

APPENDIX J

Notes on comments provided in evidence re.

How aware are young people of the protection available against forced marriage?

Detective Inspector Peter Williams, Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Adults Coordinator, Leicestershire Constabulary.

Whilst the profile of HBV&FM has risen a great deal over the last few years, whether or not the information is reaching the young people most at risk is a moot point. That said, the number of reports of HBV&FM has quadrupled over the last two years.

Posters are available to be displayed in schools, but some parent governors have objected and the posters have not been displayed in schools where they might have been most appropriate. The City council is taking forward an initiative to address the problem but with limited success to date. Governor training might be used to address the issue together with a “domestic protocol” for schools addressing how problems originating from the home should be addressed.

More young people are becoming aware of the problem and of the legislation available to protect potential victims. However more needs to be done, particularly in “isolated” HBC communities which practice a form of “voluntary local apartheid”. In this context, language can be a particular barrier

It would help address the problem if the DVD on HBV&FM could be shown to all children in their early teenage years, so that they are aware of the issue and know that help is available. There might be a case for a “Help Button” (somewhat along the lines of the Facebook “panic button”) to be incorporated on every schools' Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) home page (this might also deal with such issues as reporting bullying).

Natasha Rattu, Karma Nirvana, Leed

Schools are key to the issue. HBV&FM needs to be featured in the National Curriculum (possibly in several subject areas – R.E., Personal Health and Social Education lessons and/or Citizenship. Guidance needs to be provided to schools on how the issue should be approached as it is sometimes seen as an attack on the culture/religion of some pupils. The fact that it is a Child Protection issue needs to be emphasised and relates to basic Human Rights. There is some work being done in this area and KN will provide details of the appropriate website. This matter needs to be highlighted to School Governors in particular.

**Walter McCulloch, Assistant Director for Children's Services
Chris Nerini, Head of Service, Extended Services and Family Support
Leicestershire County Council**

Insufficient data to make a judgement. There may be a need to increase awareness in the general community and particularly with young people.

HREC Meeting

It was believed that most of the young people being brought up in Honour Based Communities were aware of the issues. However reporting was problematic because young people would often not dare to trust anyone. Making sure that the issue is addressed before children reach marriageable age (school years 6 & 7) was considered vital. It should be an issue that is examined in Citizenship and should be looked at in a similar way to say “Knife Crime”.

Bibliography/Background Papers

Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/3849543/forced-marriage-right-to-choose>

“An Insight into Forced Marriages & Honour Based Violence” - A unique award winning DVD looking at for Forced Marriage Issues and Honour Based Violence through the eyes of young people.

http://www.holykfilms.com/index.php/work/entry/forced_marriage_and_honour_based_violence_dvd/

Domestic Violence Protocol for Schools

http://www.leics.gov.uk/domestic_violence_protocol_0906.pdf

Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH 2009) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model

www.dashriskchecklist.co.uk

Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA)

www.caada.org.uk