**Background**

*Honour based abuse* is a collection of practices used to control behaviour within families in order to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Violence can occur when perpetrators perceive that a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code. Girls and women are most often the victims of honour based abuse, however, it can also affect boys and men. Honour abuse might be committed against people who: become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion; want to get out of an arranged marriage; want to avoid a forced marriage or who wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture.

**Why it matters:**

More than 11,000 cases of ‘honour’ crime were recorded by UK Police forces from 2010-14.

Home Office figures suggest that there are approximately twelve ‘honour killings’ in the UK per year. This does not take into account the many women and young girls who are taken abroad by their families and never seen again.

The many hidden elements of ‘honour abuse’ include suicide, self-harm and missing people.

**Information:**

Although most cases in the UK involve South Asian families (partly reflecting the large South Asian community), ‘honour’ abuse can exist in any culture where males are in a position to control women’s conduct. Examples include: Turkish; Kurdish; Afghan; South Asian; African; Middle Eastern; South and Eastern European; Romany and Traveller communities. Honour abuse is rejected by every major world faith.

Crimes committed in the name of ‘honour’ might include: sexual or psychological abuse, domestic abuse, child abuse, rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment, female genital mutilation, threats to kill, forced marriage, or homicide. Many of these crimes are extremely well-organised & planned by more than one individual. Families that are widely spread across the country may make many areas unsafe for people at risk of Honour Abuse. Families may deploy their professional networks to locate an individual, for example, by circulating photographs within a taxi service, or finding a relative with access to official records to gain confidential information. In arranging protection, it is important to carry out a thorough assessment of the ability and potential of the family to locate and harm the victim.

When working with victims it is important to establish a means of making secure and confidential contact at the earliest opportunity, as the individual may not be able to make a second attempt to ask for help.

**Questions to consider:**

Who is at risk?
Do I know the signs?
Am I clear on what I need to do if someone makes a disclosure?
Where do I go to find out more?

Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence
or visit:
Safeguarding in Rochdale

**What to do?**

Take any disclosure seriously. Know the signs. Never turn a person away or expose their secret. You may only have one chance to save a life!

For young people under 18 years, Honour Abuse is a child protection issue

Immediate risk - call 999 or contact Police on 101