

# Manchester **One Chance** Rule FORCED MARRIAGE PROTOCOL Website version

Date of publication: January 2015

Copyright & reproduction: MSAB, MSCB and partners



[www.manchesterscb.org.uk](http://www.manchesterscb.org.uk)

**CONTENTS:**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Pg 1</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Definitions</b>	<b>Pg 1</b>
2.1	Forced Marriage	Pg 1
2.2	Arranged Marriage	Pg 1
2.3	Domestic Abuse	Pg 1
2.4	Honour Based Violence (HBV)	Pg 2
2.5	Vulnerable Adult	Pg 2
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Possible Indicators of Forced Marriage</b>	<b>Pg 3</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Working with Children, Young People &amp; Vulnerable Adults</b>	<b>Pg 4</b>
4.1	One Chance Rule	Pg 4
4.2	Identifying Forced Marriage	Pg 4
4.3	Initial Report	Pg 5
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Practice Guidance</b>	<b>Pg 5</b>
5.1	Crucial Information Required	Pg 5
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Flow Charts</b>	
6.1	Child/Young Person Forced Marriage Flow Chart	Pg 7
6.2	Adult Forced Marriage Flow Chart	Pg 8

**Appendices**

<b>Appendix 1-</b>	<b>Strategy Discussion/Meeting</b>	<b>Pg 9</b>
<b>Appendix 2-</b>	<b>Section 47 Strategy Meeting Checklist</b>	<b>Pg 10-11</b>
<b>Appendix 3-</b>	<b>Greater Manchester Police Policy Guidance</b>	<b>Pg 12</b>
<b>Appendix 4-</b>	<b>Useful Telephone Numbers and Links</b>	<b>Pg 13-14</b>

## **1.0 Introduction**

This protocol has been developed to assist professionals and community groups working with children and adults in Manchester to respond to disclosures of forced marriage.

It is important that this protocol is used alongside any existing safeguarding policies and procedures within your organisation.

Forced marriage is a safeguarding issue; it is a form of child abuse, domestic abuse and a breach of human rights. It can affect men as well as women, some may have disabilities and others may be spouses from overseas. It is therefore important to safeguard any child, young person or adult who may be, or has been subjected to a forced marriage.

## **2.0 Definition:**

The United Nations views forced marriage as a form of human rights abuse, since it violates the principle of freedom and the autonomy of individuals. This is acknowledged under the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights, article 16(2): Article 16 (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

## **2.1 Forced Marriage**

Forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the valid informed consent of one or both parties, where some element of duress is a factor.

## **2.2 Arranged Marriage**

In arranged marriages, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses.

## **2.3 Domestic Abuse**

The government defines domestic abuse as: 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 regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional.

*(HM Government Multi-agency Practice Guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced Marriage 2014)*

## **One Chance Rule**

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.

This 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.

### **2.4 Honour-based Violence**

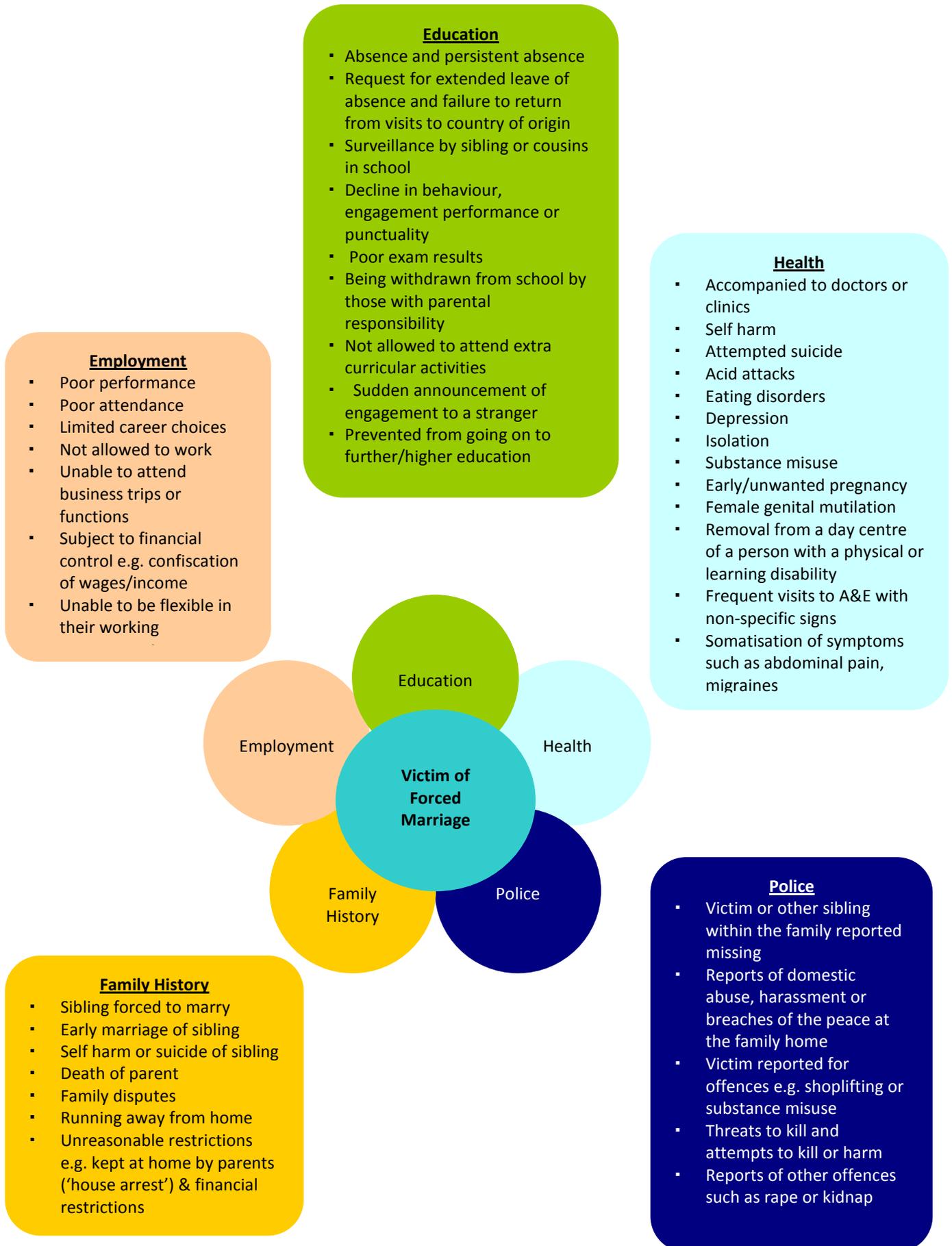
'Honour' based violence (HBV) is where the person is being punished by their family or their community. They are being punished for actually, or allegedly, undermining what the family or community believes to be the correct code of behaviour. In transgressing this correct code of behaviour, the person shows a lack of conformity, thus bringing shame and dishonour to the family who have failed to control them and ensure that they behave in a manner befitting the expectations of their community.

"It can be distinguished from other forms of abuse, as it is often committed with some degree of approval / and or collusion from family and / community members. Victims will have multiple perpetrators not only in the UK: HBV can be a trigger for a forced marriage". (*HM Government Multi-agency Practice Guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced Marriage 2014*)

### **2.5 Vulnerable adult or an adult with support needs**

The 'No Secrets' guidance defines a 'vulnerable adult' as a person over the age of 18 years 'who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation'. (*No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse 2000*)

### 3.0 Possible Indicators of Forced Marriage



These indicators are not intended to be exhaustive

## 4.0 Working with Children, Young People and Adults

### 4.1 One Chance Rule

All practitioners working with victims of forced marriage and HBV need to be aware of the '**One Chance' Rule**. A professional may only have **One Chance** to speak to a potential victim and have **One Chance** to save a life. This means that all practitioners working within statutory agencies need to be aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they become aware of potential forced marriage cases. If the victim is not offered support following disclosure that **One Chance** opportunity may be lost.

#### DO:

- Take them seriously
- See them immediately and alone
- Conduct a risk assessment
- Respect their wishes and reassure them about confidentiality (see Fig 1.1 for safeguarding children).

#### **Fig 1.1**

**For young people under the age of 18 years, it will be appropriate to deal with the situation as a children's safeguarding issue.**

#### DO NOT:

- Send them away
- Approach members of the family
- Approach members of the community
- Attempt to mediate
- Share information without consent (see Fig 1.1 for safeguarding children).

### 4.2 Identifying Forced Marriage

Information about forced marriage may have been provided by the victim, a friend, relative or other agency. Forced marriage issues may also become apparent through careful questioning in the course of investigating other incidents/crime such as domestic abuse, assault and abduction or missing persons. The person concerned may not have thought that they were a victim of forced marriage and has only recently begun to question what has happened to them.

Alternatively the person may be seeking help as they know the intention is for their family to force them into marriage. Coercion is likely to have been used with one or both spouses, by family members, friends and the wider community. This may include: threats of violence, being held against their will, emotional threats and other forms of coercion and harassment, such as preventing the person from being unaccompanied to go anywhere.

There is a common misconception that forced marriages are confined to certain religious groups and cultures, but this is not the case. The practice of forced marriage can happen regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion, disability, age, gender and sexuality. Any person can find themselves in a situation where they are offered no choice but to proceed with the marriage.

## One Chance Rule

The primary concern is for the safety of the victim. The nature of forced marriage is such that agencies may have only **One Chance** to respond to the needs of the victim. Ultimately to fail to do so may result in injury or death.

### 4.3 Initial Report

**Any individual or agency who receives information, or has reason to believe that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is at risk of, or subject to, a forced marriage has a duty to contact / refer to the following agencies:**

- **Police**
- **Contact Centre for children and vulnerable adults.**

<b>Greater Manchester Police:</b> <b>Single Point of Contact (SPOC)</b> – Sergeant, Public Protection Division, Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons Unit. If not available refer to PPIU (details at the back)	<b>Tel: 0161 856 1709 Mobile: 07760374269</b>
<b>Contact Centre for Children and Vulnerable Adults:</b> using the Multi-Agency referral form and associated guidance	<b>Tel: 0161 234 5001 / 255 8250 (Fax: 0161 255 8266)</b> <b>email: <a href="mailto:socialcare@gcsx.manchester.gov.uk">socialcare@gcsx.manchester.gov.uk</a></b>

**All safeguarding referrals regarding Forced Marriage to be brought to the attention of the Head of MCC Adult Safeguarding & Governance (if a vulnerable adult) and the MCC Children and Families Locality Manager (if a child) by the allocated Social Worker.**

## 5.0 Practice Guidance

Following a forced marriage disclosure it is the responsibility of the referrer to secure as much information as possible regarding the situation and the individuals involved. (See below).

### 5.1 Crucial Information Required

- Obtain details of the person making the report, their contact details, and their relationship with the individual under threat.
- Establish nature and level of risk to the safety of the person (e.g. is she pregnant, do they have a secret boyfriend or girlfriend? Are they already secretly married?)
- Obtain details of the person under threat including:
  - Date of disclosure/initial concern
  - Name of person under threat
  - Full details of the allegation
  - Name of potential spouse and date of proposed wedding
  - Nationality
  - Age
  - Date and place of birth
  - Identify any distinguishing features such as birthmarks and tattoos etc.
  - First language
  - Religion

### **One Chance Rule**

- Name and address of parents or those with parental responsibility
  - School details
  - Employment details
  - Address overseas if the person is leaving the UK
  - Particular needs, i.e., hearing / visual impairment, learning disability
  - Passport details.
- Every attempt should also be made to obtain:
    - Recent photograph
    - National Insurance number
    - Driving licence number
    - Details of any travel plans e.g. date, flight numbers, airline, destination and date of departure and return.

**Forced marriage victims are at considerable risk of rape, physical harm, and death. Under no circumstances should any individual or individual organisation conduct an initial investigation or assessment of suspected cases of forced marriage.**

**Any intervention should be via a planned Strategy Discussion coordinated by the respective safeguarding leads for Children's/Adult's Services.**

6.1

**CHILD / YOUNG PERSON FORCED MARRIAGE FLOW CHART**

**DISCLOSURE**  
Child / YP makes a disclosure

**OBTAIN**  
Information required:

- Date of report
- Name of person under threat
- Nationality
- Age
- Date & place of birth
- School details
- Employment details
- Full details of allegation
- Name & address of parents or those with parental responsibility

**POLICE REFERRAL**  
In an emergency call 999 or Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Sergeant, Public Protection Unit  
Tele: 0161 856 1709  
Mobile: 07760374269  
*If unable to establish contact see Appendix 4*

**Refer to BOTH**  
Child's consent not needed  
Do not inform parents or family  
**1 CHANCE RULE**

**CONTACT CENTRE**  
Referrals sent to:  
Tele: 0161 **234 5001** / 255 8250  
Fax: 0161 255 8266  
Email: socialcare@manchester.gcsx.gov.uk  
Follow standard procedures for children

\*If a child is at risk of forced marriage and has been taken abroad, contact Forced Marriage Unit  
Tel 020 7008 0151 and Police

If Domestic Abuse is disclosed:  
The Manchester Domestic Abuse Assessment & Referral Form (Age 16+) should be completed to assess level of risk.  
[http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200036/domestic\\_violence/550/get\\_help\\_and\\_advice\\_about\\_domestic\\_abuse/3](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200036/domestic_violence/550/get_help_and_advice_about_domestic_abuse/3)

Ensure child in place of safety  
Start initial safety planning

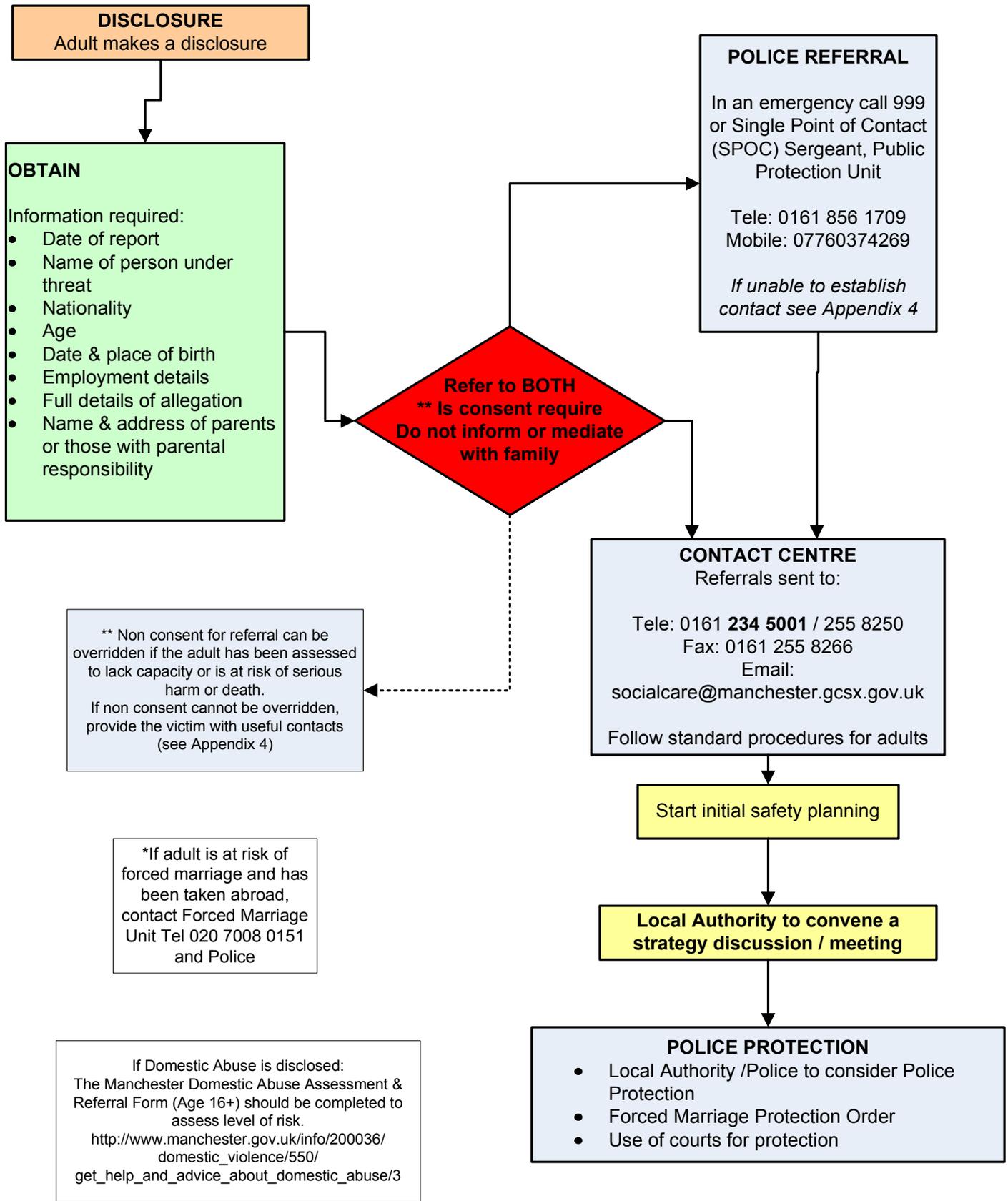
**Local Authority to convene a Section 47 investigation strategy meeting**

**POLICE PROTECTION**

- Local Authority /Police to consider Police Protection
- Order / Emergency Protection Order or Forced Marriage Protection Order

6.2

# ADULT FORCED MARRIAGE FLOW CHART



## Appendix 1

### Strategy Discussion / Meeting:

- Following receipt of the referral, Children's Social Care/Adult Services will convene a Strategy Discussion/Meeting, in the form of a face-to-face meeting within one working day (See Appendix 1 regarding Strategy Meeting checklist).
- Advice regarding decisions relating to legal proceedings should be sought from the Local Authority Legal Advisor.
- Where the professionals involved in the Strategy Discussion/Meeting consider the victim is not in immediate danger, arrangements should be made for a Section 47 (Child) enquiry or equivalent (Adult) to be undertaken and also for the victim to be provided with information on rights, choices and support services in relation to forced marriage.

### Medical Assessment:

If it is necessary to arrange an investigative Medical Assessment for emotional or physical illness or to give attention to injuries, this should be undertaken with the necessary consents. However, there must be consideration as to whether using a medical practitioner from the local ethnic community may jeopardise or threaten the security of the victim. If potential risk is identified then medical assistance is to be sought through another route.

- At the close of the Strategy Discussion/Meeting a date should be agreed to reconvene and discuss the outcomes from the Section 47 (child) enquiry or equivalent (adults). However this meeting can be reconvened earlier should circumstances dictate. At the end of the Strategy meeting attendees should be provided with a photocopy of the Record of Statement, which should be read carefully and signed. Any disagreement with the plan should be included on the Strategy document.
- Minutes from the Strategy Discussion/Meeting should be circulated as soon as possible after the meeting. At the very least, the decisions and recommendations from the meeting should be circulated to all those in attendance within one working day.

## Appendix 2

### S47 STRATEGY MEETING CHECK LIST

#### (i) Prepare for Strategy Meeting

- Invites:
  - Chair Grade 8 or above in Children's Services
  - Health
  - Police
  - Education - relevant school
  - Any Significant Other
- Agree time and venue
- Take copy of strategy document and agenda to the meeting.

**NB: During school holidays information can be obtained from the Educational Case Work Service contact:**

Audrey Taplin, Team Leader, Education Caseworkers

Contact details: 0161 245 7455      Email address: [a.taplin@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:a.taplin@manchester.gov.uk)

**Or if a child has Special Educational Needs contact:**

Brian Seaborn, Team Leader, Statutory Assessment Team

Contact details: 0161 245 7441      Email address: [b.seaborn@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:b.seaborn@manchester.gov.uk)

#### (ii) Strategy Meeting

- Grade 8 or above in Children's Services to chair the meeting
- SW completes the strategy meeting document
- Record who was invited as well as who attended
- Any disagreements to the meeting should be clearly recorded and any arrangement for escalation.

#### (iii) Medicals

- **Moss Side Clinic:** If a medical is being considered ring Duty Paediatrician on Tel: 0161 861 2260 up to 5.00 pm, and discuss the timing of the medical. If the medical is felt to be urgent, and needs to be completed that day and it is too late to conduct a medical at Moss Side, the duty Paediatrician will liaise with the relevant hospital doctors. If the medical can wait until the following day an appointment will be agreed for the Moss Side Clinic.
- **If child under 18 months or out of office hours contact to be made with relevant hospital**
- **South Area - University Hospital of South Manchester**
  - 1) For children under 18 months of age contact the switchboard at UHSM on 0161 998 7070, on weekdays between 9 am and 5pm ask for the 'hot week' paediatric consultant, after 5pm and at weekends and bank holidays ask for the paediatric consultant on call.
  - 2) After 5pm and weekends and bank holidays phone UHSM switch board on 0161 998 7070 and ask for the paediatric consultant on call.

## One Chance Rule

- **Central Area - RMCH** out of hours and for children under 18 months; contact switchboard on 0161 276 1234 and ask to speak to the general paediatric Registrar on-call carrying bleep 6006. If there are any problems with this or to discuss complex cases ask to speak to the general paediatric consultant on-call.
- **North Area – Pennine Acute Hospitals Trust (PAHT)**
  - 1) For children under 18 months of age contact the PAHT Safeguarding Team between: 09.00 hrs – 15.00 hrs on: **0161 918 4420 or 07854 665511**. Children will be seen from Monday to Friday between 09.30 hrs - 17.00 hrs at the Children’s Out Patient Department at Fairfield General Hospital in Bury
  - 2) Out of hours (i.e. after 5pm) contact should be made with the on-call paediatrician via PAHT switchboard: 0161 624 0420. Children will be seen on the Children’s Unit at North Manchester General Hospital

NB: To assist the meeting the health rep at the strategy meeting will take responsibility for contacting the Paediatrician.

### (iv) **Conclusion of Meeting**

- All attendees to sign document clearly putting name and organisation
- Copies of the document to be taken and given to all present
- If medical is to be arranged - copy taken to give to Paediatrician conducting the medical.

### (v) **Distribution of Minutes to Non-attendees**

- Social Worker gives copy to Business Support within Area office (to be sent weekly to relevant lead safeguarding nurse)
- Copies to be sent to police, relevant school, other professionals as appropriate.

### (vi) **Telephone Strategy Discussions**

- Strategy Meeting Document to be completed by social worker
- Strategy Meeting Document to be signed off by a Team Manager
- Copies given to Business Support to send to Health (Senior Nurses), Police and Education (relevant school).

## Appendix 3

### Greater Manchester Police Policy Guidance

#### Policy Statement

GMP is committed to giving victims of 'honour' based violence (HBV) and forced marriage (FM) a level of service that gives them the confidence to report incidents. 'Honour' based violence and forced marriage is a form of domestic abuse and, when dealing with incidents, officers and staff must always keep this at the forefront of their minds and deal with incidents taking cognisance of this policy and the domestic abuse policy. It should be noted, however, that although the new definition of domestic violence treats people aged 16 and over as adults, GMP will continue to deal with any forced marriage/'honour' based violence incident as a child protection matter if it involves people under the age of 18.

If the police are perceived to have dealt with 'honour' based violence and forced marriage issues badly then this will impact on public confidence in reporting the issues. Therefore, GMP's response to these issues must be transparent, which will be achieved through recognising HBV and FM as fundamental breaches of Human Rights.

HBV can impact on individuals in numerous ways and many victims suffer serious assault and even death at the hands of family members. GMP is committed to developing responses that keep people safe and hold perpetrators to account without stereotyping, stigmatising or making assumptions about any given individual or community.

#### Aims

- To investigate all reports effectively, to bring offenders to justice and hold them accountable for their actions.
- To develop responses that keep people safe and hold perpetrators to account without stereotyping, stigmatising or making assumptions about any given individual or community.
- To give victims the confidence to report incidents and keep them safe from further risk of harm.
- To deal with victims of 'honour' based violence effectively and by conducting thorough risk assessment processes with victims, endeavour to reduce the likelihood of future harm, including homicide, serious injury and acts of violence.

*(GMP 2013)*

## Appendix 4

### Useful telephone numbers and links

#### Greater Manchester Police

For consultation or advice:

- Single Point of Contact (SPOC) – Sergeant, Public Protection Division, Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons Unit – Landline: 0161 856 1709, Mobile: 07760374269

#### If unable to contact SPOC please contact your local divisional area as below:

- Detective Inspector or a Detective Sergeant from the City of Manchester Public Protection Investigation Units:
  - North Manchester - A Division (North Manchester) 0161 856 3708 or 3091
  - Central Manchester - E Division (Longsight) 0161 856 4444
  - South Manchester - E Division (Wythenshawe) 0161 856 6053

#### To facilitate a Police response:

- Emergency Police response – 999
- Non-emergency Police response – 101

#### To make a referral to Children or Adult Social Services:

Manchester City Council Customer Service Contact Centre (Social Care)

**Tel: 0161 234 5001/ 255 8250**    **Email: [socialcare@gcsx.manchester.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@gcsx.manchester.gov.uk)**  
**[mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk)**    Fax: 0161 255 8266

#### All safeguarding referrals regarding forced marriage to be brought to the attention of:

- Head of MCC Adult Safeguarding & Governance (if vulnerable adult):
  - Tel: 0161 234 4960
- MCC Children and Families Locality Manager (if a child):
  - North –Tel: 0161 205 7321
  - Central – Tel: 0161 225 9293
  - South – Tel: 0161 219 2889

#### For help, advice and guidance:

- The Forced Marriage Unit: [fm@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fm@fco.gov.uk) 020 7008 0151
- Home Office Multi –Agency Practice Guidelines: <https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage>
- South Manchester Law Centre: [www.smlc.org.uk](http://www.smlc.org.uk) 0161 225 5111
- Manchester Women’s Aid: [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk) 0161 660 7999
- Saheli Asian Women's Project: [www.saheli.org.uk](http://www.saheli.org.uk) 0161 945 4187
- St Marys Sexual Assault and Referral Centre (SARC): [www.stmaryscentre.org](http://www.stmaryscentre.org) 0161 276 6515
- No Recourse To Public Funds Team: [manchester.fsd.org.uk](http://manchester.fsd.org.uk) 0161 226 8131
- Victim Support : [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk) 0845 4568800
- Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Helpline/End the Fear: [www.endthefear.co.uk](http://www.endthefear.co.uk) 0161 636 7525
- 24hr Women’s Domestic Violence Helpline: [www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk) 0808 2000 247 (freephone)
- Southall Black Sisters: [www.southallblacksisters.org.uk](http://www.southallblacksisters.org.uk) 020 8571 9595/0800
- Honour Network Helpline: [www.karmanirvana.org.uk/help-line](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/help-line) 0800 5999 247
- Karma Nirvana: [www.karmanirvana.org.uk](http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk) 0800 5999 247

## One Chance Rule

- NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) 0800 800500
- Citizen's Advice Bureau: [www.manchestercab.org](http://www.manchestercab.org) 0844 4111 222
- MSCB / MSAB Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence Strategic Statement: [www.manchesterscb.org.uk/prof-procedures.asp](http://www.manchesterscb.org.uk/prof-procedures.asp)
- MSCB / MSAB Forced Marriage Minimum Standards: [www.manchesterscb.org.uk/prof-procedures.asp](http://www.manchesterscb.org.uk/prof-procedures.asp)
- Manchester Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Procedures: [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk)
- Manchester Domestic Abuse Assessment and Referral Form: [www.manchesterscb.org.uk/prof-procedures.asp](http://www.manchesterscb.org.uk/prof-procedures.asp)
- Forced marriage e-learning package on EndtheFear: [www.endthefear.co.uk](http://www.endthefear.co.uk)
- Manchester City Council Customer Service Contact Centre (Social Care):  
Tel: 0161 234 5001/ 255 8250 Email: [socialcare@gcsx.manchester.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@gcsx.manchester.gov.uk)  
[mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk) Fax: 0161 255 8266
- Greater Manchester Safeguarding Partnership: Forced Marriage and Honour -Based Violence: [http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p\\_force\\_marriage.html](http://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_force_marriage.html)