

DECISION NO: PCCG-2018-023

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

LEAD CHIEF OFFICER: ACC Rhiannon Kirk

TITLE: Force Marriage, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation

DATE: 7th April 2018

TIMING: Routine

PURPOSE: For Information

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 The recommendation is for the Police and Crime Commissioner to note the details contained within this report.

2. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

2.1 Honour-based violence (HBV) is the term used to refer to a collection of practices used predominantly to control the behaviour of women and girls within families or other social groups in order to protect supposed cultural and religious beliefs, values and social norms in the name of 'honour'. HBV incidents and crimes include specific types of offence, such as forced marriage (FM) and female genital mutilation (FGM). HBV is used to refer to the full range of incidents and crimes which can be carried out under the guise of maintaining or protecting perceived 'honour'.

2.1.1 The definition of HBV includes assault, sexual assault, murder and other general crimes resulting from notions of honour, along with specific honour-based crimes such as forced marriage (FM) and female genital mutilation (FGM).

2.1.2 FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO).


2.1.3 A marriage is forced if one or both spouses does or do not consent to it, but is or are coerced into it. Such coercion and duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. In the cases of some vulnerable adults who lack the capacity to consent, coercion is not required for a marriage to be forced.

2.2 HBV can have lasting physical and psychological impact on victims.

2.3 At the Strategy and Performance Board held on 22nd March 2018, The Police and Crime Commissioner requested a report containing the number of

	recorded HBV incidents within Gwent Police over the last 12 months and the details of any proactive engagement work undertaken. This report is intended to provide that information.
3.	<u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u>
3.1	In the last 12 months (April 2017-March 2018) there have been no crimes recorded in Gwent Police that fall into any of the above categories.
3.2	Within this time frame there have been a small number of incidents that have had an Honour Based Violence (HBV) tag added to the incident but upon being reviewed it was noted that there were not any actual HBV issues presented.
3.3	Whilst there have been no recorded crimes within the above categories within the last 12 months, Gwent Police understands that there is a need to engage with communities to provide education into the matter and breakdown barriers to encourage reporting. The below lists the activity taking place to achieve this:
3.3.1	<p>Multi-agency through the 'All-Wales based Violence (HBV) delivery group.</p> <p>Gwent police form part of the All-Wales HBV delivery group.</p> <p>The All Wales HBV Leadership Group is made up of key strategic decision makers from statutory devolved, and non-statutory devolved organisations and from other organisations including the voluntary sector.</p> <p>The aim of the Leadership Group is to provide strategic direction for the delivery of tackling HBV in Wales. The Group is in a unique position to add value by co-ordinating collaboration between partners to plan and support delivery in Wales, thereby maximising the opportunities presented by the delivery landscape</p> <p>The All Wales Honour based Violence (HBV) Delivery Plan sets out the framework for key partners to contribute to tackling HBV in Wales, whilst providing the best possible support to survivors.</p> <p>A copy of the delivery plan for 2016-2018 is appended at annex 1</p>
3.3.2	<p>Awareness Sessions</p> <p>During the summer of 2017, a multi-agency campaign was held with education and health partners to raise awareness of HBV and in particular FGM.</p> <p>Recently, the force has assisted other partners with raising awareness at Cardiff Airport, which was targeted at the individuals vulnerable to HBV either returning to or leaving the country</p>
3.3.3	<p>Resources</p> <p>A newly appointed position has been created at Detective Chief Inspector level to oversee the force's response to domestic abuse which includes HBV in addition to other areas of domestic abuse.</p>

3.3.3	<p>Training</p> <p>The newly appointed Domestic Abuse DCI (DCI Maloney) has put together a task and finish group to look at training, risk assessment and links with partner agencies.</p> <p>An outcome of this will be two force champions, one in each Local Policing Area who will become tactical advisors and be able to provide further training to officers and staff to upskill them and to continue to provide awareness of HBV.</p>
3.3.4	<p>A domestic abuse Detective Inspector delivers a training input on all HBV issues to all new recruits so that they are equipped with the knowledge to be able to recognise and respond to HBV.</p>
3.3.5	<p>The Diversity and Inclusion Manager along with the DCI (Domestic Abuse) are in the process of arranging sessions to link in with community groups to raise awareness of HBV and other forms of domestic abuse. This is to gain confidence in our local communities to report issues to the police and to dismiss any myths held by these communities. It also gives Gwent Police the opportunity to signpost these communities to relevant support services who deliver bespoke support, advice and guidance.</p>
4.	<p><u>NEXT STEPS</u></p>
4.1	<p>Gwent Police will continue with proactive engagement work around HBV and deal with any reported incidents.</p>
4.2	<p>The PCC notes the detail contained within this report.</p>
5.	<p><u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u></p>
5.1	<p>There are no financial considerations specific to the briefing information contained within this report.</p>
6.	<p><u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u></p>
6.2	<p>The report also highlights training delivered to officers to ensure they are able to recognise and respond to HBV incidents.</p>
7.	<p><u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u></p>
7.1	<p>Widely speaking, the force could face legal challenge if they insufficiently responded to HBV.</p>
7.2	<p>There are no legal implications specific to the detail contained within this briefing report.</p>
8.	<p><u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u></p>
8.1	<p>This report has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.</p>
8.2	<p>In preparing this report, consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.</p>

9.	<u>RISK</u>
9.1	There is a risk that HBV will be underreported and dealt with incorrectly if the force did not continue with the proactive engagement and multi-agency work detailed within this report.
10.	<u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u>
10.1	The Public have the right to expect that any HBV reports are dealt with correctly and the police are proactive in their approach.
10.2	This document is publically available.
11.	<u>CONTACT OFFICER</u>
11.1	D/Supt Leanne Brustad
12.	<u>ANNEXES</u>
12.1	The All Wales HBV Leadership Group delivering plan (2016-2018)  All Wales Honour based Violence Leac

Jeff Cuthbert B.SC., MDIPD, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signed



Date

21/5/18

Contact Officer

Name

ACC Kirk

Position

Assistant Chief Constable

Telephone

01633 642200

Email

Commissioner@gwent.pnn.police.uk

Background papers

All Wales HBV Leadership Group
Delivery Plan 2016-18

