



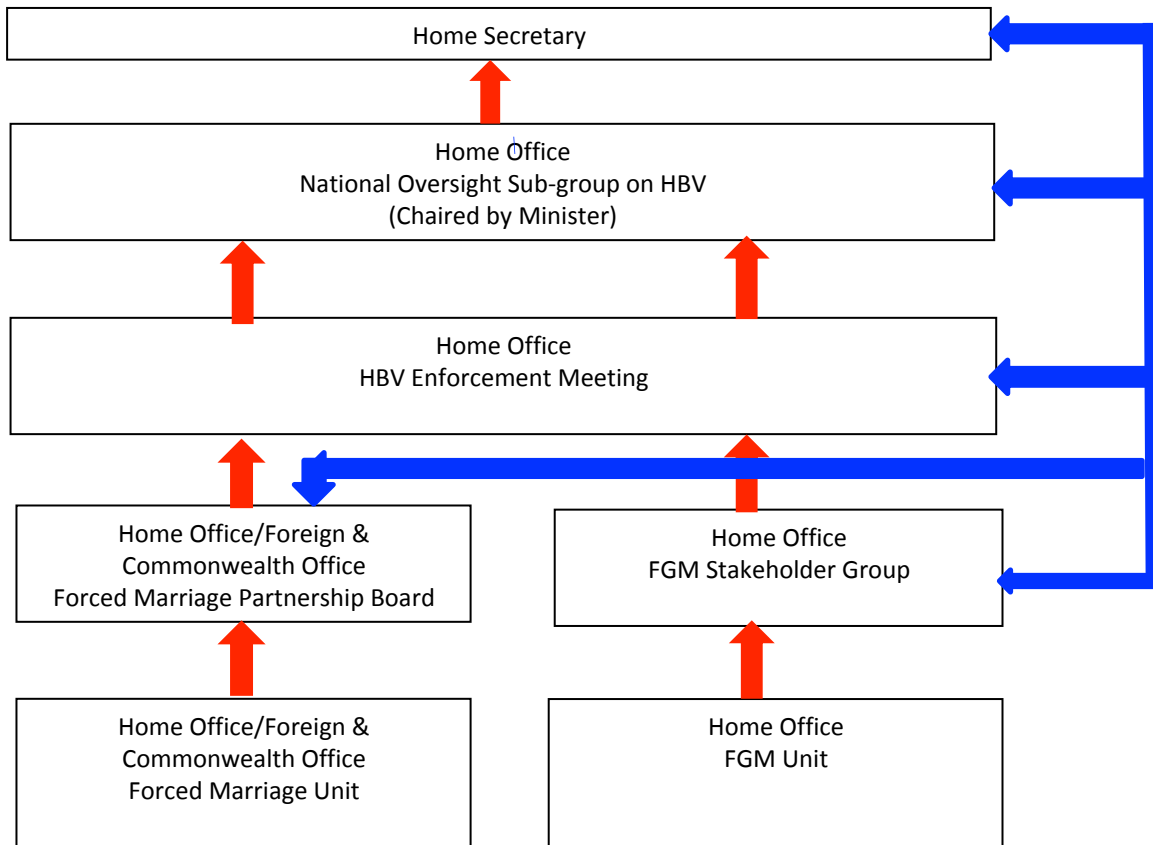
N8 Policing Research Partnership: Early Identification of Honour-Based Abuse

Det. Sgt. Pal Singh, staff officer to: Commander Ivan Balhatchet
**National Police Lead for Honour-Based Abuse:
Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation**

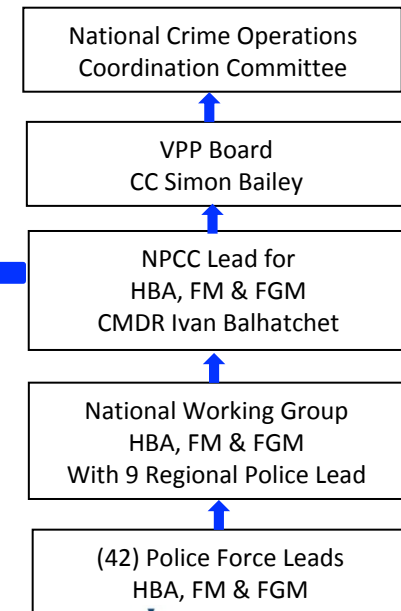
21st May 2019

The UK Government & Policing Structure

Home Office



NPCC





Regional SPOC details for England & Wales

&



NPCC
National Police Chiefs' Council

Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Delivery Plan for England, Wales and Northern Ireland

2018 - 2021

Eradicating Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation Together







Convictions for FM & FGM

In reality how well prepared are we to safeguard victims from international crime?



Questions (during lunch)?

Pal.Singh@met.pnn.police.uk



Early Identification of Honour-Based Abuse

Dr Claire Fox, Dr Caroline Miles, Dr Becki Kaur
and Dr Rebecca Tipton, *University of Manchester*
Nicola Pringle, *West Yorkshire Police*

Twitter & Slido.com: #N8HBA

Why this project?

“...chief constables in consultation with partner agencies should undertake research and analysis using diverse sources to understand better the nature and scale of HBV, FM and FGM in their force areas, and use this information to raise awareness and understanding of HBV, FM and FGM on the parts of their police officers and staff.”

From *The Depths of Dishonour: Hidden Voices and Shameful Crimes* (HMIC, 2015: 18)

About

- Collaborative project between the University of Manchester and West Yorkshire Police, supported by Karma Nirvana
- Aim: To locate both good practice and areas for improvement when it comes to identifying cases of honour-based abuse (HBA) and forced marriage
- Parameters of the project

Research Phases

- Analysis of cases identified by West Yorkshire Police as HBA and/or forced marriage from 2017 (n=100)
- Analysis of 'missed opportunity' data – DVA cases (n=120) and missing persons (female, aged 16-24, Asian) (n=92) from 2017
- Interviews with key stakeholders and victim-survivors (n=16)

Overview of HBA case files

Victims (n=102)

- 88% female/12% male
- Age range: 13-51 years, median average 22 years
- Ethnicity: (where recorded) 95% Asian
- Two cases - more than one victim

Suspects (n=121*)

- Age range: 15-66 years, median average 42.5 years
- Ethnicity: 93% Asian, 6% White, 1% Black
- Most commonly parents

*unique suspects

Key findings: risks, responding, recommendations

Identifying HBA

- Early identification of HBA is a multi-agency responsibility
- Potential missed opportunities:
 - Subtle indicators of HBA
 - Identifying all suspects
 - Identifying potential victims
 - Missing Persons

HBA can be quite subtle as well. Like, being picked up and dropped off, chaperoned...not allowed your phone...blocking of social media...not allowed to wear certain attire...You know, for a very long time I was forced to wear a headscarf at home.

Saira, Victim-Survivor

Managing risk

Need for more consistency in completion of risk assessment

Complex nature of HBA can make risk assessment difficult

How appropriate is DASH for identifying and risk assessing HBA?

I wouldn't even bother with the DASH, personally, if it wasn't mandatory because I think...you can get a better idea of that victim and that situation from that [specialist risk assessment] than you ever could from the DASH.

Jessica, Police Officer

I know that a DASH has got to be done before a [specialist] risk assessment's got to be done, but I think in cases where it's even suspected...a [specialist] honour-based abuse risk assessment should be done....The DASH just isn't geared towards honour-based abuse at all.

Stacey, Third Sector Organisation

Recording HBA

- More consistent use of flags/markers for HBA
- More accurate recording of offence type, e.g.
 - Threats to kill
 - Forced Marriage
- Recording of ethnicity requires substantial improvement

Missed Opportunities to Identify: Case Flagged as HBA/FM

The victim is a 24-year old Asian female. In 2014, the victim was taken to Pakistan by her father (the suspect) and forced into marriage. She remained in Pakistan until 2016, at which point she returned to England. The suspect had **previous convictions**, including two HBA-related verbal disputes with family members. **The first took place the year before the victim travelled to Pakistan (2013), and the second the year that the victim returned (2016).** Although it is not clear from the data provided whether these disputes involved or concerned the victim, it is possible that they represent missed opportunities for the police to identify the forced marriage.

Missed Opportunities to Identify: Cases Flagged as DVA

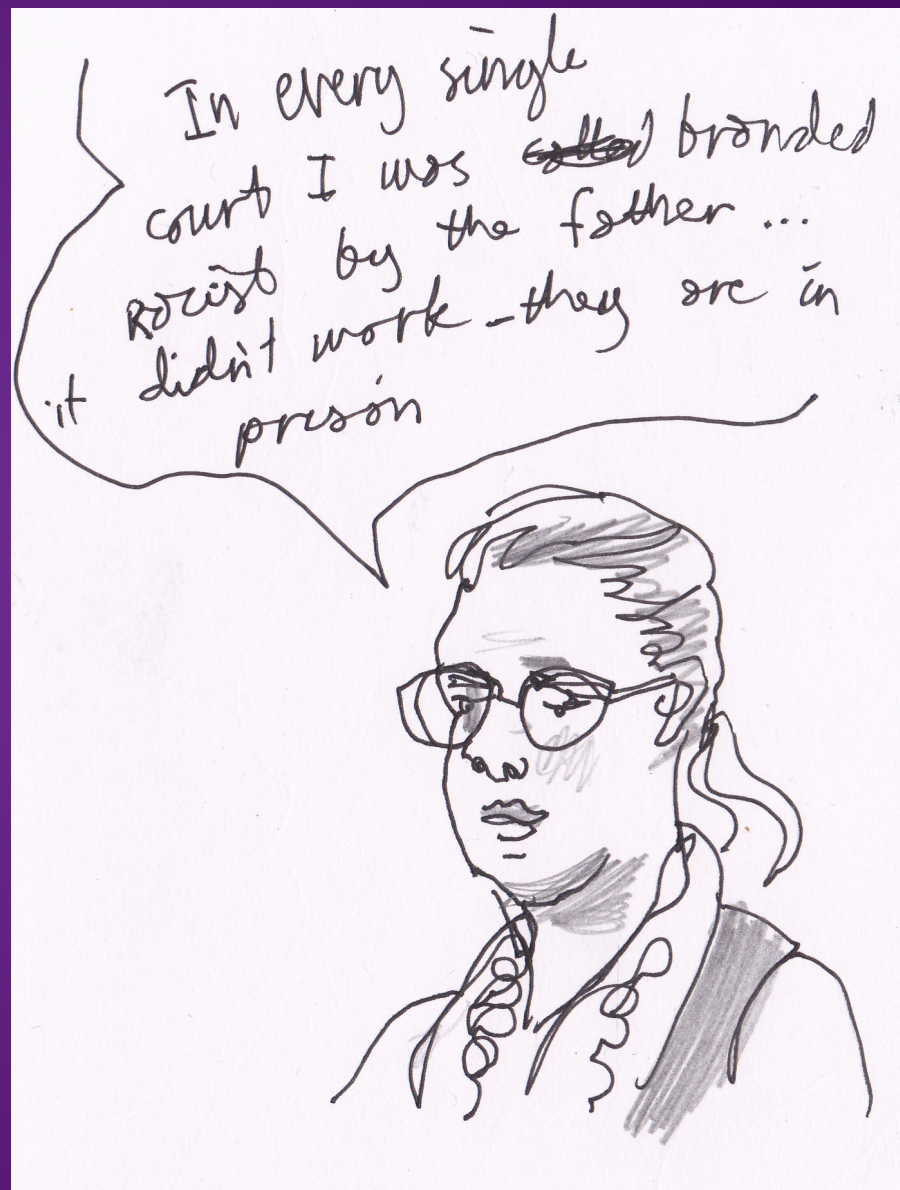
Victim is 23-year-old female of unknown ethnicity (although DASH notes state 'Asian') whose father has punched her following an argument over the family pet. DASH notes clearly state that the suspect is controlling of the victim and siblings, and that he does not like that the victim has **become westernised**. Notes from the DASH state that HBA was explored and, though the suspect would like for victim to have an arranged marriage, there is **no indication from the victim or her mother** that it would be forced.

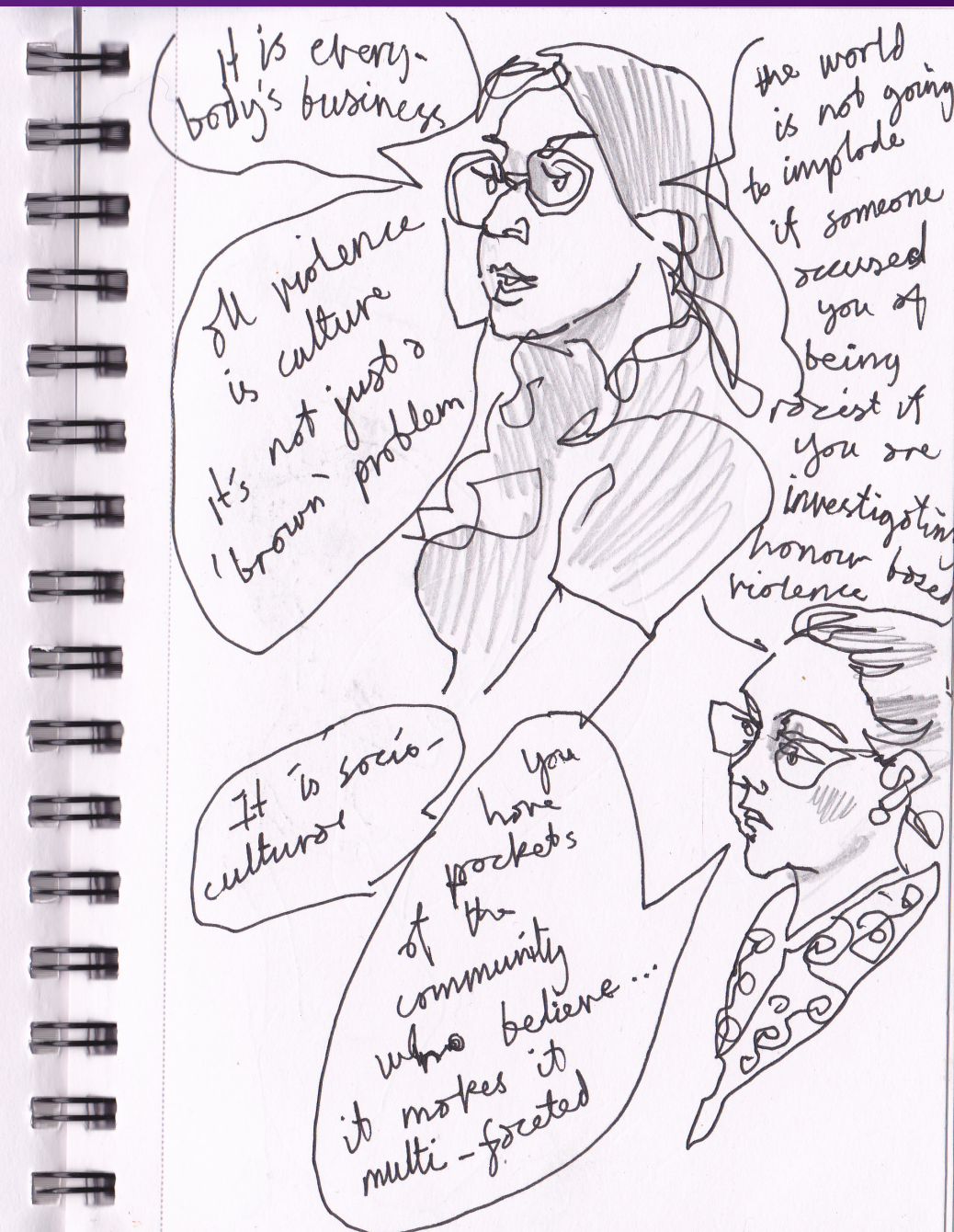
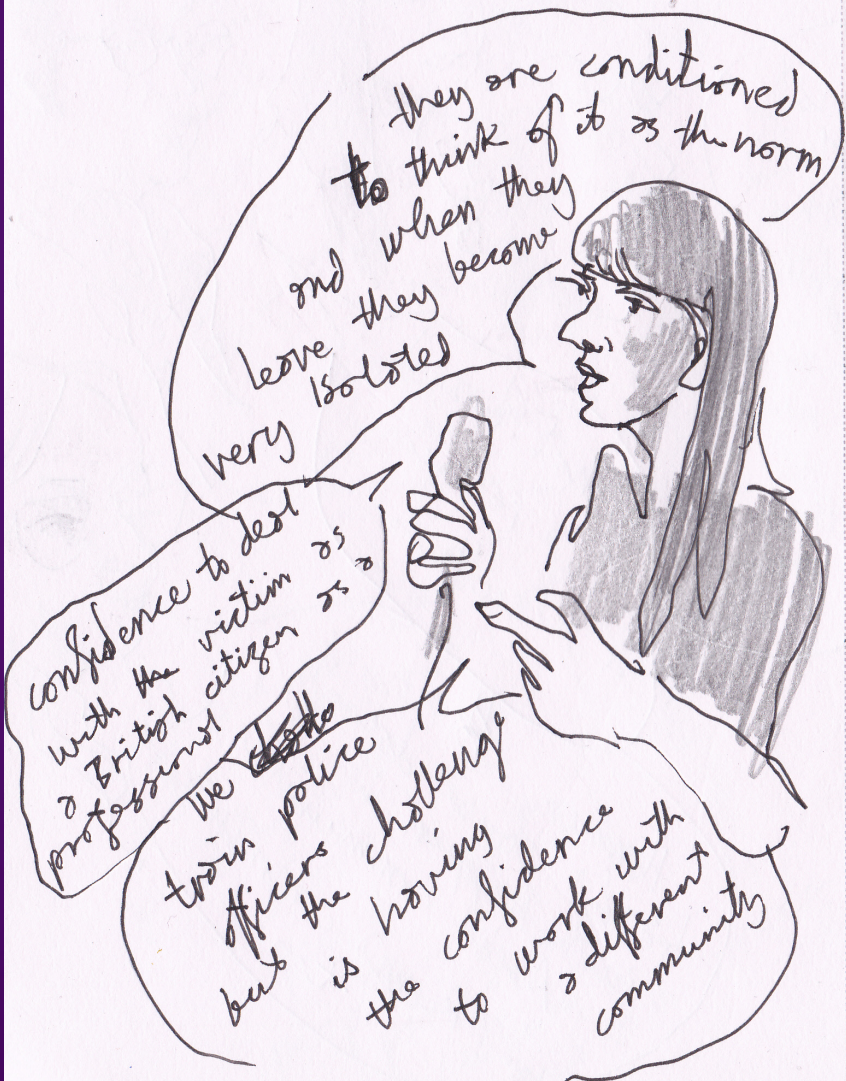
Missed Opportunities to Identify: Missing Persons

MISPER is a 20-year-old Pakistani female, reported missing by her **brother**. She had no previous history of going missing. She has **self-harmed** in the past and a few years ago was a **victim of rape**. When located, the MISPER said that she needed time to ‘clear her head’ as she was struggling with her emotions following the rape. MISPER subsequently goes missing again – this time police were told she had **moved out of the family home** as she no longer wishes to live there. MISPER noted as making friends with unknown males on social media. When asked why, she says this is because of cultural reasons. The MISPER’s family have told her that, because of cultural traditions, she is never likely to be married because she is the victim of rape. Other *potential* indicators include: the MISPER typically wearing traditional Islamic dress, including hijab, when at home but Western clothes when outside of the house; MISPER not having a door key, and being located by father and uncle after they contacted her via a social network.

The reality of responding to HBA

- Being branded a racist
- The 'browning' of HBA
- Siblings
- Network of perpetrators
- Men and boys as victims
- FMPOs

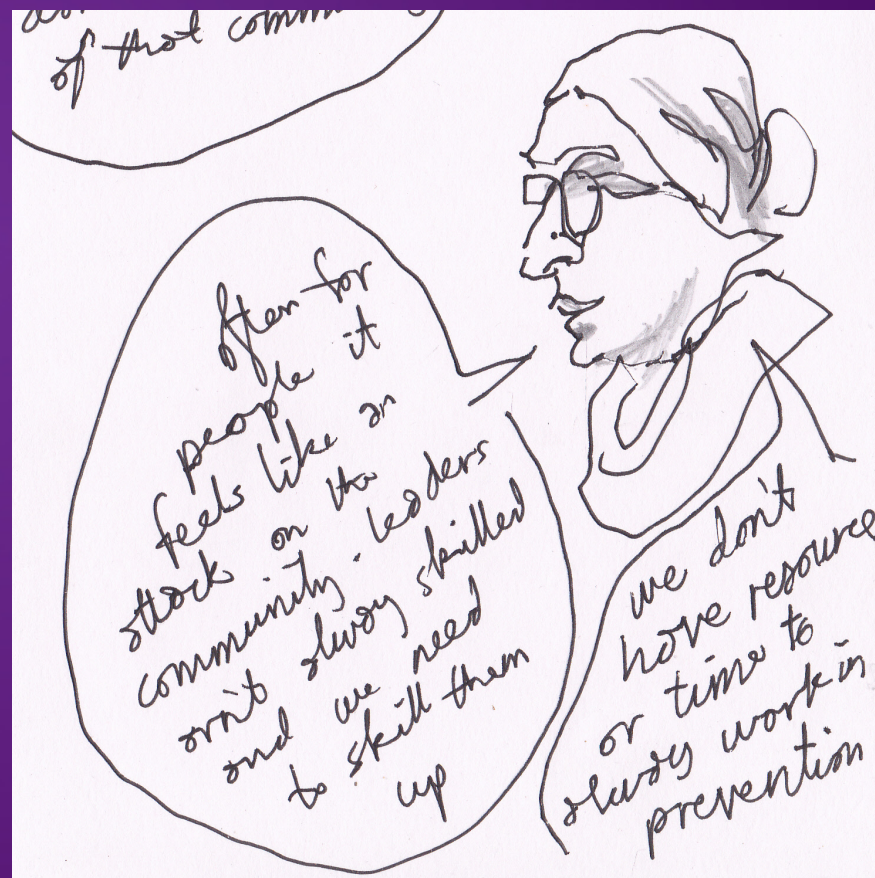
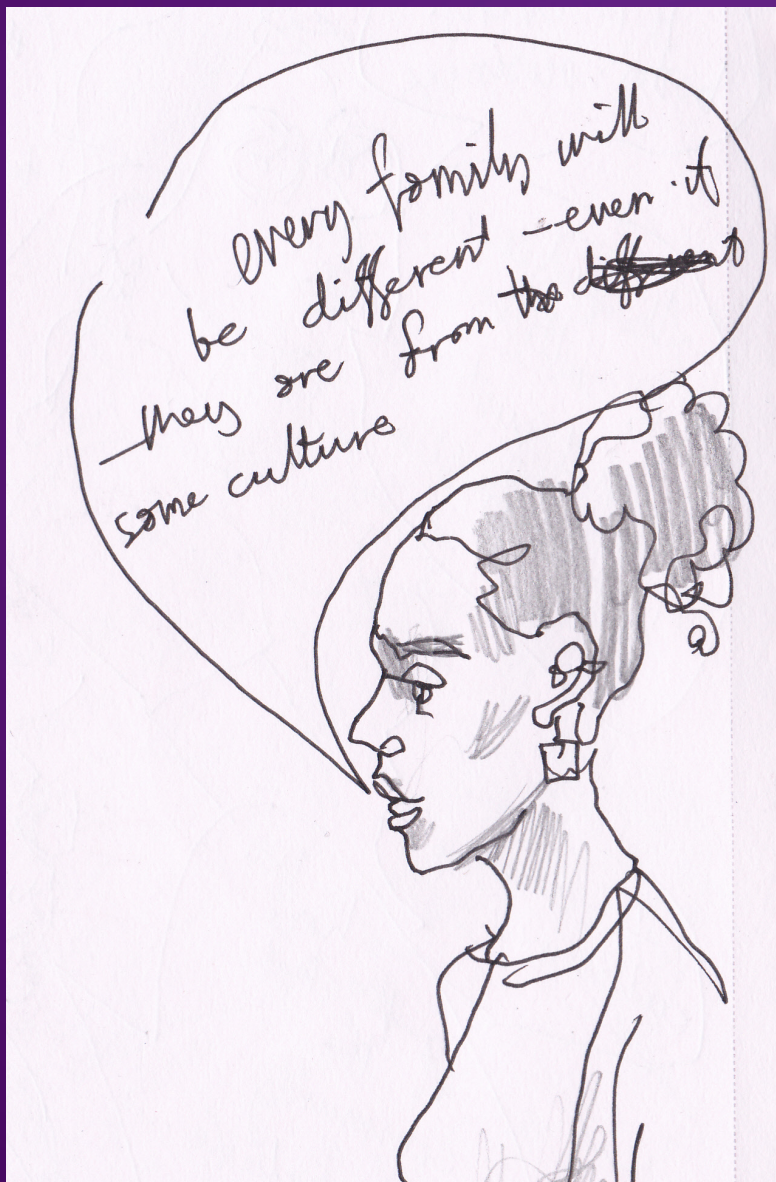




Being reactive *and* proactive



- Subtle indicators
- Coercive control
- Support post-reporting
- Awareness-raising
- Complex cases
- Safeguarding, not always imprisonment
- Victimless prosecution



Inspection and reporting



**Everyone's
business: Improving the police
response to domestic abuse**

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Derbyshire

‘[Language line] is not always used where it could be of value’

Greater Manchester Police

‘The force needs to take urgent action to ensure that victims who need the service of an interpreter are not disadvantaged’

Lincolnshire

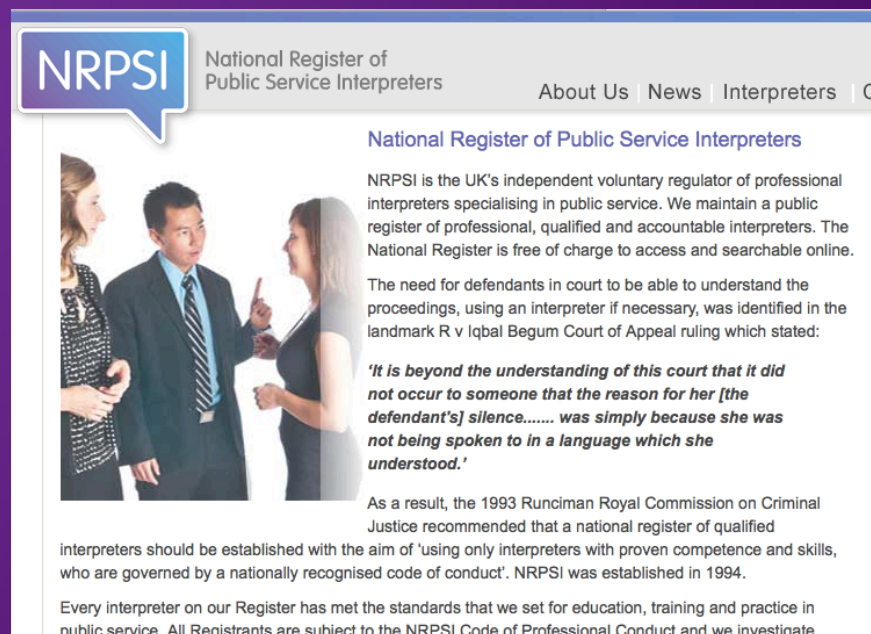
- call handlers have access to Language Line
- DASH forms have been translated which assist the interpretation process.

Public Service Interpreting and Translation: key challenges

Unregulated activities

Voluntary Regulator: National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI)

Very limited training (initial / CPD) – Community Interpreting, DPI, DPSI, Masters



The screenshot shows the NRPSI website. At the top, there is a blue header with the NRPSI logo (a speech bubble containing the text 'NRPSI') and the text 'National Register of Public Service Interpreters'. To the right of the header are navigation links: 'About Us', 'News', 'Interpreters', and 'C'. Below the header, there is a section titled 'National Register of Public Service Interpreters'. This section contains a photograph of three people (two women and one man) in professional attire, with one man pointing towards the other two. To the right of the photograph, there is text explaining that NRPSI is the UK's independent voluntary regulator of professional interpreters specialising in public service. It mentions that NRPSI maintains a public register of professional, qualified and accountable interpreters, which is free of charge to access and searchable online. The text also states that the need for defendants in court to be able to understand the proceedings, using an interpreter if necessary, was identified in the landmark R v Iqbal Begum Court of Appeal ruling, which stated: *'It is beyond the understanding of this court that it did not occur to someone that the reason for her [the defendant's] silence..... was simply because she was not being spoken to in a language which she understood.'* Below this quote, it is noted that as a result, the 1993 Runciman Royal Commission on Criminal Justice recommended that a national register of qualified interpreters should be established with the aim of 'using only interpreters with proven competence and skills, who are governed by a nationally recognised code of conduct'. NRPSI was established in 1994. The final paragraph states that every interpreter on the Register has met the standards set for education, training and practice in public service, and that all Registrants are subject to the NRPSI Code of Professional Conduct and are investigated.

NRPSI National Register of Public Service Interpreters

About Us | News | Interpreters | C

National Register of Public Service Interpreters

NRPSI is the UK's independent voluntary regulator of professional interpreters specialising in public service. We maintain a public register of professional, qualified and accountable interpreters. The National Register is free of charge to access and searchable online.

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ACPO Guidance on Investigating Domestic Abuse - Checklist 16 (2008)

- Checking the identity of the interpreter and whether they have a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure certificate and can show it;
- That the suspect, victim or witnesses are not known to the interpreter, where possible;
- If the interpreter is known to the victim, witness or suspect, this should not be in anything other than a professional capacity;
- Check that the interpreter has no other interest in the case, whether personal, financial or commercial;
- Where possible, select the interpreter to conform to reasonable criteria set by the suspect, victim or witnesses, which may include a preference for specific sex, religion, regional origin, political affiliation and cultural background;
- General guidance is that interpreters live in close proximity to the interview premises, but in domestic abuse and HBV cases it might be prudent to use interpreters that meet the criteria of the suspect, victim or witness but who do not live within the immediate community;
- Interpreters should be allowed to interrupt the normal flow of the interview to ask the officer for repetition, clarification or to alert the officer to the possibility of a cultural inference that might have been assumed. Interruptions should be explained to all parties.

‘Honour’ based abuse

Complex language challenges

“[t]he language barrier can also be a deeper problem than translation can resolve; it relates to the way that victims are able to identify and articulate what they are experiencing in a way that professionals understand”

(SafeLives Report 2017 p. 38).

They [professionals] will use words, like “did your family talk to you about dishonouring the family and that you have to go into a forced marriage?” These words don’t mean anything to them [the victims], because those are not the words their families are using with them.

Ariana, Saheliya (BME women’s organisation)

Gender matching

The woman is from the Middle East and has suffered repeated rape by her husband and abuse from his family. The first time she reported, she was assigned a male interpreter and shame prevented her from disclosing the rapes.

<http://ikwro.org.uk/2017/11/violence-criminalisation-marriage/>

Outcomes

HBA Cases:

Crimes (n=71):

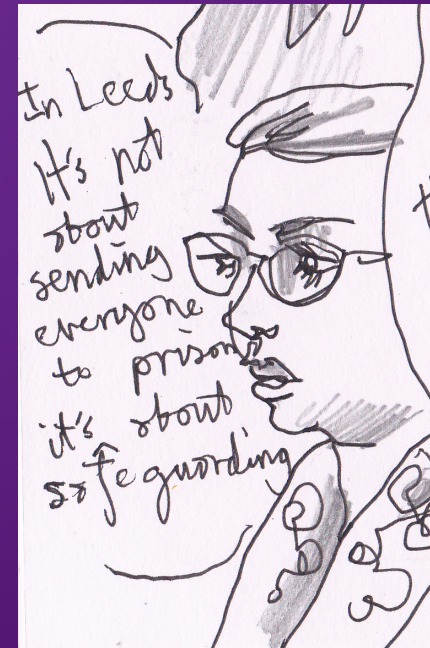
- 38% victim declines/withdraws support (named suspect identified)
- 38% victim supports but evidential difficulties (named suspect identified)
- **How to deal with these?**

Incidents (n=32)

- Threats/concerns about FM especially difficult to assess – evidence to suggest some cases might have met the threshold for crime whilst others did not
- Safeguarding provisions varied

If we haven't got enough evidence, we haven't got enough evidence. *We haven't got enough evidence.* How many times do we have to say it, you know?

Alice, Crown Prosecution Service



What does a successful outcome look like?

Recommendations (i): Knowledge and awareness

- Review of training and knowledge throughout organisations, especially of call-handlers
- Training should be regular, rigorous and relevant and focus on subtle as well as obvious indicators of HBA
- Knowledge base should be robust and widespread – specialist teams rather than individuals

It really is just training [that's needed for professionals] and not just having generic training, for example, where you'll kind of put [it] in as an agenda item where we'll just cover forced marriage, honour-based abuse. It's having bespoke tailored training where you're getting to grips with the actual issue relating to case studies.

Aisha, Third Sector Organisation

Recommendations (ii): Recording, responses and risk assessment

- Greater accuracy in data recording, especially around: ethnicity, nationality, sexuality and language
- Be aware of potential for ‘hidden’ suspects and victims
- Exercise healthy degree of professional scepticism – remember that victims might be acting under duress
- Implementation of ‘golden hour’ principles for collecting evidence and safeguarding

Thank you for listening

Questions and comments?

Table Discussions

1. What further research needs to be done on honour-based abuse?
2. What does a successful outcome for a case of honour-based abuse look like?
3. How well do risk-assessment tools work in relation to identifying and managing risk in cases of honour-based abuse?
4. What are the key indicators that might assist with the early identification of honour-based abuse?
5. What works well with partnership working when managing cases of honour-based abuse? What could be improved?
6. How can we work to prevent honour-based abuse?
7. How can victims of honour-based abuse be better supported?
8. What work might be done with perpetrators of honour-based abuse?
9. How effective is the current legislative framework (e.g. Forced Marriage Protection Orders and the offence of forced marriage) for protecting victims?
10. Where do you think the missed opportunities are for identifying and intervening in cases of honour-based abuse?