

Safeguarding Children Who May Be at Risk Of Honour Based Abuse (HBA)

This 'Quick Guide' should be used together with the full Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board Procedures and Guidance found at www.suffolkscb.org.uk.

'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'.
NSPCC 2015

Honour Based Abuse, where it affects children and young people, must be responded to as a child protection issue where children are at risk of significant harm through physical, sexual, psychological and emotional harm.

- HBA is a collection of practices which are used to control behaviour within families to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour (Izzat). HBA is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members.
- 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 is generally performed on children (females) from the ages of 4 to 14 years.
- Boys as well as girls can be subject to HBA; gay, lesbian young people can be particularly vulnerable.
- HBA can take place across national and international boundaries, within extended families and communities.
- There is a 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.

All practitioners need to be aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they come across HBA. It is important to be alert to signs of distress and indications such as self-harm, absence from school and truancy, infections resulting from female genital mutilation, isolation from peers, being monitored by family, not participating in school activities and, unreasonable restrictions at home.

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

If you suspect that a child may be at risk of HBA:

- Discuss your concerns with your manager or designated colleague.
- Practitioners should not approach or involve families if HBA is suspected – ***this may increase the risk of significant harm to the child or young person.***

Make your referral to:

Customer First 0808 800 4005

or

Suffolk Police: Force Operating Room 101 or 01473 613500

Children who go missing may be at risk from HBA:

A missing child/young person must be reported to:

Suffolk Police: Contact & Control Room 101 or 01473 613500

Further Information and Guidance:

Suffolk LSCB Procedures [‘Safeguarding Children who may be Forced into Marriage](#)

Freedom Charity Helpline (24 hours) 0845 607 0133

Karma Nirvana Helpline Number 0800 5999 247
<http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/>

Henna Foundation 029 2049 6920
<http://www.hennafoundation.org/>

Female Genital Mutilation:

FORWARD (Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development)
Suite 2.1, Chandelier Building, 2nd Floor, 8 Scrubs Lane, London. NW10 6RB.
<http://forwarduk.org.uk/key-issues/fgm/> 020 8960 4000

NSPCC
Email: fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk 0800 028 3550

Foreign & Commonwealth Office 020 7008 1500

Further information about all Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board publications can be found on our website. www.suffolkscb.org.uk