

Our priority

'Honour' based abuse (or HBA) describes a range of controlling actions which put pressure on individuals to conform to social, cultural, or religious norms. In extreme cases, HBA can include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), forced marriage or other aspects of domestic abuse. Victims of HBA can find themselves in conflict with the people they care about the most and can be left feeling that there is nowhere they can go for help. As a consequence, it is vital that victims can be confident that the police and criminal justice system will handle complaints sensitively, bring perpetrators to justice, and that providers of victims' services are able to provide the right support. The OPCC has brought people together to raise awareness about HBA across all the communities of West Yorkshire, for example through 2015's FGM Partnership Conference.

How we are going to deliver

Under-reporting can make it difficult to estimate the true impact of honour based abuse, which is why closer collaboration between partners is needed (particularly in the health sector) to help understand the scale and the impact of the problem. Awareness of HBA crimes is increasing but we will continue to work with all relevant organisations and community groups. Together we will:

- Engage with and listen to those affected by this awful crime to ensure that we can support victims in the best way possible, and build an understanding of the vulnerabilities of others. **Listening to people.**
- Ensure partners have a greater understanding of the broad spectrum of groups and communities that may be affected by HBA and the severity of the problems in our communities. We will work with community, faith, education, and health organisations to build understanding and inform prevention programmes and victim services **Understanding our communities.**
- Partners will comply with the duty to report and refer HBA accordingly. We will monitor their compliance and identify barriers that may prevent reporting and referrals and victims having the confidence to report. We will also monitor the number of FGM and Forced Marriage orders. **Working together.**
- Bringing partners together through the Domestic Abuse Board to identify better short term and long term support services for victims, survivors and those affected by HBA. Encourage joint-working and, in particular, the sharing of information. **Preventing and intervening earlier.**
- Consult with partners and communities to identify ways to improve the services we provide and strengthen our collective response to these crimes when they happen. We will look for ways to provide tailored support to the victims of these crimes. **Improving our services.**
- Support partners in raising awareness through joint campaigns and support projects, and work with victims of all types of HBA, including forced marriage and FGM. Encourage grass-roots education and prevention projects, for example through the Safer Communities Fund. **Providing resources**

How we will know whether we've delivered

We will measure our progress against this priority through our Community Outcome Meetings, through which an in depth report into HBA will present the progress of the OPCC, West Yorkshire Police, and relevant partners against the objectives above. It will draw on a range of information available including HMIC inspection reports, national guidance, and statistical indicators including those listed below. In addition to this, we will monitor performance through our Delivery Quarterly process and will carry out more detailed analysis where necessary.

- The volume of HBA crimes will increase as more people are confident to report it.
- More projects, campaigns and initiatives focused on HBA will be supported by the Safer Communities Fund.
- HMIC will grade West Yorkshire Police as GOOD in how it safeguards vulnerable people.