

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

19 June 2018

SUBJECT: Honour Based Abuse

Report of the Chief Constable

<p>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</p> <p>1. This report outlines the Force's current position in relation to the policing of Honour Based Abuse in West Yorkshire.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Honour Based Abuse.</p>
<p>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</p> <p>3. Honour based abuse (HBA) can include forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). Victims of "honour" based abuse can find themselves in conflict with people they care about the most. Isolated from family and friends, victims can feel like they have no one to turn to. For this reason it is crucial that victims can have the confidence in the police and criminal justice system that the perpetrators will be brought to justice. Awareness of these crimes is increasing, the PCC has said he will continue to work with all relevant organisations including community groups and charities to raise awareness and to provide support.</p>
<p>KEY INFORMATION</p> <p>4. The PCC has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Made HBA a key priority in the Police & Crime Plan 2016 – 2021.• Worked with the Chief Constable to take a victim led approach in delivering the legislation which will respect the views of victims and provide the necessary support.• Continued to work with the third sector to raise awareness, including speaking at events and supporting campaigns.• An OPCC colleague sits on the Honour Based Abuse/Forced Marriage Steering Group which includes issues of FGM. The group meets quarterly and includes representatives from Local Authority Leads, CPS and the third sector. The purpose of the meeting is to work collaboratively with partners to increase knowledge, increase the reporting, share best practice and ultimately to effectively safeguard victims.• Resources such as one minute guides have been produced by Safeguarding Central Government Unit and will be disseminated to districts as well as the helpdesks, District Control Room's (DCR) and Customer Contact Centre (CCC.)

- Has awarded £96,451.40 to 20 projects tackling HBA (including FM) through the Safer Communities Fund since 2014

PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

5. Supporting the Day of Memory for Victims of Honour Killings campaign in July 2016 and 2017 in partnership with Karma Nirvana. The PCC also chaired the afternoon session of the Coercive and Controlling Behaviour Conference held earlier this year.

In June 2017, the OPCC held a Domestic Abuse event which informed the implementation of the West Yorkshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy which includes HBA. The strategy can be accessed via the PCC [website](#).

In February 2018, the OPCC held a Community Coercion and Control workshop run by Saima Afzal Solutions. The aims and objectives of the workshop was to explain and discuss current definitions and practice relating to HBA and to introduce a wider alternative definition; the SAS model of 'Community Coercion and Control' and associated responses to dominance.

In May 2018, the PCC supported an SCF project Ruth For Women in partnership with West Yorkshire Police to organise an FGM Awareness conference in Leeds. The conference welcomed over 100 delegates from the community and partners to raise their awareness of FGM. The speakers included West Yorkshire Police, Muzvari Betty Makoni, Black Health Initiative and a health perspective from the FGM Clinic in Leeds.



Chief Officer Team Briefing for PCC

Title: Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and FGM

Summary

'Honour based abuse (HBA) 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.'

A forced marriage (FM) is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties, where duress is a factor. Duress includes emotional pressure as well as criminal actions such as assault and abduction.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is recognised as a severe form of violence against women and girls and a human rights violation that affects at least 200 million women and girls worldwide (UNICEF, 2016.) It is a practice that involves changing, altering or removing part of a girl or a woman's external female genitalia without a medical or health reason. It is a form of child abuse and is a harmful and dangerous practice which can result in severe physical and mental health complications.

FGM is practiced in up to 29 African countries, and also in parts of the Middle East and Asia and is usually carried out on girls between infancy and age 15, with the majority of cases occurring between the ages of 5 and 8 years (HM Government, 2011).

REPORT DETAILS

This report is an update paper following from the previous meetings. It highlights ongoing work in relation to these areas of safeguarding and future developments.

It is difficult to understand the extent of HBA, FM and FGM in West Yorkshire due to the very hidden nature of the crimes.

The following data has been produced by Performance Review. Honour Based Abuse (HBA) crimes and incidents are identified by a flag on Niche occurrences. Forced Marriage (FM) crimes and incidents are identified slightly differently to HBA, as there are specific crime types for FM. As well as these crime types, any other crime or incident can have a FM flag on it, to identify it as being FM-related. N.B An incident or crime can be flagged as both HBA and FM.

	2017
Crimes flagged as HBA	95

HBA referrals and non-crimes	62
Forced Marriage Crimes	18
Other crimes with FM flag	112
FM referrals and non-crimes	107
No. of Forced Marriage Protection Orders	49

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) crimes and incidents, like FM, have specific crime types. As well as these crime types, any other crime or incident can have an FGM flag on it, to identify it as being FGM-related.

	2017
FGM Crimes	17
Other Crime flagged as FGM	0
Non-crime and referrals	15
FGM Protection Orders	0
Referral / Disclosure	12

ONGOING WORK AND DEVELOPMENTS

Action Plan

- West Yorkshire Police represent the region at the National Working Group for FM/HBA/FGM Chaired by the NPCC lead. The delivery plan has now been agreed and launched with aims under the four headings, prepare, protect, pursue and prevent. A joint police and CPS HBA focus group has also been established and will be meeting for the second time in May to discuss best practice and improvements.
- The Safeguarding Central Governance Unit will capture evidence of work within the new Delivery Plan.
- From January 2018, forces are required to submit a quarterly data return to the NPCC Lead. This is to enable us to assess the national picture and understand the scale of HBA, FM and FGM. The Safeguarding Central Governance Unit have collated and submitted data for quarter 1 for all forces in the North East.

Collaboration

- The N8 Policing Research bid, which was submitted in partnership with Manchester University has been successful and is due to commence in May 2018. The purpose of the research is to identify where HBA cases have been missed and to identify and develop practice to improve identification of such cases. Our regional policing partners have supported this bid, along with Karma Nirvana to disseminate findings both locally, regionally and nationally.
- The Safeguarding Central Governance Unit continue to disseminate learning, best practice and any actions from the National meetings through their embedded partnership steering group and Regional meeting.
- The Safeguarding Central Governance Unit continue to promote the use of the partnership intelligence portal. The portal has been discussed nationally. Further local meetings have been arranged with partners to discuss utilising the portal to increase the volume of intelligence relating to these areas of safeguarding.

- WYP signed the Pledge of Intention at the Day of Memory. This pledge was to work collaboratively with partners to protect young people and adults from forced marriage and honour based abuse. A steering group has been established in Leeds to look at how the work streams identified can be delivered by all partners (Police, Local Authority, Health, Education etc) An Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) session was held in November 2017, which has identified key work streams and actions to concentrate on. The pledge steering group meet quarterly and the current focus is around training and awareness. There are also plans to review some cases with key partners to learn lessons in the near future.
- Work is continuing with Bradford Local Authority to review the pathways for Forced Marriage Protection Orders.

Audits

- Forced marriage, honour based abuse and FGM are embedded into the SCGU audit schedule.
- In February 2018, CPS held a scrutiny panel in relation to honour based abuse where police, CPS and 3rd sector agencies analysed 3 cases in order to learn lessons. Feedback was provided to those involved.

Training

- Further Specialist training for honour based abuse and forced marriage delivered by Karma Nirvana has been scheduled for 20 safeguarding officers (Constables and Sergeants) in June 2018.
- The Safeguarding Central Governance Unit prepared a bespoke training package for post foundation officers on awareness of honour based abuse and forced marriage. This has now been delivered on two sessions covering approximately 200 student officers. Four other sessions are planned throughout the year and there has been positive feedback from the interactive sessions.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS

As per national guidance, the force will maintain the confidentiality of the victim and under no circumstances will record information which may potentially compromise their safety on unrestricted systems. Information relating to honour based abuse and forced marriage is extremely sensitive and is restricted to safeguarding staff in order to prevent any leakage of information which could potentially put the victim at further risk.

HBA/FM/FGM are very much hidden crimes and West Yorkshire Police need to be pro-active in engaging with communities. The force must continue to drive the partnership intelligence portal to increase the intelligence coming from partners in the community.

The demand is expected to rise steadily over the next 3-4 years as more awareness training is delivered and a greater understanding and identification of the crime type improves. However, due to the "hidden" nature of the crime then it is not anticipated that the rise will be excessive.

A multi-agency response is vital in order to provide support and protect victims from Honour based abuse and forced marriage. West Yorkshire Police must continue to work with partners.

The force are ensuring that officers are aware of the 'One Chance Rule' and that failure to respond effectively and appropriately to disclosures of HBA/FM could result in victims being at risk of serious harm.

Districts report that demands within safeguarding teams show no sign of abating, with welfare issues regarding staff being of constant concern. There is always a risk that the force does not have appropriately trained staff to deal with and investigate highly complex investigations.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

Forced marriage and honour based abuse of any person, regardless of gender, age, disability, ethnic origin or sexual orientation, is unacceptable. FGM is child abuse and a severe form of violence against women and girls.