

Honour Based Abuse & Forced Marriage POLICY ONLY

OFFICIAL

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Policy Holder	D/Chief Superintendent Investigations Protecting Vulnerable People
Policy Author	Policy & Strategy Unit
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Contents

Policy	1
National Context	1
Statement	1
Aims.....	2
Objectives.....	2
Application and Scope	3
Outcome Evaluation	3
Data Protection Act (2018)	4
Freedom of Information Act (2000)	4

Policy

National Context

Authorised Professional Practice (APP) is produced by the College of Policing as the official source of professional practice on policing. All officers and staff are expected to have regard to APP in discharging their responsibilities. Essentially, our “policy” is to comply with APP as it develops to cover all areas of policing.

Where content exists within APP, we should not be reproducing it locally but instead signposting the on-line version. Similarly, we should not retain or develop any local policy documents if the subject matter is covered by APP. We may have some relatively low volume procedural documents but only if they are deemed necessary to supplement the content of APP.

Statement

Leadership & Me framework and the Just Principles

As an organisation, through our policies and Leadership & Me framework, we will ensure we create a consistently great place to work were, as Healthy People:

- You take responsibility for how you behave.
- You are inclusive and any exclusion is addressed.
- You have a safe space to speak, and things are talked out.
- You can focus on doing your own job well.
- You are trusted and empowered to make decisions and do the right thing.

- We are all One Team - inquisitive and open to new ways of doing things better together.

The Leadership & Me framework means we have a consistent approach to our behaviours across the organisation, and therefore consistent approach through our policies, which is necessary to deliver against our One Team ethos. The Leadership & Me framework is underpinned by our Just Principles:

JUST LISTEN	ACTIVE LISTENING CARE & RESPECT EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
JUST LEAD	PRIDE & DIRECTION RESPONSIBILITY TRUST – HONESTY & HUMILITY DELIVERY
JUST THINK	MAKING DECISIONS CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT ADAPTING PLANS CHANGE
JUST TALK	TEAMWORK COURAGE-SPEAKING UP PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK RELATIONSHIPS

Merseyside Police are committed to providing victims of Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Harmful Practices such as Forced Marriage (FM), Female Genital Mutilation, Virginity Testing and other such practices/abuse with a level of service that gives them the confidence to report incidents.

HBA and FM is a fundamental abuse of human rights. It is a form of Domestic Abuse and Child Abuse that requires a specialist response and investigation. Merseyside Police view HBA and FM as unacceptable and are committed to the prevention and thorough investigation of all offences committed in the name of so-called ‘honour’.

Aims

The main aim of this policy is to prevent the occurrence of HBA and FM. It is designed to help identify future victims of HBA / FM and reduce the likelihood of future harm, including homicide, serious injury and acts of violence.

The policy is underpinned by procedures to help all officers and police staff identify HBA / FM and associated issues, in particular the risks involved and the actions that should be considered.

Objectives

The main objectives of this policy are to:

- Improve the quality of service to victims of HBA / FM
- Increase the number of reports of HBA / FM made to Merseyside Police
- Increase the number of Protective Orders obtained by Merseyside Police

- d) Increase the number of offenders brought to justice
- e) Ensure reporting and recording of HBA / FM is compliant with national guidance
- f) Increase active involvement with partner agencies to ensure victim safety
- g) Identify communities within Merseyside affected by HBA / FM

Application and Scope

All police officers and police staff, including the extended police family and those working voluntarily or under contract to Merseyside Police must be aware of, and are required to comply with, all relevant policy and associated procedures. (Mandatory Statement)

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This is a non-statutory policy that sets out the principles to help guide decision making. It provides guidance that, on occasions, officers and staff may depart from based on the particular circumstances they encounter. On such occasions, officers and staff will be supported provided they can demonstrate a clear rationale which can be objectively justified for why they have departed from the policy.

All officers and staff will be held accountable for the adoption of this policy. Chief Officers and managers will show strong leadership in addressing relevant issues.

The Chief Officer lead for this policy is the Assistant Chief Constable with responsibility for Investigation and Intelligence.

Outcome Evaluation

Progress against specific objectives should be measured on a routine basis. The Chief Superintendent Head of Investigations Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) will determine responsibilities and activities involved in measurement.

Based on outcomes, the Policy and Strategy Unit will amend policy and develop responses that keep people safe and hold perpetrators to account without stereotyping, stigmatising, or making assumptions about any given individual or community.

Data Protection Act (2018)

This policy and procedure has been assessed for compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018 by the Data Protection, Corporate Support and Development Unit. Any victim data obtained and/or shared will be subject to General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act 2018.

Freedom of Information Act (2000)

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 grants a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. Any requests made for this policy should be forwarded to freedom.of.information@merseyside.police.uk