



## **‘Honour Based’ Abuse – Protecting Children and Adults Practice Guidance**

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## 1. Introduction

'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.

Honour Based Abuse does not cover one specific crime; it is a specific category of domestic abuse, generally occurs in domestic settings and can involve a range of offending behaviours which are used against individuals, families or other social groups to control and protect perceived cultural / religious beliefs and honour.

Honour Based Abuse may include murder, fear of or actual forced marriage, controlling sexual activity, domestic violence and abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional), child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, assault, harassment and forced abortion.

These crimes cut across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities and transcend national and international boundaries. Honour Based Abuse is a violation of human rights and there is no 'honour' in the commission of the offences. The offences are predominantly perpetrated against women and girls but men and boys can also be victims.

## 2. Definition of Honour Based Abuse

The definition of Honour Based Abuse 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.”*

## 3. Legislation

There is no specific offence of "honour based crime". It is an umbrella term to encompass various offences covered by existing legislation. Honour Based Abuse be described as 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 and abuse can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. It is a violation of human rights and may be a form of domestic and/or sexual violence. There is no honour or justification for abusing the human rights of others.

## 4. When does Honour Based Abuse Occur?

Honour Based Abuse may occur when the perpetrator(s) perceive that a person (or persons) has shamed the family or community by breaking an honour code. The violence used can include planning, premeditation and family or community conspiracy; often the belief held is that the victim(s) is 'deserving' of the punishment.

## Honour/ Izzat

Honour Based Abuse is perpetrated for a number of reasons. These include:

- 'Izzat' (an Urdu word which means protecting family honour or reputation);
- To control unwanted 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 (misguided or dated);
- Retaining wealth, property or land within the family;
- Preventing unsuitable relationships;
- Assisting claims for residence and citizenship in the UK;
- Perceived immoral behaviour including:
  - 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;
  - Seeking a divorce.

This could occur through:

- Defying parental authority;
- Becoming 'westernised' in style of clothes, make-up, behaviour and attitudes;
- Women having sex, relationships and/or pregnancy outside of marriage;
- Use of drugs; alcohol, or cigarettes;
- Gossip – family honour can be damaged by rumour and gossip that is not true but believed to be true by other members of the community;
- Leaving a spouse or seeking a divorce;
- Having a boyfriend / girlfriend; and
- Wishing to marry outside of faith.

Children and young people can be victims of Honour Based Abuse either directly or indirectly. The consequences for the victim include:

- Ostracism / disownment of the victim by their family and community
- Physical / emotional abuse of the victim by family members, spouse and in laws

- Restriction of freedom/loss of independence for the victim
- Isolation from their family and community, but also being on 'house arrest' or kept from seeing friends
- Internalisation of guilt / shame by the victim and feeling conflicted for not wanting the marriage but also not wanting to hurt or shame their family
- Forced marriage (see [Forced Marriage Procedure](#))
- Murder
- Being sent (or threatened) to live elsewhere, either in the UK or overseas.

Notions of honour framed within culture and religion are used for justification of primarily (but not always) male violence against women and children.

Honour Based Abuse means that the victim is at significant risk of actual physical harm, neglect and emotional harm through the threat of, or witnessing of violence. Families may feel shame long after the incident that brought about 'dishonour' occurred; therefore the risk of serious harm to a child/adult can persist.

Crimes committed in the name of 'honour' include threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional). As specific offences they may include common assault, inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm, harassment, kidnap, rape, threats to kill, murder. Additionally, honour based crimes could include:

- Attempted murder;
- Manslaughter;
- Procuring an abortion;
- Encouraging or assisting suicide;
- Conspiracy to murder;
- Conspiracy to commit a variety of assaults.

## 5. Impact on Victims

Isolation is one of the biggest problems facing those trapped in, or under threat of violence. Many people who experience abuse will not even discuss their worries with their friends for fear their families may find out.

Children and adults in this situation can display a wide range of behaviours indicative to any level of abuse and neglect. Practitioners should make themselves aware of the potential indicators related to experiencing honour based abuse directly or indirectly. These include:

- Going missing (from home and school) in an attempt to keep themselves safe;
- Being restricted in their movements and overly supervised;
- Lack of access to the internet, mobile phones, and their passport or family members;
- Forced marriage or being forced to live elsewhere;
- Being withdrawn from education by those with parental responsibility and /or requests for extended leave;
- Unreasonable financial control, for example confiscation of wages/income.

## 6. Honour Based Abuse as Domestic Abuse

'Honour Based Abuse' is a very specific form of domestic abuse. This document should be read in conjunction with [Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Multi-Agency Practice Guidance on Domestic Abuse - Safeguarding Children and Adults with Needs for Care and Support](#) and all cases of Honour Based Abuse should be dealt with in accordance with this practice guidance.

The government definition of domestic abuse is:

*'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members<sup>1</sup> regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:*

- *psychological*
- *physical*
- *sexual*
- *financial*
- *emotional*

*Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.*

*Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.'*

The Government definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and Forced Marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Honour crimes differ significantly from other forms of domestic abuse; while typical incidents of domestic violence involve perpetrators using force against their partners, honour-based abuses regularly involve a victim's own parents, sons, brothers and sisters, as well as members of their extended family and in-laws and the wider community. Honour Based abuse often involves multiple perpetrators and the abuse is usually committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion by family members or the wider community.

Conversely, practitioners should exercise caution and not make the assumption that all incidents of Domestic Abuse within BAME communities are related to Honour Based Abuse.

Whilst all legislation is gender neutral and men can also be victims of this offence, statistics consistently show that women and girls are disproportionately affected by crimes of Domestic Abuse and Honour Based Abuse. Controlling or coercive behaviour is primarily a form of violence against women and girls and is underpinned by wider societal gender inequality. This can contribute to the ability of the offender to retain power and control and ultimately the ability of the victim to access support and leave safely. It is therefore important to consider the role of gender in the context of power and control in a relationship when identifying controlling or coercive behaviour in heterosexual relationships.

The definition of Domestic Abuse now includes any acts carried out by extended family members. The Government defines domestic violence as 'any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse [psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional] between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.' An adult is any person aged 18 years and over and family members are defined as mother, father, son, daughter, brother, sister and grandparents, whether directly related, in-laws or step-family.

## **7. The Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Abuse Risk Assessment Check List (DASH-RIC)**

The DASH-RIC Risk model is a risk assessment tool for all professionals who work with victims of Domestic Abuse including Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Abuse. The purpose of the DASH risk assessment checklist is to provide a consistent and simple tool for practitioners who work with adult victims of Domestic Abuse to identify those at high risk of harm and cases which should be referred to the MARAC in order to manage the risk. The DASH-RIC is an evidence-based list of questions about which factors are present in a domestic abuse situation. Professional judgement is a key factor in considering the points score from the DASH-RIC especially when it has resulted in a lower score than expected as this may be indicative that the victim is too afraid to disclose certain aspects of abuse. In addition, practitioners working with adults who have care and support needs should be aware that the DASH-RIC was designed to assess the risk to women and children and is known to have limitations for identification of the risk factors experienced by disabled and older people. Any risk assessment is likely to benefit from information sharing between agencies and the personal judgement of practitioners and the case should be referred to the MARAC.

For further information see [MARAC referral forms](#) and [DASH-RIC Risk Assessment Guidance 2020](#) and [Risk Assessment Tool Harassment and Stalking 2020](#)

## **8. Responding to Honour Based Abuse**

Whilst there is no specific offence of Honour Based Abuse, this category of abuse typically involves the potential for the commission of serious offences with the potential for loss of life.

Durham Constabulary should be informed immediately on 101 if any child or adult is believed to be at risk of Forced Marriage. If the risk is immediate, contact Durham Constabulary on 999.



If a child is at risk of Honour Based Abuse / Forced Marriage then refer to the [Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Multi- Agency Child Protection Procedures](#)

If an adult who may have needs for care and support or who may lack capacity is believed to be at risk of Honour Based Abuse refer to the [Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Multi-Agency Procedures for Adults with Needs for Care and Support.](#)

In cases where an adult who is not deemed to have needs for care and support is at risk of HBV the case must be dealt with by the police in accordance with the local MARAC procedures and Domestic Abuse policy and practice guidance.

All cases where an adult/child over the age of 16 is at risk of Honour Based Abuse (whether the adult has needs for care and support or not) should involve a risk assessment using the DASH-RIC risk model model which is a risk assessment tool for all professionals who work with victims of Domestic Abuse including Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Abuse. Cases should be referred to the MARAC in accordance with the level of risk (see paragraph 8).

For further information see [MARAC referral forms and DASH-RIC risk assessment guidance](#) (see Paragraph 9).

Practitioners should also seek specialist advice and support [Karma Nirvana – supporting victims of Honour Based Abuse Website](#)

Where Honour Based Abuse is linked to the risk of Forced Marriage – [see Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Multi-Agency Practice Guidance – Forced Marriage - Protecting Children and Adults.](#)

For further information about adults and children at risk of Forced Marriage see [HM GOV Multi- Agency Guidelines- Handling Cases of Forced Marriage](#) and [GOV.UK Forced Marriage Guidance](#)

The [HALO Project](#) is a locally based organisation which will provide advice and guidance to practitioners. See also [HALO Project Darlington](#) for contact details.

All organisations should have a lead person with overall responsibility for safeguarding children, protecting vulnerable adults or victims of domestic abuse and the same person should lead on Honour Based Abuse. Although front line staff should contact this specialist as soon as possible, there may be occasions when they will need to gather some information from the person to establish the facts and assist the referral.

All practitioners working with victims Honour-Based Abuse, especially when linked to Forced Marriage need to be aware of the “one chance” rule. That is, they may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim and thus they may only have one chance to prevent harm or save a life.

**Do:**

- talk to the young person/adult immediately on their own, even if they come with others, in a safe and private place

- give the young person/adult, where possible, the choice of the race and gender of the worker who deals with their case
- inform them of their right to seek legal advice and representation. Know where to find it.
- explain all the options to the young person/adult, including the child protection process and listen to their point of view. Then decide what to do to keep the young person/adult safe, involving them in the decisions as far as possible and explaining what will happen next.
- assess the risk of harm facing the young person/adult, any other siblings or young family members, give safety advice and agree a personal safety plan.
- consider the need for immediate protection and placement away from the family and hold a strategy meeting if there is a risk of significant harm.
- talk to the young person/adult about the need for a medical examination and if they need treatment for injuries or any emotional or physical illness. Keep detailed documentation of any injuries or history of abuse, as the police may require this for any subsequent prosecution.
- assess the level of information that it is safe to disclose to their families, friends or members of the community.
- Notify Durham Constabulary on 101 or in an emergency call 999
- make a referral to the Childrens Initial Advice Team (child) on 01325 406222
- make a referral to the First Point of Contact (adult with needs for care and support) on 01325 406111
- make a referral to MARAC and the Police (adult) on 101. For further information see [MARAC referral forms and DASH-RIC risk assessment guidance](#) (see Paragraph 9).

### **Do Not:**

- contact the family in advance of any enquiries by the police, adult or children's social care either by telephone or letter.
- have family members or others present at the interview.
- use family members, friends, neighbours or those with influence in the community as interpreters; people may feel embarrassed to discuss personal issues in front of them and sensitive information may be passed on to others and place the person in danger. Furthermore, such an interpreter may deliberately mislead practitioners and/or encourage the person to drop the complaint and submit to their family's wishes
- put the young person/adult or yourself at risk of harm.
- send the young person/adult back to the family home against their wishes or ignore what they have told you.
- contact or approach the young person's/adult's family, friends or people with influence within the community, unless you are sure it is safe to do so and you have agreed this with the young person/adult.

### **The Danger of Family Counselling, Mediation, Arbitration & Reconciliation**

Mediation, arbitration, reconciliation and family counselling as a response to Honour Based Abuse can be extremely dangerous and may increase the young person's/adult's

vulnerability and place them in danger. Any unsupervised contact with their family needs to be carefully assessed as it can place the young person/adult at risk of further emotional abuse or lead to pressure being placed on them to return home. However if the young person/adult does wish to go home or talk to their family all the risks should be explained and a safety plan put in place. Mediation as a response to Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage can be extremely dangerous. There have been cases of victims being murdered by their families during mediation. Mediation can also place someone at risk of further emotional and physical abuse.

### **Interpreters**

Do not use family members, friends, neighbours or those with influence in the community as interpreters; victims may feel embarrassed to discuss personal issues in front of them and sensitive information may be passed on to others and place the victim in danger. Furthermore, such an interpreter may deliberately mislead practitioners and/or encourage the person to drop the complaint and submit to their family's wishes.

Practitioners should consult internal policies and procedures relating to the use of interpreters and be aware of the potential risks of using staff members or others as interpreters who may mislead practitioners or pass on sensitive information and place a victim or associates at risk.

### **Recording and security of case notes**

Similarly, agencies and practitioners should be aware of the potential for sensitive information to be shared with family members or the wider community and where it is deemed necessary, case notes should be locked and access granted only to those working on the case and relevant managers.

### **The Role of Children's Social Care**

Honour Based Abuse places a child / young person at risk of Significant Harm therefore cases should be investigated under Section 47 Enquiries in accordance with the Children Act 1989.

When a referral has been received by Children's Social Care Services in relation a child or young person who is suffering or likely to suffer Honour Based Abuse a Strategy Discussion/Meeting must be convened within two working days. This should be chaired by a Team Manager from Children's Social Care Services, and involve Police and health representatives at a minimum, with other professionals from education and specialist based organisations invited. Consideration should also be given to inviting a Legal Advisor. The strategy meeting / discussion should recognise the Police responsibility to initiate and undertake a criminal investigation as appropriate.

When assessing the risk of harm, a full family history must be taken to consider any abuse or threat of abuse of any other member of the family as well as a secret boy or girlfriend, pregnancy and self-harming.

No contact should be made with the family until there has been an agreed strategy with the Police due to the need to consider the possible protection of the child from abuse / disappearance.

Following the strategy meeting / discussion, Children's Social Care Services and the Police should arrange to see the child on his / her own in a secure and private place. Consideration should be given to the professionals allocated to talk with the child, to ensure the child is untroubled when speaking to them.

When talking to the child, an approved and trained interpreter must be used in if the preferred language of the child / young person is not English. Care must be taken when identifying an appropriate interpreter to ensure the safety of the child or young person.

Children's Social Care Services **must**:

- Give the child or young person advice on personal safety
- Consider the possible need for immediate protection and placement away from the family
- Discuss with Police any concerns for the safety of any other child or young person and any suspicion that a crime may have been committed.

Honour Based Abuse does not stand alone; it is inexorably linked with domestic abuse and consequently any planning and / or interventions should also fit with existing domestic abuse guidance, policy and procedures (see Paragraphs 6 and 8).

Where a child or young person may be at risk of forced marriage within the context of Honour Based Abuse for further guidance see Paragraph 10 [HM GOV Multi- Agency Guidelines- Handling Cases of Forced Marriage](#).

**REMEMBER** - Cases involving suspicions of Honour Based Abuse are NOT suitable for a Family Group Conference because of the risk of physical danger and emotional manipulation which the child or young person may experience as a result.

Where an Initial Child Protection Conference is convened, great care must be taken to manage information about the whereabouts of the child or young person. The social worker and his / her manager must discuss the arrangements with the Conference Chair and consider whether the family should be present or not, or at the same time as the child or young person, as threats may be made.

### **Role of Adult Social Care**

There is limited research on Honour Based Abuse and disability. Existing research suggests that vulnerable mentally ill and/or disabled people are at particular risk of being forced into a marriage. (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), 2015; Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), 2016; Lakhani, 2008; Valios, 2008). The National UK figures for forced marriages of vulnerable adults in 2015 stood at 12% (141 cases) (Home Office FMU, 2016). Honour Based Abuse is often linked to Forced Marriage.

The practice of marrying vulnerable victims appears to be effected to ensure that vulnerable offspring are cared for, due to their perceived limited options and because parents are unable to continue to care for their child as they age. In addition, exploiting vulnerability sometimes provides visas for people wanting to reside in the UK (Lakhani, 2008; Shaw, 2001).

A marriage involving someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage should be considered a forced marriage. It should be noted that cases within this category often involve male victims. In cases where an individual may lack the capacity to consent to a marriage, a capacity assessment should be conducted on that specific issue.

It should be noted that where a person lacks consent to marriage that consent cannot be given by another individual. There will be situations where there are reasonable grounds to question a person's lack of capacity to consent to marriage (for example the individual is known to have severe learning disabilities) even though an assessment has not been carried out. In all cases where mental capacity is or may be an issue and the victim is an adult must be dealt with by Police and Adult Social Care in accordance with [Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Multi-Agency Procedures for Adults with Needs for Care and Support](#).

Vulnerable victims may lack the capacity to make decisions, such as getting married and consenting to sexual relations. Neither can such decisions be made by others on behalf of the victims (Mental Capacity Act codes of practice, 2013). The Care Act 2014 imposes responsibilities on local authorities to make enquiries when vulnerable adults are at risk of being abused or neglected, in an effort to prevent harm before it occurs.

In addition, practitioners working with adults who have care and support needs should be aware that the DASH-RIC model was designed to assess the risk to women and children and is known to have limitations for identification of the risk factors experienced by disabled and older people and male victims. Any risk assessment is likely to benefit from information sharing between agencies and the personal judgement of practitioners and the case should be referred to the MARAC.

Where a strategy meeting is convened, great care must be taken to manage information about the whereabouts of vulnerable adult. The social worker and his / her manager must discuss the arrangements with the strategy meeting Chair and consider who is best placed to act as a representative for the adult and it is unlikely that a family member or a member of the community will be suitable.

For further information about Forced Marriage and adults with needs for care and support see Paragraph 11 [HM GOV Multi- Agency Guidelines- Handling Cases of Forced Marriage](#).

### **Information Sharing, Record Keeping and Confidentiality**

It is important for Children's Social Care and Adults Social Care services to obtain as much information as possible when a child or young person/adult is first referred, as there may not be another opportunity. A record should be taken of the child or young person's

immediate personal details and the family details including any information about the need for an interpreter.

Full details of the allegation should be recorded, including details of any threats or hostile actions against the child or young person/adult.

A record should also be made of the details of the person making the initial referral, including contact details and their relationship to the child or young person.

Concerns about acts of violence should not be discussed with the child or young person's/adult's family or friends, and / or information should not be shared with other agencies without the express consent of the child or young person/adult, unless it is necessary to protect the child or young person/adult.

The practitioner must think very carefully about the need to disclose information and to whom it may be disclosed. Disclosure may lead to the child or young person's/adult's estrangement from the family and increase the likelihood of the child or young person/adult suffering significant harm. If approached, parents may deny that the child or young person/adult is at threat of violence or abuse, move the child or young person, expedite any travel arrangements and bring forward any perpetration of violence/abuse.

All agencies should take particular care to ensure that members of their staff do not:

- Use family members, friends, neighbours or community leaders as interpreters
- Send the child or young person back to the family home against their wishes
- Approach the child or young person's family or friends or others within the child or young person's community without the child or young person's explicit consent
- Notify the family in advance of enquiries
- Attempt to mediate between the child or young person and the family except at the child or young person's specific request
- Breach the child or young person's confidentiality, unless this is necessary to ensure their safety.

When a referral is received, the child or young person should be interviewed in a secure and private place, on her or his own. The child or young person may want to be seen by a person of the same gender, and may also want to talk to someone from her or his own community - or to avoid talking to someone from her or his own community.

When arranging to see the child or young person, thought should be given to where and when this should happen, for example, if the child or young person is coming to an office, consider arranging the appointment out of hours to minimise risks to the safety of the child or young person.

The person interviewing the child or young person/adult should:

- Discuss the range of options available to her or him and the possible consequences of each course of action

- Signpost her or him to an appropriate adviser and / or make the child or young person aware of the right to seek legal advice and representation
- Develop a “cover story” - a plausible alternative reason for the child or young person to be at the social work office, police station etc, in case she / he is seen there.

At all times confidentiality and discretion are vitally important.

Information about the child or young person and her / his whereabouts must be kept confidential. Access should preferably be restricted to named members of staff. This includes both paper-based and computer records.

Before making any enquiries, the worker should consider whether there is a risk that the family will become aware that these enquiries are being made.

When considering disclosure of confidential information to another person or agency, the child or young person should be informed, the reasons explained, and their consent sought as appropriate.

Workers should be aware that some families will be intent on finding the child or young person and often private investigators have been used to do this. Many times the family may approach a third party such as a local Councillor or MP with an apparently reasonable request to contact the child or young person; do not provide information without checking with a manager and the child or young person first.

Consideration should also be given to restricting access to electronic records to ensure that employees who may be members of the victim’s community cannot view information which may be subsequently unlawfully disclosed to the family and lead to family members being able to trace the victim.

## **Support and Advice for Victims**

For children and young people who stay at home they should be offered support regarding safety / escape plans and the option to deposit their DNA, passport number, finger prints and photograph with the Police. It is essential to devise a way of contacting them discreetly without placing them at increased risk of harm. This should include a code word to ensure that contact has been made with the right person. Consideration should also be given to the possibility that written communications including emails may be intercepted and that telephone communications may be detected, for example, through the phone bill.

A child or young person who wishes to leave the family home will need a leaving strategy. This will include issues such as; *Where could they go in an emergency?* If the child or young person is in immediate danger, it may be necessary to consider admission to local authority accommodation, an Emergency Protection Order or Police Protection. In this situation it is not appropriate to rely on the extended family to provide a place of safety unless the child or young person can identify a relative in whom they have absolute trust. It may be necessary to place the child or young person outside her or his community and in a different local authority area.

If the child or young person wishes to remain in the family home A safety plan should be put in place with the child or young person; looking at how to raise the alarm if there are concerns about increased risk to safety; having access to emergency money; having an escape plan.

A child or young person may be taken overseas to protect honour or Izzat and they may be forced to marry. Any such concerns should be taken seriously, but the arrangement of an extended holiday should not be assumed to imply violence or that a forced marriage is planned. As much of the following information as possible should be gathered so that action can be taken, if necessary:

- Any addresses where the child or young person may be staying while overseas
- Potential spouse's name
- Date of proposed wedding
- Addresses of extended family members in UK and overseas
- Details of travel plans, including estimated return date, and people likely to accompany the child or young person
- Note of their passport number and the date and place of issue
- Give the child or young person the address and phone number of the British Embassy in the country to which they are travelling
- Establish a safe means to make contact with the child or young person, e.g. a mobile phone that will work overseas
- Encourage the child or young person to memorise at least one telephone number and e-mail address
- Ask the child or young person for details of a trusted person in the UK with whom they will keep in contact whilst overseas, who will act on their behalf and who can be approached if they do not return
- Take a written statement from the child or young person that they want the social worker (or another person) to act on their behalf if they do not return by a certain date
- Ask the child or young person to make contact without fail on their return
- Record some information that only the child or young person will know this may help later in confirming their identity.

If there is a clear risk of violence or Forced Marriage and the risk is imminent, it may be necessary to take emergency action to remove the child or young person from home in order to protect them and prevent the travel abroad. For further information about Forced Marriage and children see Paragraph 10 [HM GOV Multi- Agency Guidelines- Handling Cases of Forced Marriage.](#)

Children or young people may run away from home to escape the threat of violence face particular difficulties. Agencies may be criticised for providing support and protection



to a child or young person who has run away from home, and for failing to share information about the child or young person's whereabouts with the family. The first consideration must be for the child or young person's safety and welfare.

Any child or young person who has run away from home should be spoken to on their own to establish why they ran away. Issues related to Honour Based Abuse may come to light at this time. If the child or young person is at risk of violence, it may not be in their best interests to disclose any information to their family, friends, or members of their community until their continued safety has been secured.

## **9. Resources and Reference List**

[HM GOV Multi-Agency Guidelines- Handling Cases of Forced Marriage](#)

[GOV.UK Forced Marriage Guidance](#)

[Metropolitan Police – Honour Based Violence](#)

[HALO Project](#)

[HALO Project Darlington](#)

[MARAC referral forms 2020 and DASH-RIC Risk Assessment Guidance 2020](#)

[Risk Assessment Harrassment and Stalking 2020](#)

[Karma Nirvana – supporting victims of Honour Based Abuse website](#)

[Honour Based Violence Awareness Network](#)

[NHS England – Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\) Mandatory reporting duty](#)

[DSP Female Genital Mutilation Practice Guidance](#)

[Crown Prosecution Service Guidance](#)

[Children Act 1989](#)

[The Care Act 2014](#)

[Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Multi-Agency Procedures for Adults with Needs for Care and Support.](#)

[Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Multi-Agency Child Protection Procedures](#)

[Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Multi-Agency Practice Guidance on Domestic Abuse - Safeguarding Children and Adults with Needs for Care and Support](#)

[Leeds Beckett University – Honour Based Abuse](#)