



BARNSELY SAFEGUARDING ADULT/CHILDREN BOARD

Safeguarding Adults from Honour Based Abuse Guidance

SCOPE OF THIS GUIDANCE

This guidance should be read in conjunction with The Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage Legal Guidance issued by the Crown Prosecution Service.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Honour Based Abuse (HBA), where it affects Adults/Children and young people and is an Adult Safeguarding issue.. It is an abuse of human rights. Adults/children and young people who suffer HBA are at risk of significant harm through physical, sexual, psychological and emotional harm. In some cases they are also at risk of being killed.

There is much debate, nationally and locally, about the appropriateness of the term 'honour' based abuse. Obviously, there is no honour in the commission of murder, rape, kidnap and the many other acts, behaviour and conduct which make up 'violence in the name of so-called honour'. The term relates to the offender(s) interpretation of the motivation for their actions. Until another term is agreed, this protocol will use the term honour based abuse.

The aim of this protocol is to provide practitioners in Barnsley with information about HBA, and guidance about what to do if they are concerned about a Adult or young person. It should be read in conjunction with the following documents produced by Barnsley Safeguarding Adults and Children's Board and the South Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults procedures

2. DEFINITIONS

HBA is a collection of practices which are used to control behaviour within families to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. It may be referred to in some communities as 'Izzat'. It is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members. Such violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community, by breaking their honour code.

Women are predominantly (but not exclusively) the victims of 'so called honour based abuse', which is used to assert male power in order to control female autonomy and sexuality.

HBA can be distinguished from other forms of abuse, as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members.

HBA can take place across national and international boundaries, within extended families and communities and often cuts across cultures, communities and faith groups; including Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian, African, Middle Eastern and European. This is not an exhaustive list.

The term is used to describe abuse, which sometimes results in a murder, in the name of so-called honour. This is when - predominantly - women are injured or killed for perceived immoral behaviour, which is deemed to have breached the honour code of a family or community, causing shame.

‘Honour based abuse’ is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community’. (*Association of Chief Police Officers, 2008*).

HBA may include murder, unexplained death (suicide), fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, domestic abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, threats to kill, assault, harassment, forced abortion, female genital mutilation.

3. WHAT IS HONOUR BASED ABUSE OR KILLING?

HBA is a cultural, not a religious phenomenon. It impacts in a range of communities. The challenges for services include developing responses that keep people safe and hold perpetrators to account without stereotyping, stigmatising or making assumptions about any given individual or community.

HBA, which may include forced marriage and/or female genital mutilation, is perpetrated against Adults/children and young people for a number of reasons. These include:-

- Protecting family ‘honour’ or ‘Izzat’;
- To control un-wanted behaviour and sexuality (including perceived promiscuity or being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender);
- As a response to family, community or peer group pressure;
- Strengthening family links;
- Protecting perceived cultural and/or religious ideals (mis-guided or dated);
- Retaining wealth, property or land within the family;
- Assisting claims for residence and citizenship in the UK;
- Perceived immoral behaviour could include:-
 - Inappropriate make-up or dress;
 - Possession and/or use of a mobile telephone;
 - Kissing or showing other forms of intimacy in public;
 - Rejecting a forced marriage;
 - Being a victim of rape or other serious sexual assault;
 - Inter-faith relationships;
 - And seeking a divorce.

Practitioners should never lose sight of the fact that they are interacting with extremely vulnerable women and men, who may be faced with making life changing decisions in an extremely short space of time. Many honour based abuse victims, as in mainstream domestic abuse, just want the abuse to stop. They fear 'criminalising' their parents, families and/or their faith group and fear being isolated from their communities.

An Adult who is at risk of honour based abuse is at significant risk of physical harm (including being murdered), and/or neglect. They may also suffer significant emotional harm, as a result of a threat of abuse or witnessing abuse directed towards a sibling or other family member.

Authorities in some countries may support the practice of honour based abuse. Therefore the Adult or young person may be concerned that other agencies share this view, or that they will be returned to their family. They may feel guilty about their rejection of their cultural/family expectations, and also what impact this may have on their family within their community. Furthermore, their immigration status may be dependent on their family, which could also dissuade them from seeking assistance.

Professionals should respond in a similar way to cases of honour based abuse, as with domestic abuse and forced marriage. This includes facilitating disclosure, developing safety plans for the Adult or young person and any other family member as necessary, ensuring their safety by according them confidentiality in relation to the rest of the family, and completing individual risk assessments.

Boys as well as girls can be subject to HBA; gay, lesbian and transgendered adults and young people can be particularly vulnerable.

There is also close link with forced marriage - a young person may be at risk of further HBA if seeking to avoid forced marriage and forced marriage is in itself HBA.

4. RECOGNITION

Killings that result in the name of 'so-called honour' may be the culmination of a series of events over a period of time and may be planned. There may be a degree of premeditation, family conspiracy and a belief that the victim deserved to die. Incidents, in addition to those listed above, may involve all the categories of Adult abuse (physical, emotional, sexual and neglect) for example:-

- Domestic abuse;
- Starting a new relationship with someone whom the family does not approve;
- Threats to kill;
- Denial of access to Adults/children;
- Pressure to go abroad (victims are sometimes persuaded to return to their country of origin under false pretences, when in fact the intention could be to kill them);
- House arrest and/or excessive restrictions of movement/travel and other activities;
- Denial of access to the telephone, internet, passport and friends.

Family members may cancel arranged support/care packages to limit the opportunities for the adult to disclose concerns to professionals. As a result they can feel isolated from their family and friends and may become depressed. This can sometimes result in self-harm, or suicide.

Families may feel shame long after the incident that brought about dishonour occurred. Therefore the risk of harm to an Adult or young person can persist for sometime. This may mean that a new boy/girlfriend, baby (if pregnancy caused the family to feel 'shame'), associates or siblings may also be at risk of harm.

Adults/Children and young people who have been raped may be perceived by relatives as having brought it upon themselves; a family member(s) may inflict abuse or kill them as a consequence. Young women who have fled their marriage are often perceived as bringing shame upon their family. As a result they may be at risk, not only from their spouses and in-laws, but also from their own father, brothers, sons and wider community. This is also likely to result in isolation, depression self-harm, and sometimes suicide.

Victims of honour based abuse are sometimes persuaded to return to their country of origin under false pretences, when in fact the intention could be to kill them. If an Adult or young woman has been, or is at risk of being, taken abroad, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office may assist in repatriating them to the United Kingdom (Telephone 020 7008 1500).

5. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

If you are concerned that an Adult or young person is at risk of honour based abuse, it is essential that you recognise the seriousness and immediacy of the risk of harm, and act immediately.

It takes a lot of courage for an Adult or young person to report to an agency that they have afraid that they will be, or have been, subjected to HBA. It is essential, therefore, that you act in a manner that will not further jeopardise the Adult or young person's safety. It is vital that the following points are adhered to for the safety of the Adult or young person:

- Under no circumstances should the agency allow the Adult's family or social network to find out about the disclosure, so as not to put the Adult at further risk of harm;
- Under no circumstances speak to victims in the presence of their relatives;
- Under no circumstances approach the family or community leaders, share any information with them or attempt any form of mediation. In particular, members of the local community should not be used as interpreters.

Where a Adult or young person discloses fear of honour based abuse in respect of them or a family member, professionals in all agencies should:-

- Take the disclosure seriously;
- See the Adult or young person immediately, and in a secure and private place;
- Seeing the Adult or young person on their own or with a person they

trust, in the case of adults who lack capacity consider use of an IMCA or DVA;

- Explain to the Adult or young person the limits of confidentiality, what information may have to be shared, with whom and for what purpose;
- Ask direct questions to gather enough information to make a referral to Adult/Children's Social Care and the Police, including recording the Adult/ young person's wishes;
- Agree a means of discreet future contact with the Adult/young person;
- Explain that a referral to Adult/Children's Social Care and South Yorkshire Police will be made.

6. RECORDING INFORMATION

It is vital that you make sure that you make a full record of:-

- What is said;
- By whom;
- What you have done;
- What action you have taken;
- Who you have referred the Adult/young person to; and
- What they have said to you about the referral and any subsequent action.

Caution is required about how information is recorded and shielded within the organisation on internal systems.

7. ACTION TO TAKE IF YOU THINK An ADULT/ADULT IS AT RISK OF HBA

Any information or concern that an Adult/adult is at risk of, or has already suffered HBA should result in an immediate referral to the Adults Social Care..

In an emergency – do not delay – ring 999.

7.1 Adults in Immediate Danger

Multi-agency planning should consider the need for providing suitable safe accommodation for the Adult or young person, as appropriate. Local authorities can apply to the courts for various orders, to protect an Adult or young person at risk of HBA. In emergency situations consideration should also be given to the use of Police Protection. However these expire after 72 hours, so further provisions would have to be considered after this time.

7.2 Planning Meeting/Discussion

Once a referral has been received for either an Adult/young person who is at risk or has already suffered HBA, a Planning meeting (in line with the SY safeguarding procedures) must be convened as a priority but no later than 10 days of the face to face discussion.. This should

involve representatives from the police and Adult Social Care and any other key partners. Relevant health care providers or voluntary/community/ specialist community based organisations with specific expertise (for example HBA, domestic abuse, or sexual abuse) should also be invited. Consideration should also be given to inviting a legal advisor.

Adults who return to their families should be offered support including escape plans, the opportunity to deposit their DNA, photograph and finger prints with the police

The police should lead on a criminal enquiry if appropriate.

7.3 Section 42 Enquiries

HBA places a Adult at risk of significant harm and will therefore be initially investigated under Section 42 of the Care Act by Adult Social Care and South Yorkshire Police Public Protection Unit for the Barnsley area.

An interpreter must be used in the preferred language of the Adult/young person not English.

8. TRAINING

Training about HBA and Forced Marriage is available to Barnsley front line practitioners as part of the BCSB multi-agency training courses. For more information, contact www.safeguardingAdultrenbarnsley.com
No specific training is available for adults affected by this issue.

9. USEFUL CONTACTS

Karma Nirvana

Karma Nirvana is a dedicated charity, providing support and training to help prevent forced marriages and honour based abuse within the UK and beyond.
<http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/>
Helpline Tel Number: 0800 5999 247

Henna Foundation

The Henna Foundation is a third sector registered charity, committed to strengthening families within the Muslim Community.
<http://www.hennafoundation.org/>
Tel Number: 029 2049 6920

APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL CASE STUDY

National Learning: Banaz Mahmood

The murder of Banaz Mahmood highlighted the lack of knowledge surrounding such issues within the police and was the catalyst for change.

Banaz lived in London and was 20 years old when she was murdered in 2006. She had been subject of an arranged marriage to a violent husband and she began an affair with a family friend. Her family, particularly her father strongly disapproved of this as it brought dishonour to the family. She was imprisoned and beaten for the dishonour she brought to the family and then allowed to return home. She continued the affair and her father and uncle decided she should die and ordered her murder. She was found three months later murdered and buried in a suitcase in a garden in Birmingham.

From the outset Banaz had been in contact with the police and told them she was receiving threats from her family, was being beaten and feared she would be killed. The police took little in the way of action.

Implications and Action

Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Strategy was produced in 2008. SYP works towards the strategic and policy recommendations. SYP HQ Public Protection Unit takes the lead in this area, working with other SYP units.