicide, self-harm and missing people.

03 Information

Although most cases in the UK involve South Asian families (reflecting our large South Asian community), 'honour' abuse can exist in any culture where men are in a position to control women. Examples include: Turkish; Kurdish; Afghani; South Asian; African; Middle Eastern; South and Eastern European; Romany and Traveller communities. Honour abuse is rejected by every major world religion.

04 Information

Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' include: sexual or psychological abuse, domestic abuse, child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, female genital mutilation, threats to kill, forced marriage and murder. Many of these crimes are committed by more than one individual. Families that are widely spread across the country may make certain areas unsafe for people at risk of HBVA. Families may deploy their networks to locate an individual, e.g. by circulating photographs within a taxi service; or asking a relative with access to official records to gain confidential information.

05 Further Information

HBVA may be committed against people who: become involved with a partner from a different culture or religion; want to get out of an arranged marriage; want to avoid a forced marriage; or who wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional. When arranging protection, it is important to carry out a thorough assessment of the ability and potential of the family to locate and harm the victim. When working with victims it is important to establish a means of making secure and confidential contact at the earliest opportunity, as they may not be able to ask for help a second time.

