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**Overview**

This standard is about your ability to identify victims of forced marriages and provide them with support. Such support can include referral to an appropriate supporting agency.

Further standards address undertaking full risk assessments and interventions designed to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of such victims.

It is recognised that victims of forced marriages can be young people under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults over the age of 18.

It is recognised that abuse can occur without physical violence, yet can be equally damaging to those affected. Throughout this standard, where the term 'abuse' is used it is taken to include instances also involving physical violence.

Domestic abuse is frequently perceived as a gendered crime perpetrated by men against women; however this standard is intended for practitioners who support those experiencing domestic violence within any intimate or family relationship, regardless of their social background, age, gender, religion, sexuality or ethnicity.

In some organisations, the terms 'victim' and 'survivor' may be used individually or interchangeably.

This standard is for practitioners who support those experiencing domestic abuse, which may include instances of sexual violence and abuse in a domestic violence context.

**There are two elements**

- 1 Identify and gather information regarding victims of forced marriages
- 2 Take action to protect victims of forced marriages

**Performance  
criteria**
**Identify and gather information regarding victims of forced marriages**

- You must be able to:**
- P1 observe individuals to identify signs which can indicate a potential victim of forced marriage
  - P2 gather available information regarding the potential victim and their circumstances, including;
    - P2.1 their family background
    - P2.2 location
  - P3 explore with potential victims their situation and needs in appropriate and safe environments for potential victims and yourself
  - P4 communicate with potential victims in a manner and at a pace which meets their needs and abilities and:
    - P4.1 gives them the opportunity to describe their circumstances
    - P4.2 avoids interpretation of potential victim's meaning
    - P4.3 encourages questions
    - P4.4 confirms their understanding
    - P4.5 promotes victims and survivors' informed decision making
  - P5 assess available information to identify victims of forced marriage including:
    - P5.1 indications of potential victims of forced marriage
    - P5.2 identify where evidence is sufficient to warrant further exploration
  - P6 assess risks to victims which affect their safety, health and wellbeing in line with risk assessment processes
  - P7 explain to victims the support options which are available to them
  - P8 record any injuries and arrange medical examinations for victims where appropriate
  - P9 explain requirements regarding confidentiality to potential and actual victims, including:
    - P9.1 which parties may require particular information
    - P9.2 circumstances where information may have to be divulged

**Take action to protect victims of forced marriages**

- You must be able to:**
- P10 explore with victims their preferred options regarding the way forward including

- any aspects of protection
- P11 identify options for the way forward which take account of risks to victims safety, health and wellbeing
- P12 explain to victims the reasons for progressing options which may be contrary to their wishes
- P13 access relevant local child protection procedures when there are risks to the safety, health and wellbeing of:
  - P13.1 victims under eighteen years of age
  - P13.2 any children and dependants involved
- P14 refer victims who are vulnerable adults to appropriate agencies in line with agreed procedures
- P15 work with other organisations which can support victims in line with appropriate procedures and partnership agreements
- P16 involve victims in discussions regarding actions towards their protection
- P17 refer any suspicions regarding potential crime having been committed to the necessary authority in line with required timescales
- P18 inform victims of their rights in line with legislation and guidance, including:
  - P18.1 their right to seek legal advice and representation
  - P18.2 that it is not always necessary to have a legal representation
  - P18.3 their right to choose to access legal representation and advice
- P19 respect, and where possible meet, victim's wishes regarding their choice of the race and gender of the worker dealing with their case
- P20 provide victims with personal safety advice relevant to their needs
- P21 confirm victims understand the way forward, including;
  - P21.1 the services and support they can expect
  - P21.2 who will provide services and support
  - P21.3 who has their relevant contact details
- P22 maintain accurate and up to date records in line with your organisational policies and procedures
- P23 maintain confidentiality at all times in line with legislative, organisational and regulatory requirements

## Knowledge and understanding

### Legislative, regulatory and organisational requirements

#### You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal and organisational requirements which relate to working with young people and vulnerable adults who are victims and survivors of forced marriages, and their impact for your area of operations
- K2 relevant legislation applicable to your area of work
- K3 circumstances where it is necessary to go against victims and survivors' expressed wishes
- K4 the importance of ensuring that victims and survivors understand why their expressed wishes may not be met
- K5 relevant others you may need to work with including:
  - K5.1 agencies and organisations
  - K5.2 colleagues
  - K5.3 community representatives
  - K5.4 service users
  - K5.5 stakeholders
  - K5.6 victims and survivors
- K6 your organisation's policy and procedures for:
  - K6.1 registration of cases
  - K6.2 case management
  - K6.3 ensuring confidentiality of information
  - K6.4 disclosure of information to third parties
  - K6.5 circumstances under which disclosure may be made
- K7 your organisation's role, remit, objectives and services for supporting victims of forced marriages
- K8 the limits of your authority and responsibility, and actions to take if exceeded

### Requirements particular to providing support to victims of forced marriages

#### You need to know and understand:

- K9 what constitutes a forced marriage and an arranged marriage
- K10 the differences between forced and arranged marriage
- K11 the role which 'honour' has within forced and arranged marriage
- K12 the methods used by abusers to gain power and control of those within a

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- forced marriage, and of those within their extended family
- K13 the impact upon all of those affected by a forced marriage, including victims, survivors, children and dependants
- K14 what is meant by safeguarding
- K15 the different ways in which children, young people and dependants might be harmed
- K16 when and how to discuss concerns regarding abuse with parents, carers and family members
- K17 the importance of recognising that parents, carers and family members may be complicit in forced marriages
- K18 warning signs and indications of potential or actual forced marriage
- K19 the importance of recognising that signs and indicators of forced marriage can be subtle
- K20 how to assess signs and indicators of forced marriage, including:
- K20.1 health
  - K20.2 education
  - K20.3 employment
  - K20.4 family history
  - K20.5 situation of siblings
  - K20.6 bereavements
  - K20.7 involvement with other agencies
- K21 different forms of domestic violence and abuse associated with forced marriages and their impact upon victims
- K22 typical types of information and areas of support sought by victims of forced marriages, and the sources of information available to them
- K23 the actions available to you where disclosure of a forced marriage is identified
- K24 the role of principal external agencies and stakeholders who provide referrals and related support to victims and survivors of forced marriages in your area, including for young people and vulnerable adults
- K25 specialist support services available for victims of forced marriage and honour crimes
- K26 local procedures, policies and legislation regarding child protection
- K27 the importance of sharing information with other relevant agencies in the context of the victims' safety, health and wellbeing

- K28 the principles governing when young people are considered sufficiently mature to give consent to their information being shared with other parties
- K29 the difference between information sharing on individual, organisational and professional levels
- K30 other parties who need and are entitled to information, what information they are entitled to and when
- K31 how cultural, social and gender related aspects impact upon domestic violence and abuse

### **Requirements relating to communicating with victims and survivors**

#### **You need to know and understand:**

- K32 the importance of and methods for building trust and empathy with victims
- K33 appropriate styles and forms of communication including body language, non-verbal communication and use of interpreters
- K34 how different cultures use and interpret body language in different ways
- K35 barriers to communication including:
  - K35.1 their causes
  - K35.2 feelings and reactions victims may have
  - K35.3 ways to overcome them
- K36 how children and young people see and experience the world in different ways and the impact when communicating with them
- K37 the importance of ensuring understanding and avoiding assumptions
- K38 the importance of being aware of your values and belief
- K39 the impact your values and beliefs may have when working with victims
- K40 how to challenge discriminatory or potentially damaging attitudes and behaviour and the importance of doing so

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