



Forced Marriage & Safeguarding: Practice Guidance 2015

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Part One Guidance

1. Purpose

1.1 The threat of a possible forced marriage is something that many young people find hard to talk about. They may not want to reveal details about their family or put themselves in a position where they may be separated from their family and community. However, many young people in this position do want help and wish to be asked about their situation.

2. Scope

2.1 This guidance is designed to provide professionals and practitioners in Swindon with information and advice about how to respond to indications that a young person is at risk of a Forced Marriage. This guidance is only to be used in conjunction with victims of forced marriage who are under 18.

2.2 The guidance is generally focussed on women. This is because 85% of those seeking help regarding forced marriage are women. Also, the consequences of Forced Marriage for women are different than those for men. However, much of the advice given also applies to men and men at risk should be provided with the same level of assistance and respect when they seek help to avoid or leave a forced marriage.

2.3 This guidance is based on [Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage; HM Government, 2009](#).¹ And should be read in conjunction with [South West Child Protection Procedures](#).²

3. Definitions and difference between forced and arranged marriage

3.0.1 There is a clear distinction between a forced marriage and an arranged marriage. In arranged marriages, the families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage but the choice whether or not to accept the arrangement remains with the prospective spouses. In forced marriages, one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some vulnerable adults, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.

3.0.2 The government regards forced marriage as an abuse of human rights and a form of domestic abuse and, where it affects children and young people, child abuse. It can happen to both men and women although most cases involve young women and girls aged between 13 and 30. There is no “typical” victim of forced marriage. Some may be under 18 years old, some may be over 18 years old, some may have a disability, some may have young children and some may be spouses from overseas.

¹ www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage

² www.swcpp.org.uk

3.1 **Forced Marriage definition** - A marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some adults with learning or physical disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure”.¹ Forced marriage cannot be justified on religious grounds; every major religion condemns it and freely given consent is a prerequisite of Christian Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh marriages.

3.2 **Honour based violence definition** - The terms “honour crime” or “honour-based violence” or “izzat” embrace a variety of crimes of violence (mainly, but not exclusively, against women), including assault, imprisonment and murder, where the person is being punished by their family or their community. They are being punished for actually, or allegedly, undermining what the family or community believes to be the correct code of behaviour. In transgressing this correct code of behaviour, the person shows that they have not been properly controlled to conform by their family. This is to the “shame” or “dishonour” of the family.

3.3 **The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)**

The FMU is a joint Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Home Office unit which works with other government departments, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations to develop effective policy for tackling forced marriage. The FMU is always happy to talk to frontline practitioners handling cases of forced marriage at any stage in a case. It can offer information and advice on the range of tools available to combat forced marriage, including legal remedies, overseas assistance and how to approach victims. Staff from the FMU can also speak at conferences or run training workshops to teams of frontline practitioners, and provide free leaflets and posters.

4. Prevalence

4.1 The Report published by DCSF Forced Marriage - Prevalence and Service Response (2008) found that:

- The number of cases of either actual or threatened Forced Marriage (FM) is estimated to be between 5,000 and 8,000. This estimate does not include a potentially large number of victims who have not come to the attention of any agencies or professionals, since a large general population survey would be required to estimate the prevalence of these ‘hidden’ victims.
- Within local organisations, 41% of reported cases concerned victims under the age of 18.
- Of the FM cases reported to local, almost two-thirds related to threats of marriage (62%) and just over one-third (38%) related to marriages that had taken place.
- Whilst FM is not exclusively an issue for Asian communities, 97% of those seeking help or advice relating to FM from local organisations was identified as Asian. This closely reflects the data regarding country of origin held by the FMU for the cases which have come to their attention, where in 2008 64% of cases related to Pakistani victims, 15% related to Bangladeshi victims, and 8% related to Indian victims

¹ Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of Forced Marriage; HM Government, 2009

- 96% of FM cases reported to local organisations related to female victims and only 4% to male victims.

5. Communities at Risk

5.1 The majority of cases of forced marriage reported to date in the UK involve South Asian families. This is partly a reflection of the fact that there is a large, established South Asian population in the UK. However, it is clear that forced marriage is not solely a South Asian problem and there have been cases involving families from the Middle East, Europe and Africa. Some forced marriages take place in the UK with no overseas element, while others involve a partner coming from overseas or a British citizen being sent abroad. There are particular risks to people, in the communities outlined that have learning difficulties. Any professional working with young people that have learning difficulties, from the communities outlined, should consider the possible risk of forced marriage. Where one or other young person being forced to marry is an adult the Safeguarding Adults Team should always be contacted.

5.2 Those at heightened risk from forced marriage would include:

- young people, 13 -18 years old
- girls
- young people with learning difficulties
- young people with physical disabilities;
- young people who are perceived by their families to be presenting difficult or challenging behaviours;
- young people who are suffering from mental health issues;
- young people who are perceived to be more westernised in their outlook.

5.3 Forced Marriage and Learning Disabilities

5.3.1 The forced marriage of people with learning difficulties is a largely hidden problem. Little data has been collected on prevalence and there is a widespread lack of awareness of the particular features of such forced marriages. Instead, the information we have has largely come from the frontline professionals who have encountered cases.

5.3.2 The majority of the cases of forced marriage reported to date in the UK involve South Asian families (Forced Marriage Unit). The prevalence of learning disabilities in South Asian communities is up to three times higher than in other communities, primarily for reasons of social and material deprivation as well as issues over access to health-care⁴.

5.3.3 Why are people with learning disabilities forced into marriage?

5.3.4 People with learning disabilities may be forced into marriage for the same reasons that anyone is forced into marriage. However, there are reasons which are more specific to these cases.

- Marriage can be seen as a means of providing a carer and continuing support. Parents may be primary carers. As they get older and less able to provide support, they may view marriage as a means of ensuring continuing care for their son or daughter with learning disabilities.
- Marriage can be seen as a means of improving the chances of getting a visa to the UK . A person with learning disabilities may be seen as easier to deceive or coerce into such a marriage and into then acting as a visa sponsor.

- Families may believe that marriage will “cure” learning disabilities and/or allow a person with learning disabilities to lead a “normal” life.
- Young people who have a learning disabilities have the right to marry. However, assistance must be provided to people with learning disabilities, who have capacity, entering into marriage to ensure (a) informed consent to marriage and sex and (b) understanding by both spouses of what their marriage might entail.

6. Legislation

- 6.0.1 There is no specific criminal offence in England and Wales of “forcing someone to marry”. Criminal offences may nevertheless be committed.
- 6.0.2 Perpetrators – usually parents or family members – could be prosecuted for offences including threatening behaviour, assault, kidnap, abduction, theft (of passport), threats to kill, imprisonment and murder.
- 6.0.3 Sexual intercourse without consent is rape, regardless of whether this occurs within a marriage or not.
- 6.0.4 Under UK law, forced marriage of a child/young person under 18 is child abuse.

6.1 Legal remedies to protect children

- 6.1.1 For a child/young person who is in immediate danger, the police can use Powers of Protection and anyone including children’s social care can apply for an Emergency Protection Order (Children Act 1989).
- 6.1.2 An application for a care or supervision order can be made under the Children Act 1989 or ward ship proceedings may be issued in the High Court; especially if the Young person is being moved to a place of safety outside the care of their family of origin.
- 6.1.3 Forced Marriage Protection Orders can be sought under the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. The Act makes provision for protecting both adults and children at risk of being forced into marriage and offers protection for those who have already been forced into marriage.

6.2 Where a Forced Marriage has already taken place

- 6.2.1 A spouse who is the victim of a forced marriage can initiate nullity (as long as this is initiated within three years of the date of the marriage) or divorce proceedings to end the marriage.
- 6.2.2 The child or young person should be informed that a religious divorce would not end the marriage under UK law.
- 6.2.3 A child or young person can also take action to protect themselves under the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007, Family Law Act 1996 and the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. These orders include:
- Forced marriage protection order;
 - Non-molestation order;
 - Occupation order;
 - Injunction against harassment.

6.2.4 Any young person who wishes to access any of the above legal remedies must be strongly advised to seek independent legal advice from an appropriately qualified and experienced solicitor.

6.3 Parental Responsibility

6.3.1 Who has parental responsibility?

A mother automatically has parental responsibility for her child from birth. However, the conditions for fathers gaining parental responsibility varies throughout the UK

6.3.2 For births registered in England and Wales

In England and Wales, if the parents of a child are married to each other at the time of the birth, or if they have jointly adopted a child, then they both have parental responsibility. Parents do not lose parental responsibility if they divorce this applies to both the resident and the non-resident parent.

6.3.3 This is not automatically the case for unmarried parents. According to current law, a mother always has parental responsibility for her child. A father, however, has this responsibility only if he is married to the mother when the child is born or has acquired legal responsibility for his child through one of these three routes:

- (from 1 December 2003) by jointly registering the birth of the child with the mother;
- by a parental responsibility agreement with the mother;
- by a parental responsibility order, made by a court.

6.3.4 Living with the mother, even for a long time, does not give a father parental responsibility and if the parents are not married, parental responsibility does not always pass to the natural father if the mother dies.

6.3.5 All parents (including adoptive parents) have a legal duty to financially support their child, whether they have parental responsibility or not.

6.3.6 A Local Authority can also take on and 'share' parental responsibility with a child's parents if a court has granted an interim or full care order (s.31 Children Act 1989). This is done in order to ensure that the Local Authority has the powers to act to protect a child or young person (e.g. in moving a child to a place of safety to avoid the risk of harm from parents due to a risk of Forced Marriage)

7. Consequences of Forced Marriage

7.1 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.

7.2 In some cases they suffer violence and abuse from the extended family, often being forced to undertake all the household chores for the family.

7.3 Victims are frequently trapped in a relationship marred by physical and sexual abuse.

7.4 The impact this has on children within the marriage is immense.

7.5 Both male and female victims of forced marriage may feel that running away is their only option. For many people, especially women from black and minority ethnic

communities, leaving their family can be especially hard. They may have no experience of life outside the family. Leaving may mean they lose their children and friends.

7.6 Those that do leave often live in fear of their own families who will go to considerable lengths to find them and ensure their return.

7.7 Families may solicit the help of others to find family members who have run away, or involve the police by reporting them missing or falsely accusing the person of a crime (for example theft). Some families have traced individuals through medical and dental records, bounty hunters, private investigators, local taxi drivers, members of the community and shopkeepers or through National Insurance numbers, benefit records, school and college records.

7.8 Sometimes, having traced them, the family may subject them to further violence or abuse or even murder them (so called "honour killing").

7.9 Options available to persons facing Forced Marriage

7.9.1 If someone fears they may be forced to marry, there are limited choices:

- Leave their family, start a new life and possibly have to remain in hiding.
- Leave their family, start a new life knowing they face a life of ostracism and isolation.
- Leave their family, start a new life and prosecute their family.
- Return to the family and hope the situation can be resolved.
- Seek legal protection.

7.9.2 If someone is already trapped in a forced marriage, there are limited choices:

- Stay with the marriage.
- Flee the marriage, start a new life and possibly have to remain in hiding.
- Leave their family, start a new life knowing they face a life of ostracism and isolation.
- Flee the marriage, start a new life and prosecute the family.
- Leave the family and publicly refuse to sponsor their spouses visa application for entry to the UK (a young person cannot act as a sponsor until age 21).

8. Signs and Symptoms

8.1 Warning signs of actual/potential victim of Forced Marriage

- Absence and persistent absence from School or College
- Request for extended leave of absence from School or College and failure to return from visits to country of origin
- Siblings forced to marry
- Early marriage of siblings
- Self-harm or suicide of sibling
- Running away from home
- Accompanied to doctors or clinic
- Self-harm
- Attempted suicide
- Being withdrawn from school by those with parental responsibility and not being provided with suitable education at home
- Sudden announcement of engagement to a stranger
- a girl may report that she has been taken to the doctor's, to be examined to see if she is a virgin.

- cut or shaved hair as a form of punishment for being disobedient

8.2 Less common warning signs includes:

- Some women have presented with symptoms associated with poisoning.
- In certain communities, it is important that women undergo female genital mutilation (FGM) before they marry. Usually this will be performed during childhood but there have been reports of young girls or young women undergoing FGM just before a forced marriage. **FGM has been illegal in the UK since 1987 and it is also a criminal offence to take someone overseas for the purposes of FGM.** For more information on FGM, go to www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/

9. Do's and Don'ts: First Steps

The 'One Chance' Rule

Practitioners only have one chance to speak to a potential victim and thus they may only have one chance to save a life. All practitioners working within statutory agencies need to be aware of their responsibilities and obligations when they come across forced marriage cases. If the victim is allowed to walk out of the door without support being offered, that one chance might be wasted

9.1 What to do

9.1.1 Forced Marriage places individuals at risk of rape and possible physical harm. Some cases have resulted in the reluctant spouse being murdered. Where an allegation of Forced Marriage is raised, by a young person or a third party, the following steps should be taken:

9.1.2 Do Not:

- ✗ send the individual away in the belief that it is not being taken seriously; inform the victim's family, friends or members of the community that the victim has sought help; or
- ✓ attempt to be a mediator (this could greatly increase the risk to the young person, there have been instances where the young person has been murdered during attempts to mediate it could also further expose the young person to emotional abuse and unwarranted pressure).
- ✓ breach confidentiality (i.e. inform their family of the disclosure)

9.1.3 Do:

- ✓ see the individual immediately in a secure and private place
- ✓ see the individual on their own – even if they attend with other
- ✓ obtain and record as much information as possible as this may be the one chance to do so!
- ✓ if the person is under 18 refer them to your agencies designated lead for safeguarding children before you refer to children's social care
- ✓ ask them sensitively how things are at home
- ✓ don't be afraid to ask direct questions regarding your concerns, e.g. Where are they going on holiday? How long for? Do they want to go? Has anyone discussed marriage with them?
- ✓ recognise and respect the individual's wishes

- ✓ remind them that they have the right to enter into a marriage with their full and free consent and the right to make decisions about their lives
- ✓ establish a means of contacting the person discreetly in the future
- ✓ Following initial contact safety measures will need to be discussed, this will include establishing a means of contact and code word as you suggest but also a cover story
 - If someone else picks up the phone who are you?
 - If victim is followed and seen with you what should she say?
 - If you are confronted at a meeting who are you?
 - You must agree a cover story.

10. Prompts to ask and information to gather

10.1 Information to be gathered

10.1.1 The following information will be needed when dealing with a disclosure of Forced Marriage in order to ensure that the relevant agencies i.e. Police, Children's Social Care, are able to act to protect the young person. If possible attempt to gather the information detailed below. If this is not possible still make the referral.

- ✓ Details of the person making the allegation; their contact details; their relationship to the young person under threat. Date of the allegation/disclosure. Details of the young person, including:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Nationality
 - Age
 - Date and place of birth
 - Immigration status (is the young person a British National, do they have dual nationality, are they a foreign national and have leave to remain in the UK)
 - Passport details
 - School details
 - Employment details
 - Full details of the allegation
 - Name and address of parents or those with parental responsibility
 - National Insurance number (if they have one)
 - Driving licence number (if they have one)
 - A list from the person under threat of all friends and family who can be trusted, including their contact details.
- ✓ Background information including:
 - Schools attended
 - Previous involvement with children's social care or Team Around the Child
 - Doctors
 - Other Health Services (e.g. CAMHS)
- ✓ Details about any threats, abuse or other hostile action against the person, whether reported by the young person or a third party
- ✓ If possible obtain a recent photograph or other identification documents
- ✓ Record any distinguishing features, e.g. birthmarks, tattoos, etc.
- ✓ Establish the nature and level of risk to the safety of the young person. For example:
 - Is she pregnant (consider the potential risk to the unborn baby)?

- Do they have a secret boyfriend or girlfriend? (if this is the case there may also be a risk to the boyfriend and a referral may also need to be considered to ensure that they are protected).
- ✓ Establish if there are any other family members at risk of forced marriage or if there is a family history of forced marriage or abuse.

10.2 Information to be gathered if young person is going abroad

- ✓ A photocopy of their passport for retention. Encourage them to keep details of their passport number and the place and date of issue.
- ✓ As much information as possible about the family, including:
 - Full name and date of birth of the person under threat
 - Their parents' names
 - Any address where they may be staying overseas
 - Potential spouse's name (if known)
 - Date of the proposed wedding (if known)
 - The names of the potential spouse's parents (if known)
 - Addresses of the extended family in the UK and overseas and any known phone numbers.
- ✓ Information that only they would be aware of (if the victim is a British national, this may assist any subsequent interview at an Embassy/British High Commission in case another person of the same age and gender is produced pretending to be them).
- ✓ Details of any travel plans and people likely to accompany them.
- ✓ Names and addresses of any close relatives remaining in the UK.
- ✓ A safe means by which to contact them e.g. a mobile telephone that will function overseas. Record the number.
- ✓ Details of the third party in order to maintain contact in case the person contacts them whilst overseas or on her return.
- ✓ An estimated return date. Ask that they contact you without fail on their return.
- ✓ A written statement by the person explaining that they want the police, children's social care, a teacher or a third party to act on their behalf if they do not return by a certain date.

11. Children's Social Care

11.0.1 Children's social care (Local Authority) has a duty to make enquiries where it is alleged that a child has been or is likely to suffer abuse or neglect under S.47 Children Act 1989. Forced Marriage is child abuse and places children and young people at risk of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

11.1 Actions to be taken on receipt of a referral regarding Forced Marriage

- ✓ Any referral received from another agency alleging Forced Marriage must be immediately treated as a child protection referral and appropriate enquiries undertaken

Enquiries should include:

- discussion of the allegation with the forced marriage unit
 - checks of police and social care records (including adult care) for past referrals of family members to include domestic violence/missing person referrals (See 'signs and symptoms').
 - Talk to the young person about whether they can avoid being taken overseas where this is the particular concern if unavoidable gather relevant information see 'prompts to ask and information to gather'
 - liaise with the school, college to identify any concerns
 - consider implications of dual nationality
- ✓ follow the flow chart in appendix 4
 - ✓ take the appropriate action to protect the young person, this could include:
 - seeking advice from the legal department
 - if the risk to the young person is immediate consider obtaining a court order or it may be necessary for the police to use their powers of protection (see Legal advice)
 - ensure that the young person is provided with accommodation that will ensure that they are safe
 - when providing a young person with accommodation (e.g. foster care) be mindful that the young person may not wish to be placed with someone from the same community/ ethnic background as they may continue to feel vulnerable.

11.1.1 Do not:

- * attempt to mediate or involve the family in any enquiry, to do so could place the young person at significant risk of harm ;
- * visit the family to ask them whether it is true that they are planning to force their son/daughter into a forced marriage;
- * write to the family to invite them to a meeting to answer the allegation that they are forcing their child to marry;
- * when using transport including taking a young person to new or emergency accommodation do not use taxi's (informal networks of taxi drivers have been used to provide information regarding the whereabouts of young people to family members this would place the young person at risk).

11.1.2 Where the Young Person (under 18) has been brought into the UK by their spouses family as part of a Forced Marriage and does not wish to remain in the marriage children's social care should:

- ✓ consider the young person in the same manner as an unaccompanied asylum seeking minor;
- ✓ provide the young person with accommodation under S.20 Children Act 1989

- ✓ even if the young person has children of their own they should be still regarded as an unaccompanied child.
- 11.2.3 **In all cases the team manager will hold an immediate telephone strategy discussion with the police. Because of the complexity and very high risk of these cases this will need to be followed up by a strategy meeting within 48 hours.**
- 11.2 **Provision of accommodation**
- 11.2.1 Children and young people who have been forced to marry and those that have become estranged from their families due to their refusal to accept a forced marriage will often require accommodation for a long period to enable them to establish a life away from their families. Accommodation provided to young people must be safe and be able to protect them from attempts to trace them by family through formal and informal means. The Police (CAIT) should always be consulted and would be the lead agency in making arrangements for the safe provision of alternative accommodation whenever there is a need to provide alternative safe accommodation for a young person. Planning for the provision of safe accommodation for a young person must be done by a service manager and the Detective Inspector responsible for CAIT
- 11.2.2 S.20 Children Act 1989 requires every local authority to provide accommodation for any child in need within their area who has reached the age of 16 and whose welfare the local authority considers is likely to be seriously prejudiced if they do not provide them with accommodation.
- 11.2.3 The local authority also has the power to provide accommodation under s.17 if there is not a need for the young person to be 'looked after'. However, the use of this power is almost always used to provide accommodation for a child with their family. Provision of accommodation under this power is unlikely to provide a young person with the necessary level of protection they need. However, the young person may not wish to be 'looked after' and alternative accommodation should be considered where this is the case (e.g. refuge, hostel accommodation).
- 11.2.4 When a young person is estranged from their family or at risk because of their refusal to accept a forced marriage (even if this marriage has already occurred) the local authority should provide accommodation under s.20.
- 11.2.5 Where the young person is under 16 they can be offered accommodation under s.20 as an alternative to becoming subject of a Care Order. However, parental responsibility remains with their parents until they reach 16 and the local authority will not be able to provide the same level of protection afforded by a Care Order.
- 11.2.6 Where a person has been provided with emergency accommodation and then seeks to move to more independent accommodation it remains the duty of the local authority to provide accommodation where the young person is looked after under s.20 or provided with accommodation under s.17. When planning a move to more independent accommodation it is important that the young person is fully consulted and that their wishes and feelings are taken into account.
- 11.2.7 A young person may be in the 'looked after' by the local authority for some time after leaving their family. Where the young person has been looked after by the local authority for 13 weeks or more and has ceased to be looked after the local authority continues to have a duty to support the young person.

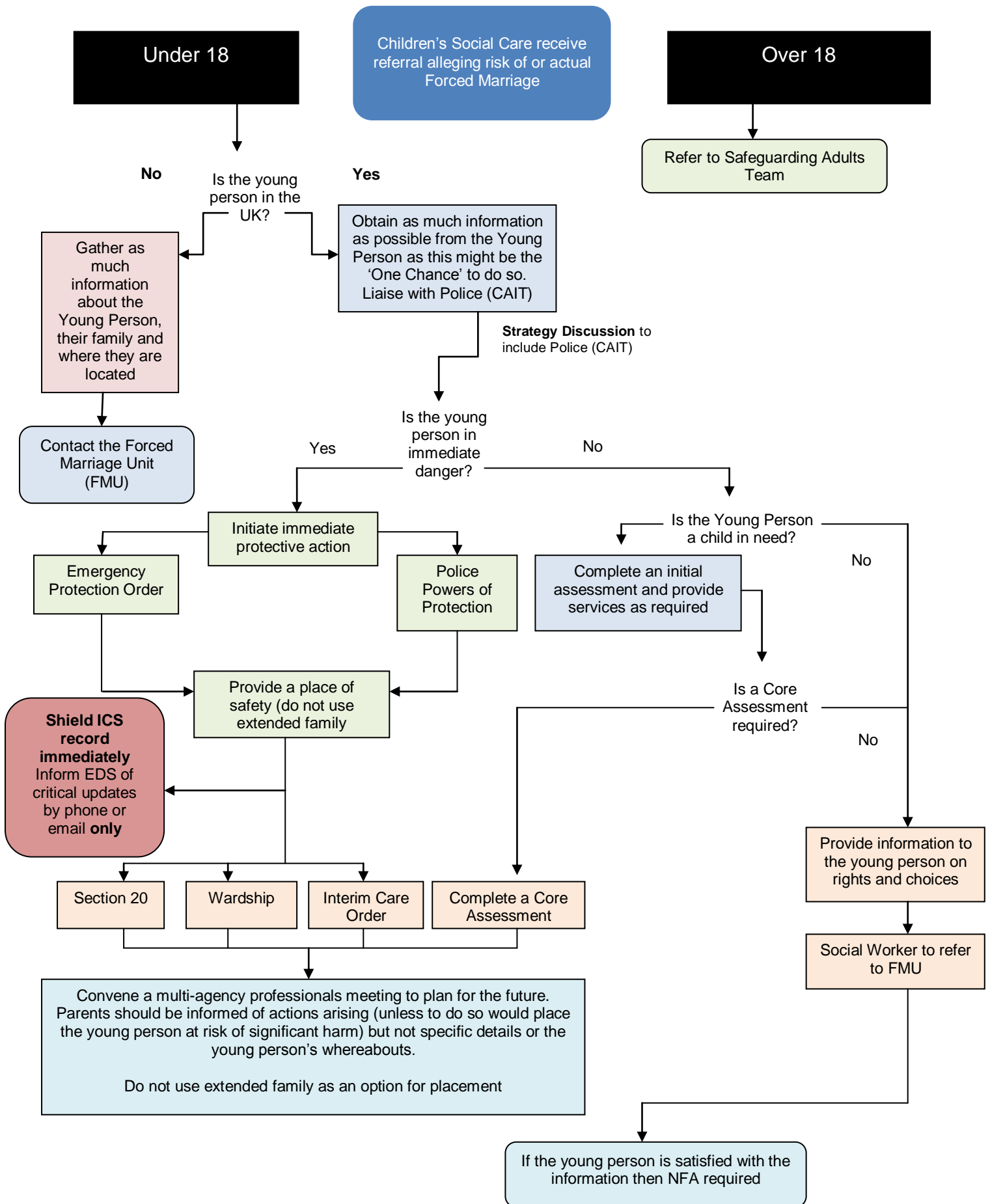
11.3 **Protecting the young person's whereabouts and identity: Procedures**

- 11.3.1 Where a young person has been moved to a 'place of safety' and supported in leaving their family, the ICS record is immediately shielded with access granted to the social worker, team manager, ATM, Service Manager - Child Protection and Court Work, EDS team manager and ATM only
- 11.3.2 The case will be allocated to a false social worker name to be created for this purpose. Managers would be aware that any case allocated to this social worker name would be a forced marriage or honour based violence case.
- 11.3.3 The social worker will need to keep EDS informed of critical information by phone or email. This is to minimise the risk of a network being used by the family to recover information regarding the young person's whereabouts. Any attempts to breach this shielding by unauthorised persons must be reported and may result in disciplinary procedures being taken.
- 11.3.4 The Police (CAIT) as the lead agency in this area should always be consulted by the relevant Service manager from Children's Social Care whenever measures need to be taken covertly to protect and relocate a young person.
- 11.3.5 Measures to protect the identity of a young person and their whereabouts can be undertaken. This can include the identification of alternative safe accommodation. This action should be led by and directed by the Police (CAIT) who are the agency best place to manage this work.
- 11.3.6 If it becomes clear that any case is not forced marriage or honour based violence then the record will revert to be kept on ICS as normal.

11.4 **Child moving LA**

- 11.4.1 It is a statutory requirement for the new Local Authority to be informed of the child moving into their area. It is the responsibility of the Swindon social worker to emphasise the need for shielding the record, **they must talk to a senior manager in the new Local Authority about this.**

Appendix A: Children's Social Care management of allegations of Forced Marriage



Appendix B: National Support Agencies

The Ann Craft Trust

0115 951 5400; www.anncrafttrust.org

Offers advice to professionals, parents, carers and family members on issues relating to the protection of vulnerable children and adults. You can contact them about general issues. They are also happy to give advice about specific cases. If they are unable to answer your question, they will try to find you the most appropriate person to talk to about your concerns.

If you have been abused and would like to talk to someone contact the Respond Helpline on 0808 808 0700.

The Asian Family Counselling Service

020 85713933; www.asianfamilycounselling.org

A national service offering counselling on marital and family issues for Asian men and women. The national helpline: 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Telephone counselling is also available.

Careline

020 8514 1177

A national confidential counselling line for children, young people and adults on any issue including family, marital and relationship problems, child abuse, rape and sexual assault, depression and anxiety.

Child Line

0800 1111; www.childline.org.uk

For any child or young person with a problem.

Citizens' Advice Bureau

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Free, confidential and impartial information and advice on a wide range of subjects including consumer rights, debt, benefits, housing, employment, immigration, family and personal matters. For a list of branches, see "Citizens Advice Bureau" in the telephone directory.

ForcedMarriage.net

www.forcedmarriage.net

For young people facing forced marriage. It provides advice, information and essential contacts to help young people who fear they may be forced to marry or those who are already in a forced marriage.

FORWARD

020 8960 4000; www.forwarduk.org.uk

An African Diaspora led UK-registered campaign and support charity dedicated to advancing and safeguarding the health and rights of African girls and women, in particular female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced and child marriage.

Gatwick Travel Care

01293 504283;

www.gatwick-airport-guide.co.uk/disabled-facilities.html

This service ensures that young people are able to leave the airport and arrive at their destination safely and without delay. Victims of forced marriage may require assistance when they arrive at Gatwick and Travel Care can be contacted for advice. The service is available from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 4pm Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

Heathrow Travel Care

020 8745 7495; www.heathrowtravelcare.com

This service ensures that young people are able to leave the airport and arrive at their destination safely and without delay. Victims of forced marriage may require assistance when they arrive at Heathrow and Travel Care can be contacted for advice. The service is available from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Henna Foundation

02920 498600/496920

Operates a “one stop” service that works to meet and advance the needs, concerns and aspirations of Asian and Muslim children and families. It also assists voluntary, statutory services and Government agencies to improve engagement and delivery of mainstream services. Henna Foundation hosts a National (multi-disciplinary) On-line Forced Marriage & HBV Directory and Knowledge Centre (to go live soon).

Honour Network

0800 5999 247; www.karmanirvana.org.uk

A confidential helpline providing emotional and practical support and advice for victims and survivors (male & female) of forced marriage and/or honour based violence and abuse. It provides advice and support to potential victims, victims in crisis and professional agencies.

Iranian and Kurdish Women’s Rights Organisation

0207 490 0303 (9.30-5.00) or 07862 733511 (24hrs)

www.ikwro.org.uk

IKWRO provides advice, support, advocacy and referral in Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish, Dari and Farsi to women, girls and couples living in Britain, in particular helping women facing domestic violence, forced marriage and ‘honour’-based violence. Their mission is to protect Middle Eastern women at risk of ‘honour’ killings, domestic violence, forced marriages and female genital mutilation, and to support them in upholding their right to live without fear or oppression.

Language line

020 7520 1430

<http://www.languageline.co.uk/>

This service can provide an interpreter on the telephone immediately in 100 different languages, 24 hours a day. This is not a free service.

Local Women’s Aid specialist domestic violence services

www.womensaid.org.uk

There are nearly 370 organisations providing specialist domestic violence support services in England. The Survivors Handbook provides information for survivors in many different languages. TheHideout.org.uk provides information for children and young people about domestic violence and it is interactive.

Men’s Advice Line

0808 801 0327

www.mensadviceline.org.uk

This service provides a freephone confidential helpline for all men experiencing domestic violence by a current or ex-partner. This includes all men – in heterosexual or same-sex relationships. The service gives men the chance to talk about what is happening to them and provides them with emotional support and practical advice. The advice line also has information about specialist services that can provide advice on legal, housing, child contact, mental health and other issues, The helpline is open Monday to Friday 10am – 1pm and 2pm –5pm. You can also email us: [info@ mensadviceline.org.uk](mailto:info@mensadviceline.org.uk)

MIND

0845 7660163

0208 5192122 (legal helpline)

www.mind.org.uk

MIND is a mental health charity working for a better life for everyone with experience of mental distress. Their services include a legal helpline.

Free phone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence helpline

0808 2000 247

Run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge

NSPCC

Asian child protection helpline:

Bengali speaking advisor 0800 096 7714

Gujurati speaking advisor 0800 096 7715

Hindi speaking advisor 0800 096 7716

Punjabi speaking advisor 0800 096 7717

Urdu speaking advisor 0800 096 7718

English speaking advisor 0800 096 7719

This free, confidential service for anyone concerned about children at risk of harm offers counselling, information and advice. The service also connects vulnerable young people, particularly runaways, to services that can help. It is open Monday – Friday 11.00 – 19.00.

NSPCC

0808 800 5000 (helpline)

0800 056 0566 (text phone)

www.nspcc.org.uk

This free, 24-hour helpline provides information, advice and counselling to anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse.

Paladin Team - Heathrow

07747 055938

Practitioners may refer a child or young person to the Paladin Team at Heathrow for a wide variety of child protection issues. There may be concerns that a child or young person is an unaccompanied minor, an asylum-seeking child, being trafficked or about to be forced to marry. The team can be contacted directly on the above number. The service is available from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Respond

0808 808 0700 (helpline)

020 7383 0700 (admin line)

020 7387 1222 (fax line)

E-mail: admin@respond.org.uk

www.respond.org.uk

Respond provides a range of services to both victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse who have learning disabilities and those who have been affected by other trauma. They also offer support and training to families, carers and professionals.

Reunite International Child Abduction Centre

PO Box 7124, Leicester, LE1 7XX

0116 2555345 (admin line)

0116 2556234 (advice line)

0116 2556370 (fax line)

www.reunite.org

Reunite is the leading charity specialising in international parental child abduction. It operates a 24-hour advice line providing advice, support and information to parents, family members and guardians who have had a child abducted or who fear abduction. Reunite also supports and informs parents who have abducted their children and assists with international contact issues. Reunite's advice is impartial and confidential to one or both parties involved in an international parental child abduction case. Reunite also provides information and support on the issue of forced marriage.

Samaritans

08457 90 90 90

www.samaritans.org

This is a 24-hour helpline that provides confidential support to any person in emotional distress.

Shelterline

0808 800 4444

www.shelter.org.uk

This service provides emergency access to refuge services.

Southall Black Sisters

020 8571 9595

www.southallblacksisters.org.uk

This is a resource centre offering information, advice, advocacy, practical help, counselling, and support to black and minority women experiencing domestic abuse. Southall Black Sisters specialise in forced marriage particularly in relation to South Asian women. The office is open weekdays (except Wednesday) 10.00 – 12.30 and 13.30 – 16.00.

Victim Support

0845 30 30 900

www.victimsupport.org

Victim Support offers information and support to victims of crime, whether or not they have reported the crime to the police. All help given is free and confidential. You can contact Victim Support direct, or ask the police to put you in touch with your local group. The national helpline is open from 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 7pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Voice UK

0845 122 8695

www.voiceuk.org.uk

Voice UK is a national charity supporting people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse. They also provide support and advice to their families, carers and practitioners.