



Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage Policy

OFFICIAL

Protective Marking	Official
Publication Scheme Y/N	Policy section can be published under FOI Procedure section should be withheld
Department of Origin	Investigation and Intelligence (I & I)
Policy Holder	D/Chief Superintendent Head of I & I
Author	Public Protection Unit
Related Information	Domestic Abuse Policy Child Abuse Policy Adults at Risk Policy Critical Incident Procedure Threats to Life, Serious Injury and Property Policy HM Government The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage Multi- Agency Practice Guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced Marriage. Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Major Investigation and Public Protection Approved Professional Practice ACPO So Called Honour Based Violence Resource Document.
Date First Approved at BMG	23/11/2011
This Version	V2.3 – Created 9.10.2019
Date of Next Review	October 2021

October 2019



Policy

Statement

Merseyside Police are committed to providing victims of Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Forced Marriage (FM) 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:

- a) Improve the quality of service to victims of HBA / FM
- b) Increase the number of reports of HBA / FM made to Merseyside Police
- c) Increase the number of Forced Marriage Protection 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
- a) 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.

This policy document sets out principles to help guide decision making and is in some parts quite prescriptive. However, it is vital that officers and staff have the freedom to innovate, exercise discretion and take risk based decisions centred on the needs of the victim and the merits of each case. Non-statutory policies, including College of Policing APP, provide guidance only. They are 'living documents' and it is recognised that there may be a better way of doing this. Accordingly, if staff depart from a policy but are able to give a good rationale for their actions, and have acted with honesty, integrity and professionalism, to make the best decision for the community we serve, they will be trusted and supported. ¹

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.

¹ This paragraph inserted 21/06/2016 to emphasise appropriate use of discretion. Version number remains unchanged.

OFFICIAL

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 measures on a routine basis. The head of crime / chair of PVP Performance will determine responsibilities and activities involved in measurement.

Based on outcomes, the PPU 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.