

STOCKPORT SAFEGUARDING CHILDRENS PARTNERSHIP

So Called Honour Based Violence Abuse

01: Definition

Honour based abuse is a collection of practices used to control behaviour within families in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. To compromise a family's 'honour' is to bring dishonour and shame and this can have severe consequences. The punishment for bringing dishonour can be emotional abuse, physical abuse, and family disownment and in some cases even murder.

07 Further Reading

If you are interested in finding out more about this topic you might want to visit:

<http://www.safeguardingadultsinstockport.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/So-called-Honour-Based-Violence-Abuse-and-Forced-Marriage-Strategy.pdf>
or:
https://greatermanchesterscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_force_marriage.html#local_info

06: Information

Although most cases in the UK involve South Asian families (partly reflecting the UK's large South Asian community), 'honour' abuse can exist in any culture where males are in a position to control women's day to day life and behaviour. Examples include: Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian, African, Middle Eastern, South and Eastern European, Romany and Traveller communities.

Honour abused is rejected by every major world faith.

02: What to Look Out For

Girls and women are most often the victims of honour based abuse, however, it can also affect boys and men. Honour abuse might be committed against people who:

- Are seen to be acting in ways which are not in line with the families cultural and religious beliefs.
- Have relationships/sex outside marriage
- Interfaith/intercommunity relationship
- Using drugs/alcohol/cigarettes
- Being outed as LGBT
- Leaving a spouse

03: Why Victims Don't Seek Help

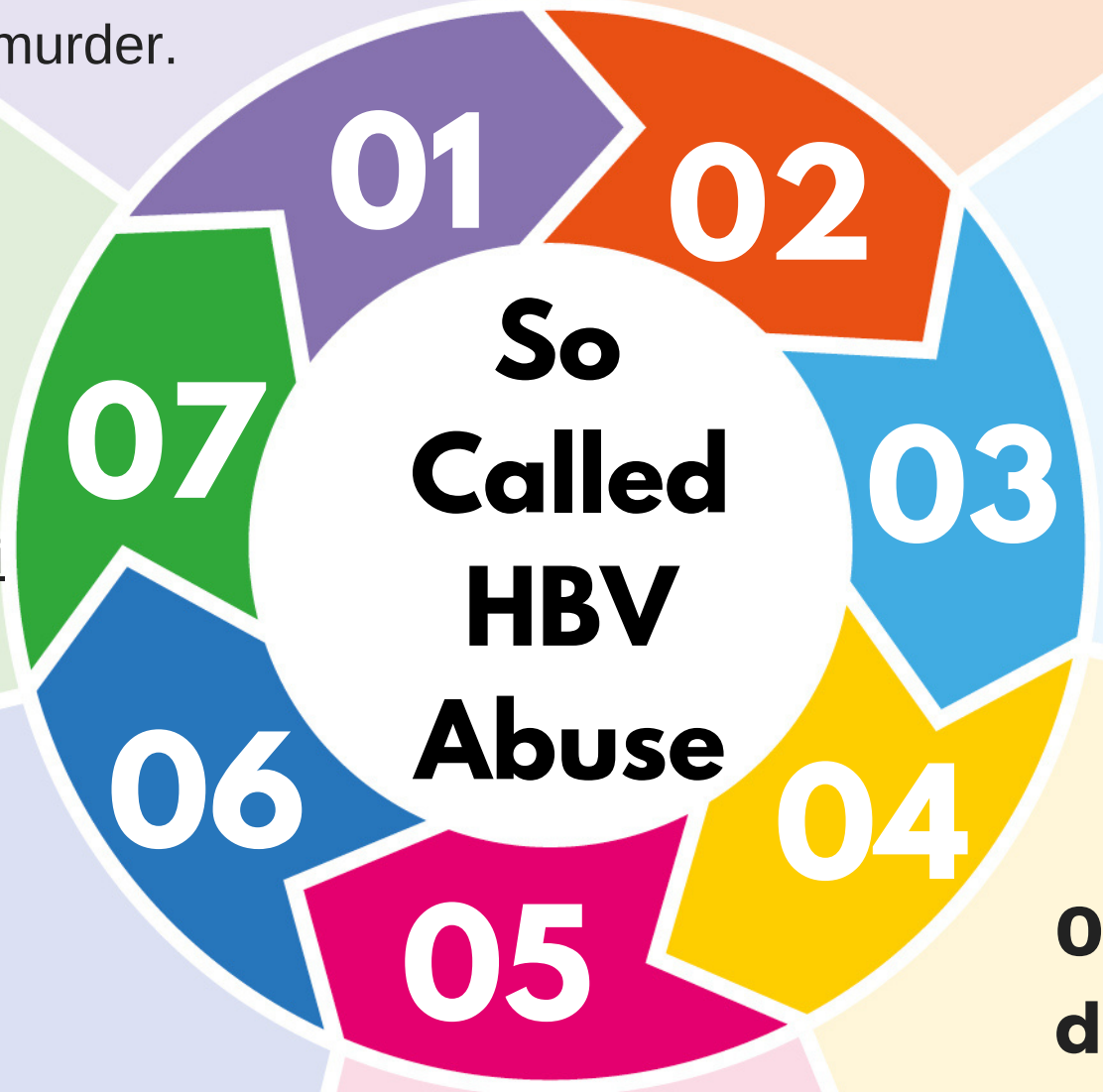
- Fear of manipulation of professionals by family members
- Fear of situation getting worse once professional alerted
- Fear professionals wouldn't understand
- Fear of not being believed
- Feelings of shame
- Insecure immigration status
- Not knowing help is available

04: What to do if victim discloses HBV to you or you suspect it is going on

- Exercise extreme caution seek specialist advice from line Manager/specialist service such as ASPIRE.
- Be mindful of the 'one chance rule' this may be the only opportunity to help the victim
- Any response needs to be carefully co-ordinated through a multi agency strategy meeting
 - Do not try and mediate or involve the family/community.
 - Always use a professional interpreter not a family member.

05: Why does it matter?

Home office figures suggest 12 HBV killings in the UK per year. This does not include the many women/girls who are taken abroad by their families never to be seen again. There are many hidden elements of HBV suicide, self-harm and missing people.



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

