

1. What is Forced Marriage?

A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage but are coerced into it.

It is illegal in the UK, is a form of domestic abuse and a serious abuse of human rights. Any person at any time may be forced into marriage – including people of all ages (not just children), genders, disabilities, ethnicities, and religions. Forced into marriage can take different forms: for example, **Physical** - in the form of threats or violence (including sexual violence). **Emotional or psychological** – making someone feel they are bringing shame on their family, making them believe that those close to them may become vulnerable to illness if they don't marry, or denying them freedom or money unless they agree to the marriage.

7. Contact Information:

Karma Nirvana Helpline
Telephone: 0800 5999 247
Email: support@karmanirvana.org.uk
Website: www.karmanirvana.org.uk
Karma Nirvana Spoonful of Hope

Forced Marriage Unit Telephone: 0207 008 0151 Email: fmufcdo.gov.uk

Kirklees Safeguarding Children's Partnership Forced Marriage Website section

6. Key Points Case Study 2: If you concerned someone is being forced into marriage:

Professional curiosity around planned visits abroad if requesting immunisations or prescriptions prior to a planned trip.

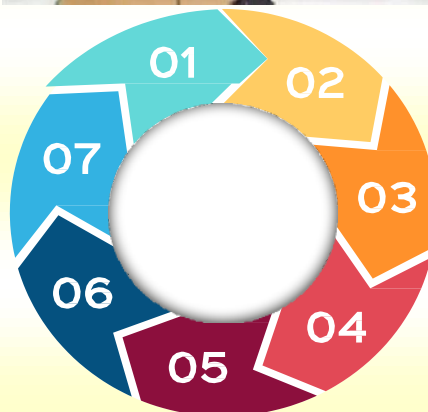
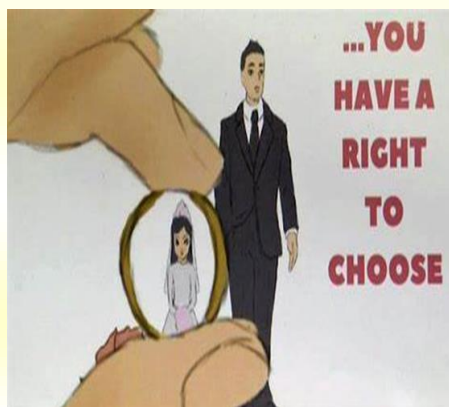
Attempt to speak to the person alone to encourage disclosure.

Provide information on support for forced marriage, do not provide them with a leaflet as this may put them at risk, particularly if they are accompanied.

Be alert to safeguarding concerns and follow local safeguarding adult and child procedures.

Safeguarding: 7 Minute Briefing April 2022

FORCED MARRIAGE & SAFEGUARDING



5. Key Points Case Study 1:

Voice of the Child: There was missed opportunities to explore Child H's concerns alone when she presented with mental health concerns. At that time 3 of the family siblings health records had been transferred to another area and she herself referenced moving there a year ago.

Professional Curiosity is Key: The GP Practice was notified that the CAMHS referral had been closed due to a lack of response. This was despite numerous attempts to contact her. It transpired her mobile phone had been removed by her father.

One Chance Rule: cited by the guidance as maybe that one opportunity to understand risks.

2. Case Study 1

Child H was born in 2003, became known to services in April 2018 due to concerns of honour-based abuse. Her birth mother had died when she was very young, she was the only child from that marriage and was now living with older siblings from a previous marriage and younger siblings from the current marriage. She had self-harmed, appeared fragile and vulnerable. She made concerning statements regarding being forced into marriage. She was seen alone at her GP Practice 6 months later and a CAMHS referral made. In January 2019 she travelled to Afghanistan with her stepmother and returned 4 months later under an interim care order.

3. Case Study 2:

Child B married at 17 following arrangements made by her father, two years later she left formed a new relationship which was deemed "unsuitable" and brought shame on the family. She was later found dead, her father and two male members of the family charged with her murder. Child B had made allegations of historical physical and sexual assault at the age of 15. She had reported threatening/obscene phone calls and was being forced to drink alcohol. She self – harmed and told Healthcare Staff that her life was under threat and that she was in fear of her father and uncle.

4. Further Information:

The right to choose: government guidance on forced marriage - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) This statutory guidance on forced marriage from March 2022 is for all multi-agency partners who come across forced marriage including health professionals. Potential warning signs or indicators are listed on pages 36-37. They may be isolated, depressed, withdrawn; misusing alcohol and drugs or have unexplained injuries.