



HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE (HBV) POLICY

Policy Title

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Section 1 – Policy Intentions

So called “honour based violence” is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community.

It is the policy of Gloucestershire Constabulary to work together with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children & Adults Boards and other partner agencies, government/ non-government agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults who may be victims or potential victims of crimes or incidents that may have a basis in so called honour.

Gloucestershire Constabulary will treat reports of these types of incidents or crimes as either child abuse or domestic abuse. A VIST will be submitted by the officer who identifies the risk to a child under 18 and/or an adult if over 18 (this replaces the previous process of Child referrals (if under 18) or DASH (if over 18). The completion of the VIST will assist the safeguarding team to assess and manage the risk.

Section 1 – Policy wording

Policy Wording

There is no specific crime of HBV. The term “honour based crime” covers any criminal offence that is driven by a mistaken desire to protect the cultural or traditional beliefs of a family or community.

The following crimes have the potential to be motivated by such factors:

- Rape
- Assault
- Child abuse
- Stalking
- Threats to kill
- Kidnap
- Human trafficking
- Murder
- False imprisonment
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced Marriage



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There are a number of motivators for HBV:

- Controlling unwanted behaviour and sexuality
- Protecting family honour
- Responding to peer group or family pressure
- Attempting to strengthen family links (can apply to forced marriage)
- Ensuring land, property and wealth remain within the family (can apply to forced marriage)
- Protecting perceived cultural ideas
- Preventing “unsuitable” relationships

Gloucestershire Constabulary recognises that HBV crimes differ from other forms of violence as they are often committed with some degree of collusion from the family and the community. As such, the reporting of crimes and incidents can be difficult for the victim involved as they may be too scared, shocked or tied by family or community loyalties to speak out. The police will work with victims and direct them towards partner agencies and support them to pursue a complaint through the criminal justice system.

The Constabulary recognises the “one chance rule”. The victim may only have one chance to ask for help and we will act on this with other partner agencies.

Section 2 – Procedural guides

www.karmanirvana.org.uk

Domestic Abuse Procedural Guide – [http://insight.glospolice.gov.uk/Police/Lists/Operational-Policing/DA%20How%20To%20Guide%20\(Final%20Version\)%2002%2005%202014.pdf](http://insight.glospolice.gov.uk/Police/Lists/Operational-Policing/DA%20How%20To%20Guide%20(Final%20Version)%2002%2005%202014.pdf) – CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Child Abuse Procedural Guide –

College of Policing APP: <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/forced-marriage-and-honour-based-violence/>



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Section 3 - Relevant Legislation: (*Human rights/diversity/Health & Safety/any other specifics*)

Cps - http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/h_to_k/honour_based_violence_and_forced_marriage/

Section 4 - Related References:

List/link any relevant papers to be considered – Free text

Section 5 - Identification, Monitoring and Review

Policy should enable consistent and effective decision making. Where operational or managerial circumstances require any decision making that would adversely affect adherence to the policy or procedure, in line with the 'Statement of Intent' of the constabulary and the police service 'Code of Ethics', if an officer/ police staff member believes that they need to make a decision that steps outside of policy and procedure they should do so, provided that:

- the officer/ police staff member raises the matter at the earliest opportunity (and ideally before any such decision is made) with their line manager declaring their intended (or actual) course of action if notification is made after the decision is taken,
- produces, in a timely manner, a signed and dated written explanation of why it is/ was deemed necessary to step outside of policy and procedure, and
- maintain an adequate record of this written rationale for audit purposes appropriate to the circumstances/ contravention

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V1.1	23/11/17	Reviewed. Updated to reflect current Force structure. Added EIA and Procedure links and also the generic decision wording requested by the CC.			
V1.0	3/7/2015	New wording and template			✓
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SIA	SIA Sign Off	SIA Review
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Previous policies can be found with the continuous improvement team.