

Policy & Sustainability Committee

10:00am, Tuesday 1 November 2022

Forced Marriage Policy Review Report

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

Executive

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Note the content of the City of Edinburgh Council's revised Forced Marriage Policy, which has been broadened to include specific considerations for survivors and people at risk with particular protected characteristics
- 1.2 Note the links between Forced Marriage and the attached policy to the Equally Safe strategy, as well as child and adult protection policies and procedures
- 1.3 Approve the content of the revised Forced Marriage Policy which includes background information, warning signs, impacts, information on legislation, practice guidance for support and protection and local and national sources for support.

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Forced Marriage Policy Review

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report includes the completed revision of the City of Edinburgh Council's Forced Marriage Policy, which has undergone an Integrated Impact Assessment. The report is submitted to the Policy and Sustainability Committee for approval and endorsement by the City of Edinburgh Council. This will be the first revision of this policy since 2015.

3. Background

- 3.1 Forced Marriage is a matter of public protection, which disproportionately affects women and girls, and particularly people with protected characteristics.
- 3.2 Since 2015, when the Council's Forced Marriage Policy was last reviewed, there have been changes to legislation and guidance. The current review acknowledges and incorporates these changes.
- 3.3 The current review also discusses broader impacts of forced marriage, risk factors for different populations, and includes up-to-date best practice for professionals and organisations involved in supporting survivors and people at risk.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Edinburgh aspires to be a city where everyone is equally safe from all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence in any public or private domain. This includes in their own home, within their family and extended family, and within their immediate and wider community.
- 4.2 Forced Marriage is an issue that overwhelmingly affects women and girls, and particularly those with the protected characteristics of age, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation and gender identity.
- 4.3 Given that a marriage can be arranged for a child at a very early age, protection from Forced Marriage is a key consideration for child protection and education; however, risks can continue to be present well into an individual's later life, rendering forced marriage a concern for adult protection as well.
- 4.4 For people at risk and for survivors to stay safe and to lead healthy and fulfilling lives, Forced Marriage needs to be recognised as a matter of child and adult

protection and as a form of gender-based violence, particularly violence against women and girls.

- 4.5 The revised force marriage policy aligns with a number of relevant policies and procedures within the Council, specifically the [Adult Protection Policy](#), the [Adult Protection Multi-Agency Guidelines](#), the [Adult Protection Procedure](#), the [Edinburgh Child Protection Procedures](#), and the [Edinburgh and Lothians Inter-Agency Procedures for the Protection of Girls and Women at Risk of Female Genital Mutilation](#).
- 4.6 The proposed Forced Marriage Policy is intended to substitute the Council's current policy, which was last updated in 2015. Specifically, the revised policy now:
 - 4.6.1 Clearly defines forced marriage and sets it apart from arranged marriage
 - 4.6.2 Identifies specific risk factors for particular populations and age groups
 - 4.6.3 Discusses the impact and consequences of forced marriage on children and adults, particularly girls and women
 - 4.6.4 Sets out the legal context that protects survivors and people at risk of forced marriage and how to access it
 - 4.6.5 Highlights warning signs and sets out processes and best practice guidance for professionals who might come into contact with survivors and people at risk, including both children and adults.
 - 4.6.6 Provides information on useful resources and information for professionals and people at risk

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Following approval of the revised Forced Marriage Policy by the Policy and Sustainability Committee, the Policy will be available on the City of Edinburgh Council's website and Policy Register.
- 5.2 The revised Forced Marriage Policy will be disseminated to the Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee, the Edinburgh Adult Support and Protection Committee and the Edinburgh Child Protection Committee.
- 5.3 The new Forced Marriage Policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis thereafter.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 Following a completed Integrated Impact Assessment, no financial impacts were identified as a result of this policy revision

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The revision of the Council's Forced Marriage Policy was carried out on an inter-agency basis and based on up-to-date research and statistical information on people most likely to be affected.
- 7.2 Although direct community engagement did not take place, key partners and stakeholders who regularly engage with survivors and people at risk of Forced Marriage directly contributed to the development of the policy. This includes professionals within the Council, as well as partners from the voluntary sector who are members of Public Protection Committees.
- 7.3 No environmental impacts were identified as a result of this policy.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 The background to the revision of the Forced Marriage Policy relies on the following legislation that specifically addresses forced marriage:
 - 8.1.1 [The Forced Marriage etc. \(Protection and Jurisdiction\) \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#)
 - 8.1.2 [The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)
- 8.2 The revised policy also aligns with [Equally Safe: Scotland's strategy to eradicate violence against women](#)
- 8.3 [Forced Marriage: Statutory Guidance](#) (the Scottish Government)
- 8.4 [Forced Marriage Practitioner Guidance](#) (the Scottish Government) – update 2014

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Revised Forced Marriage Policy

Forced Marriage Policy

January 2023

Control schedule

Version control

Approved by	Policy and Sustainability Committee		
Version	Date	Author	Comment
0.1	08.03.2022	Angela Voulgari	Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee Lead Officer
		Kate Armit	Edinburgh Adult Protection Committee Lead Officer
		Euan Currie	Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Lead Officer
0.2			
Scheduled for review	November 2023		

Subsequent committee decisions affecting this policy



Forced Marriage Policy

Policy statement

- 1.1 This policy outlines how practice in relation to forced marriage is aligned with existing Council structures, policies and procedures designed to protect children and adults with support needs and those experiencing domestic abuse.

Scope

- 2.1 This policy informs and supports the work of practitioners who are responsible for protecting children and adults from the abuse associated with forced marriage.
- 2.2 This policy links with, and should be read together with, a number of other City of Edinburgh Council policies pertaining to Child Protection and Adult Protection, outlined in section 14 of this document
- 2.3 This policy recognises that many people affected by Forced Marriage will come from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, for some of whom English will not be their first language. The City of Edinburgh Council will make this policy available, upon request, in other languages and formats, including Braille.

Definitions

- 3.1 FMPO - Forced Marriage Protection Order
FMU - Forced Marriage Unit
IRD - Inter-Agency Referral Discussion
LGBT - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender
BAME - Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
FGM - Female Genital Mutilation

4. What is forced marriage?

- 4.1 A forced marriage is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to marriage and undue pressure or coercion is used (e.g. some people with learning disabilities may be unable to give consent because of their lack of understanding).
- 4.2 It is an indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a fundamental abuse of human rights.
- 4.3 The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel they are bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking wages or not giving the person any money) can also be a factor.
- 4.4 Parents who force their children to marry often justify their behaviour as protecting their children, building stronger families and preserving cultural or religious traditions. However, forced marriage cannot be justified on religious grounds; every major faith condemns it.
- 4.5 Victims are under immense pressure to conform to the wishes of family. This can be accompanied by physical, emotional and sexual abuse. It is not uncommon for victims to be killed (so-called 'honour' killing) or to attempt or complete suicide.
- 4.6 The circumstances of forced marriage are such that victims may remain with or return to families, or not be able to follow through on actions. This is not a failure on their part.
- 4.7 Services should continue to be available to victims on a long-term basis, and support should not include other family members, apart from any who are deemed to be at risk.

5. What is arranged marriage?

- 5.1 Arranged marriage is an ancient and evolving tradition; whereby families take the lead role in helping to choose the marriage partner, but the

marriage takes place with the explicit, ongoing and enthusiastic consent of both parties and either party can change his/her mind at any time, without any negative repercussions.

- 5.2 In cases where a young person appears to be happy about an engagement to be married, if they are under 16, they are not able to consent to such an arrangement and are therefore being forced to marry.
- 5.3 Likewise, people with learning disabilities may be unable to give true consent as a result of not fully understanding the implications of what they are agreeing to. In these circumstances, the marriage would be forced, rather than arranged.
- 5.4 People with learning disabilities, cognitive disabilities as well as LGBT people are disproportionately affected by Forced Marriage. People with mental health issues are also particularly vulnerable to being forced to marry, and it is important to remember that any mental health issues that affect them could be the result of the pressure to marry.
- 5.5 As such, it is crucial that professionals and services that support them are trauma-informed, person-centred, and well informed on their sex, gender identity, cultural and religious requirements.

6. Who may be affected?

- 6.1 Both women and men can be forced into marriage, although most cases involve women aged between 13 and 30. Women who are divorced or who have children from a previous relationship/marriage and women who are pregnant or who have had children outside of marriage are at particularly high risk as they are deemed to have brought 'shame' to their family or community.
- 6.2 People with physical and learning disabilities may be forced into marriage by families wanting to ensure their long-term care. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people can also be affected. For many traditional and faith-based communities, the LGBT identity is seen as transgressive of cultural/religious norms, and ensuring that a heterosexual marriage takes place is seen as maintaining the family's or the community's 'honour'.
- 6.3 Although children and young people are most at risk of forced marriage, people of middle/older age can be affected based on their individual circumstances. For example, women who are over 30 who have never married, women who are divorced and/or who have children from a

previous marriage/relationship or people who have been widowed might also experience pressure to marry or re-marry. People from this demographic might well be under-represented in services due to a lack of knowledge of where/how to access support, although they are able to access support and information through the resources identified in Section 13: Roles and Responsibilities.

- 6.4 Most reported cases in the UK so far have involved South Asian families (Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi). This partly reflects the large, established South Asian population in the UK. There have been cases involving East Asian, Middle Eastern, European and African communities as well. It is also important to note that asylum-seeking and refugee communities are at particularly high risk, often due to a lack of knowledge that forced marriage is a crime in Scotland, or a lack of awareness of alternatives.
- 6.5 Gypsy/traveller communities also anecdotally report high rates of forced marriage; this is often not reported to services due to the tightly-knit nature of the community. The City of Edinburgh operates to 'The City of Edinburgh Council Management of Roadside Encampments' protocol which identifies the roles and responsibilities of Police Scotland and Family and Household Support in identifying and responding to the needs of families and communities in roadside encampments. The protocol aims to improve access to public services and uphold the rights of people present in the encampment, including any affected by, or at risk of, forced marriage.
- 6.6 Forced marriage is an issue that can affect people from all ethnic, cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. However, it is important to recognise that people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) are particularly at risk of forced marriage, domestic abuse and other forms of violence and abuse.
- 6.7 Similarly, people experiencing forced marriage and domestic abuse might be deterred from reporting or seeking support for fear of destitution or deportation, if their leave to remain in the UK is dependent on their marital status.
- 6.8 Forced marriage does not exclusively affect BAME communities, as it can also affect faith-based or traditional communities of any ethnic origin. However, no major world religion condones forced marriage, nor does the practice have a religious basis.

- 6.9 Some forced marriages take place in Scotland with no overseas element, while others involve a partner travelling to the UK from overseas or a British national being sent abroad. In some cases, religious marriage ceremonies can also take place over the phone, with partners based within the UK or abroad.

7. What is the impact of forced marriage?

- 7.1 Isolation is one of the biggest problems facing those trapped in, or under threat of, a forced marriage. They may feel they have no one to speak to about their situation – some may not be able to speak English.
- 7.2 These feelings of isolation are very similar to those experienced by victims of other forms of domestic and child abuse. Only rarely will an individual disclose fear of forced marriage.
- 7.3 Therefore, someone who fears they may be forced to marry will often come to the attention of health professionals, police, social care services, education services or other professionals for various behaviours consistent with distress.
- 7.4 It is also important to remember however, that some people (especially young people between 16-18 years of age), might not know that their marriage is being arranged, in the UK or abroad. Some may have been told that they are going abroad for a family holiday, or to attend 'a family celebration'. As a result, they may feel excited rather than distressed.
- 7.5 In such situations, it is the responsibility of organisations and services supporting these people to be alerted to any potential risks of forced marriage in the UK or abroad, and to take the necessary steps to mitigate risks and to report any concerns to the relevant agency (for example, to report a child who is missing after not returning from a holiday abroad).
- 7.6 Young people forced to marry, or those who fear they may be forced to marry, are frequently withdrawn from education, restricting their educational and personal development. They may feel unable to go against the wishes of their parents and be threatened with disownment if they do – consequently they may suffer emotionally, often leading to depression and self-harm.
- 7.7 These factors can contribute to impaired social development, limited career and educational opportunities, financial dependence and lifestyle restrictions. Self-harm and suicide are also possible consequences.

- 7.8 Children and adults with support needs are particularly vulnerable to forced marriage and its consequences because they are often reliant on their families for care; they may have communication difficulties; and they may have fewer opportunities to tell anyone outside the family about what is happening to them.
- 7.9 There have been reports of children and adults with mental health needs, learning and physical disabilities being forced to marry. Some adults with support needs do not have the capacity to consent to the marriage. Some children and adults with support needs may be unable to consent to consummate the marriage.
- 7.10 Sexual intercourse without consent is rape. There are various other offences under the Sexual Offences Act 2009, relating to a person with a mental disorder.

8. What are the possible consequences of forced marriage?

- 8.1 Women forced to marry may find it very difficult to initiate any action to end the marriage and may be subjected to repeated rape (sometimes until they become pregnant) and ongoing domestic abuse within the marriage.
- 8.2 In some cases, they suffer violence and abuse from the extended family, often being forced to undertake all the household chores for the family.
- 8.3 Victims frequently become trapped in a relationship marked by physical and sexual abuse.
- 8.4 Leaving might not seem possible, because often the entire family, extended family and community might be conspiring to ensure that there is sustained pressure on the victim to stay in the marriage.
- 8.5 If they leave, they can be completely ostracized and abused by their community, leaving them without any source of support.
- 8.6 The impact this has on children within the marriage is serious. Children may learn that it is acceptable to be abusive and that violence is an effective way to get what is wanted. They may learn that violence is justified, particularly when angry with another person. They may also learn that forcing someone to marry is the norm for their family or community, and thus not speak up or seek help if they, or someone they know is at risk.

- 8.7 Children witnessing abuse can be traumatized, because witnessing persistent violence undermines children's emotional security and capacity to meet the demands of everyday life.
- 8.8 Children's academic abilities can be affected. Witnessing violence as a child is associated with depression, trauma-related symptoms and low self-esteem in adulthood.

9. Legal context

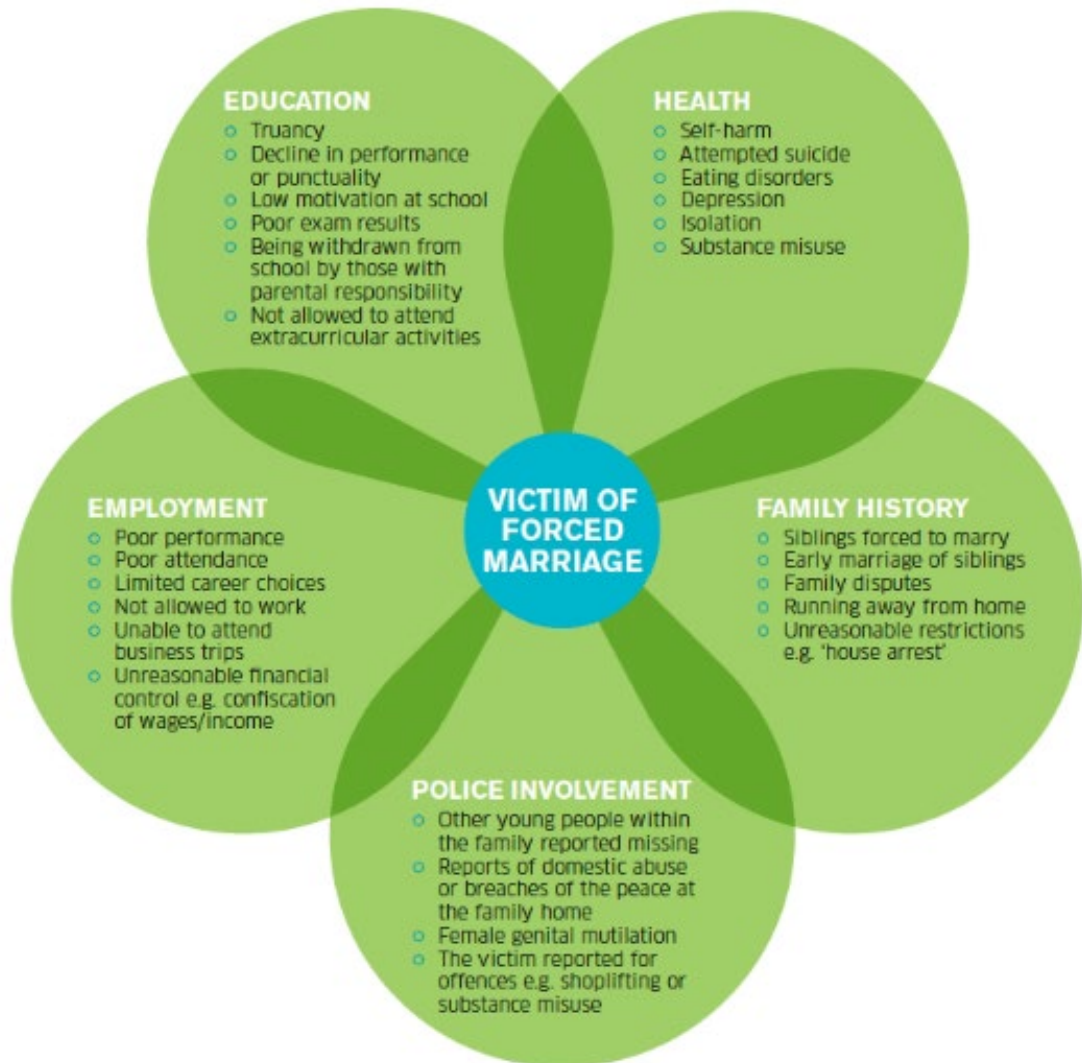
- 9.1 The law in Scotland provides both civil and criminal protection.
- 9.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 made forced marriage a criminal offence. This means that forcing someone to marry or taking advantage of their lack of understanding to trick them into taking part in a marriage is against the law in Scotland; so too is taking someone away from Scotland, against their will, to be married elsewhere.
- 9.3 There may be associated criminal activities, such as abduction, physical abuse and threats.
- 9.4 The Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act was passed in 2011 and created Forced Marriage Protection Orders. Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO) are designed to prevent a forced marriage from occurring or to offer protective measures when a forced marriage has taken place.
- 9.5 The court's powers are wide-ranging and the terms of the order can be tailored to the specific needs of the victim. Orders may contain prohibitions, restrictions or requirements to stop or change the conduct of those who would force the victim into marriage.
- 9.6 FMPOs are a civil remedy. They exist alongside the criminal offence of forced marriage. This means that a victim can apply for an FMPO to the civil court separately from criminal proceedings. Depending on the circumstances, criminal proceedings may take place in tandem.
- 9.7 A FMPO can be:
 - granted by the civil sheriff courts for either a child or adult
 - applied for by third parties (including the police and local authorities) on a victim's behalf
 - applied for by all other relevant third parties, with leave of the court
 - made by a civil court on its own initiative under certain circumstances

- applied for on behalf of the victim in criminal cases by the Lord Advocate, if the case has been referred by the court.

1.1

- 9.8 If there are complexities associated with immigration status, nationality, dual nationality and whether the victim is in Scotland, elsewhere in the UK or overseas, the Forced Marriage Unit can be contacted for advice, as these complexities might affect how victims can be assisted

10. Potential warning signs



- 10.1 In order to make sensitive and informed professional judgements about the child's or potential adult victim's needs, it is important that professionals are sensitive to differing family patterns and lifestyles, and to child-rearing patterns that vary across different racial, ethnic and cultural groups.

- 10.2 At the same time, they must be clear that abuse cannot be condoned for religious or cultural reasons – therefore, forced marriage must be responded to as a protection and safeguarding issue.

11. Key Practice Messages and Checklist

11.1 The following key messages and checklist are for frontline practitioners who have identified that forced marriage may be an issue. Forced marriage should always be referred to Social Care Direct as an adult protection or child protection issue, depending on the age of the victim.

11.2 Focus on safety and protection:

- i. always focus on the safety and protection of victims and avoid contributing to risk
- ii. always take the issue and the concerns of the victim seriously and recognise the potential risk of significant harm to the victim; many practitioners underestimate, or find it hard to believe, the lengths that families go to in order to force a marriage and that families do kill in the name of 'honour'
- iii. ensure that risk is assessed thoroughly, including risk of other harmful practices such as FGM and crimes like human trafficking
- iv. Assess whether there are other family members at risk of forced marriage, for example other siblings or family members with additional vulnerabilities
- v. **do not** attempt family counselling, mediation, arbitration and reconciliation if forced marriage is an issue; this can put a victim at further risk
- vi. **do not** share information with family / friends / community members; and, as with all cases, only share information with other practitioners in your own or other agencies if it is necessary to protect victims
- vii. as with all records belonging to individuals, forced marriage cases should be kept secure to prevent unauthorised access by anyone other than those dealing directly with the case.

11.3 Checklist:

11.3.1. You may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim of forced marriage, and therefore, only one chance to:

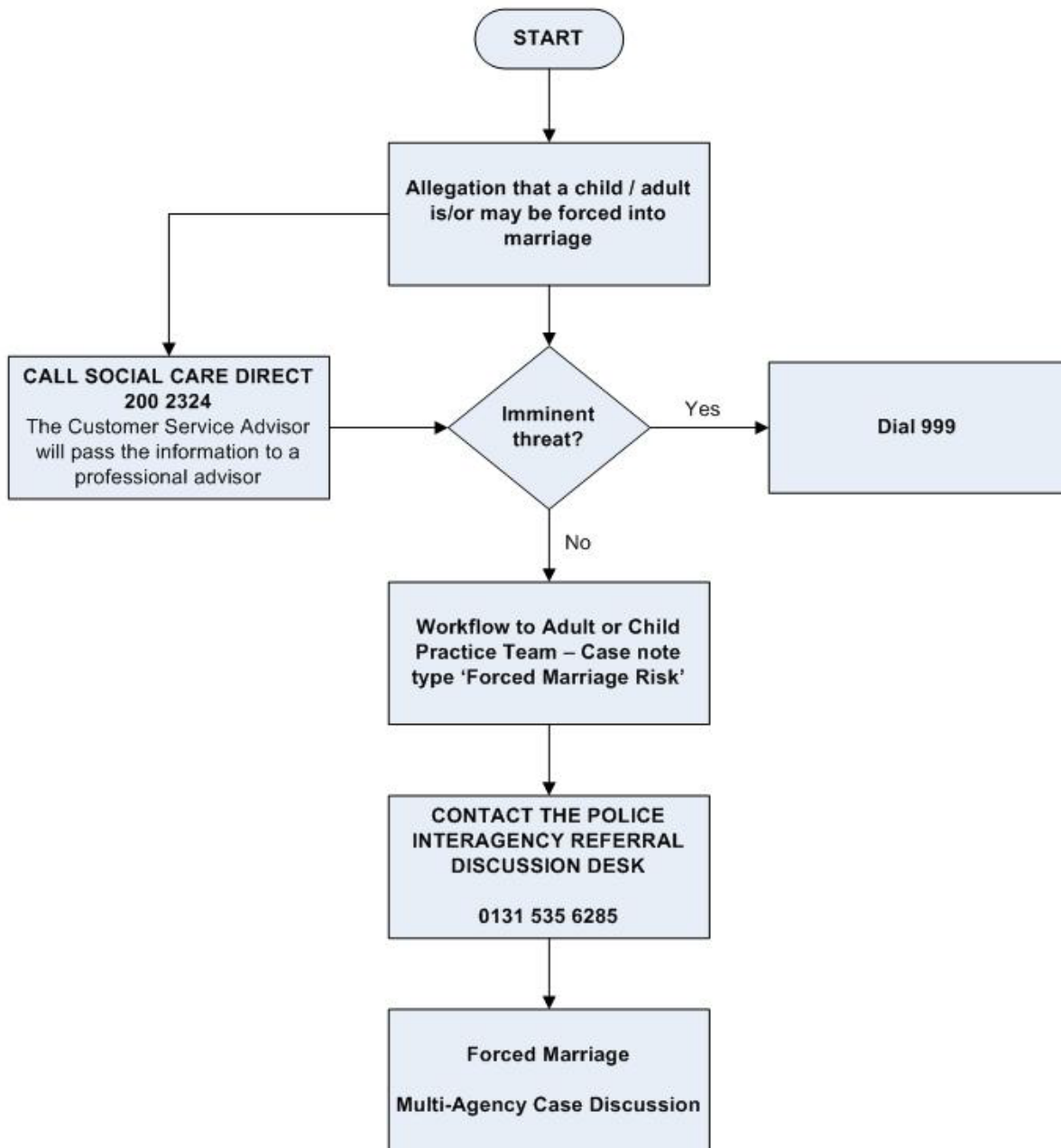
- i. see the victim on her/his own – even if s/he is accompanied by others
- ii. see her/him immediately in a secure and private place where you will not be overheard
- iii. reassure her/him that you will not give information to family / friends or community
- iv. take what s/he says seriously
- v. ensure an independent translator¹ is available if necessary
- vi. be aware a woman may not be allowed or willing to speak to a male worker alone
- vii. recognise and respect her/his wishes
- viii. obtain as much information as possible from her/him about the situation and the risks s/he faces
- ix. agree a way to contact her/him safely (for example, agree a code word)
- x. obtain full details and record these safely to pass on to Social Care Direct or the police
- xi. explain all the options to her/him and their possible outcomes, as much as you are able
- xii. give her/him (or help her/him memorise) your contact details and/or those of a support agency, such as Shakti

¹*There are risks in using interpreters so you should be cautious and ensure they are professional, independent and have no links with the community or victim's family. Make sure the interpreter understands that their role is to translate verbatim and not "interpret" the message or censor / omit any of the information.*

xiii. consider the need for immediate police involvement, protection and placement away from the family, and arrange this if necessary; this includes any action to stop her/him from being removed from the UK (please see FMU contact details below)

- 11.3.2. Be ready to inform victims about their options - both civil and criminal, the help available and how to get it. Advising a woman that she can apply for a Forced Marriage Protection Order may help reduce any anxiety about criminal sanction.
- 11.3.3. The consent of the victim is not a prerequisite for criminal proceedings. The views of the victim would be one factor for prosecutors to consider when deciding whether to initiate or continue with criminal proceedings in any particular case.
- 11.3.4. However, prosecutors have a duty to make decisions based on the wider public interest.
- 11.3.5. Contact Social Care Direct immediately if you become aware that forced marriage may be an issue. It is important not to contact the victim's friends / family, community or community leaders or attempt to mediate with them.
- 11.3.6. How services will align with the family will be considered as part of the forced marriage multi-agency discussion, which will take place following the referral to Social Care Direct.
- 11.3.7. All forced marriage multi-agency case discussions will be recorded as IRDs on the eIRD system. If under 16, or under 18 and in full time education – child protection eIRD; if over 18 or aged 16-18 and not in full time education – adult protection eIRD.

Allegation that a Child/Adult is/or may be forced into Marriage



Planning options from forced marriage case discussion – considerations could include: investigation of criminal offence, safe use of interpreters, locking down records, support from Shakti, or other relevant specialist agency, application for Forced Marriage Protection Order, initiation of further adult and child protection processes, identifying any other / younger siblings who may also be at risk, risk assessments and safety plan completed, travel / abduction precautions (passport details / dual passports / immigration status), Trigger Plan if child disappears, including list of all vehicles used by family, full details of extended family (addresses in UK and abroad), photograph of victim / DNA sample taken/details of distinguishing marks, details of school attended and school contact, establish regular safe contact.

Implementation

12. Implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all City of Edinburgh Council employees working in public protection, as well as of professionals in the voluntary sector who are represented in the Council's Public Protection Committees.

Roles and Responsibilities

13. Useful contacts for general advice and guidance:

All agencies should follow the procedure above if forced marriage cases are identified. However, the contacts below can provide general advice and guidance.

Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline

Free helpline with trained advisors on hand 24 hours a day

0800 027 1234; www.sdafmh.org.uk

Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)

You should contact the FMU if you know or suspect that a child or adult victim is being taken out of Scotland or out of the UK. It can assist in alerting the police and authorities at points of departure so that the victim and those accompanying the victim can be prevented from leaving the UK.

Tel: 020 7008 0151 (Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm); Email: fmu@fco.gov.uk.

Lead person within each agency

Each agency has a lead person for forced marriage who can offer general guidance and advice.

City of Edinburgh Council

Social Care Direct

If you are concerned about forced marriage, you can refer a child or adult to Social Care Direct for support through Social Work.

Tel: 0131 200 2324

(Monday- Thursday 8.30am-5pm and Friday 8.30am to 3.55pm_

Outside office hours, you can contact Emergency Social Work:

0800 731 6969

(Monday to Thursday 5pm-8.30am and Weekends from Friday 3.55pm to Monday 8.30am)

Email: socialcaredirect@edinburgh.gov.uk

Police Scotland

In an emergency, or if someone's life is at risk, call 999.

If it is not an emergency, contact Police Scotland on 101.

Other sources of support

Other organisations and agencies that can provide support, advice and information can be found on the City of Edinburgh Council website :

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/domestic-abuse/support-women-abused>

Related documents

14.1. Relevant Council Policies and Procedures:

- 14.1.1. Adult Support and Protection: Enduring rights and preventing harm: (Adult Protection Multi-Agency Guidelines available at: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/27072/adult-support-and-protection-multi-agency-guidelines>)
- 14.1.2. City of Edinburgh Council Adult Protection Policy (available at: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/26915/adult-protection-policy>)
- 14.1.3. City of Edinburgh Council Adult Protection Procedure (available at: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/26916/adult-protection-procedure>)
- 14.1.4. City of Edinburgh Council Child Protection Procedures (available at: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/23055/child-protection-procedures>)
- 14.1.5. Edinburgh and the Lothians Inter-Agency Procedures for the Protection of Girls and Women at Risk of Female Genital Mutilation (available at: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/23066/inter-agency-procedures-for-the-protection-of-girls-and-women-at-risk-of-female-genital-mutilation>)

14.2. Further information:

Practitioner guidance: multi-agency guidance intended to inform all frontline staff and volunteers within agencies who are likely to come across adults or children and young people threatened with or in a forced marriage and who are at risk of the abuse associated with this. There is specific guidance for:

- health workers
- school, college and university staff
- police officers
- children and families social workers
- adult support and protection staff
- local authority housing

Practitioner guidance can be accessed [here](#)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/10/4797>

Statutory guidance: guidance describes the responsibilities of chief executives, directors and senior managers within agencies involved in handling cases of forced marriage. It covers roles and responsibilities, accountability, training, inter-agency working and information sharing, risk assessment and information sharing, risk assessment and record keeping.

Pdf version of statutory guidance can be accessed [here](#)

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/public/GirfecFalkirk/uploads/sites/2017/2015/06/Forced-Marriage-Statutory-Guidance-2014.pdf>

Integrated impact assessment

15. The Integrated Impact Assessment for the revision of the City of Edinburgh Council's Forced Marriage Policy identified that this is a much-needed update of a policy relevant to all areas of public protection.

15.1. The revised Forced Marriage policy has broadened the spectrum of the original policy to include a wider range of people with protected characteristics.

15.2. As Forced Marriage is a sensitive issue involving personal characteristics, family and community dynamics, it is possible to expect both possible positive and negative outcomes for people affected. This review is intended to reflect best practice for all professionals and agencies involved in both supporting survivors and people at risk of Forced Marriage

- 15.3. The revised Forced Marriage Policy makes more explicit mention of the risk factors for specific populations with particular characteristics, both protected and not protected by the 2010 Equality Act
- 15.4. The Integrated Impact Assessment did not find any positive or negative environmental impacts as a result of this policy review.
- 15.5. The Integrated Impact Assessment has been published on the City of Edinburgh Council's Communities and Families Integrated Impact Assessment webpage: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/1442777/review-of-forced-marriage-policy>

Risk assessment

16. This policy represents an overarching statement in relation to the multi-agency assessment and management of risk of forced marriage. It seeks to reduce and mitigate risks to those at risk of forced marriage as described in the Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011.

Review

17. This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis.