

Forced Marriage Policy

March 2024

Control schedule

Version control

Approved by	Policy and Sustainability Committee		
Version	Date	Author	Comment
0.1	08.03.2022	Angela Voulgari	Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee Lead Officer
		Kate Armit	Edinburgh Adult Protection Committee Lead Officer
		Euan Currie	Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Lead Officer
0.2	15.02.2024	Angela Voulgari	Equally Safe Edinburgh Committee Lead Officer
		Laura G. Brown	Edinburgh Child Protection Committee Lead Officer
Scheduled for review	March 2025		

Subsequent committee decisions affecting this policy

Date	Committee	Link to report	Link to minute
28 May 2024	Policy & Sustainability – Forced Marriage Policy Approved	Link to Committee Agenda and Papers	Link to Committee Agenda and Paper

Forced Marriage Policy

Policy statement

- 1.1 This policy outlines how practice in relation to forced marriage is aligned with existing Council structures, policies and procedures designed to protect children and adults with support needs and those experiencing domestic abuse.

Scope

- 2.1 This policy informs and supports the work of practitioners who are responsible for protecting children and adults from forced marriage.
- 2.2 This policy links with, and should be read together with, a number of other City of Edinburgh Council policies pertaining to Child Protection and Adult Protection, outlined in section 14 of this document.
- 2.3 This policy recognises that many, but not all, people affected by Forced Marriage will come from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, for some of whom English will not be their first language. The City of Edinburgh Council will make this policy available, upon request, in other languages and formats, including Braille.

Definitions

- 3.1 FMPO - Forced Marriage Protection Order
FMU - Forced Marriage Unit
IRD - Inter-Agency Referral Discussion
LGBT - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender
BAME - Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
FGM - Female Genital Mutilation
UNCRC – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

4. What is forced marriage?

- 4.1 A forced marriage is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to marriage and undue pressure or coercion is used (e.g. some people with learning disabilities may be unable to give consent because of their lack of understanding).
- 4.2 It is an indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a fundamental abuse of human rights.
- 4.3 The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel they are bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking wages or not giving the person any money) can also be a factor.
- 4.4 Parents who force their children to marry often justify their behaviour as protecting their children, building stronger families and preserving cultural or religious traditions. However, forced marriage cannot be justified on religious grounds; every major faith condemns it.
- 4.5 Families and communities may also exert pressure on a person to stay in a marriage from which they wish to leave. Although this is not the legal definition of a forced marriage, which is contingent on pressure to enter a marriage, families and communities may also exert pressure on a person to stay in a marriage from which they wish to leave. In such cases, victims and survivors might experience the same traumatic impacts.
- 4.6 Victims are under immense pressure to conform to the wishes of family. This can be accompanied by physical, emotional and sexual abuse. It is not uncommon for victims to be killed (so-called 'honour' killing) or to attempt suicide.
- 4.7 The circumstances of forced marriage are such that victims may remain with or return to families, or not be able to follow through on actions. This is not a failure on their part.

- 4.8 Services should continue to be available to victims on a long-term basis, and support should not include other family members, apart from any who are deemed to be at risk.

5. What is arranged marriage?

- 5.1 Arranged marriage is an ancient and evolving tradition; whereby families take the lead role in helping to choose the marriage partner, but the marriage takes place with the explicit, ongoing and enthusiastic consent of both parties and either party can change his/her mind at any time, without any negative repercussions.
- 5.2 In cases where a young person appears to be happy about an engagement to be married, if they are under 16, they are not able to consent to such an arrangement and are therefore being forced to marry.
- 5.3 Likewise, people with learning disabilities may be unable to give true consent as a result of not fully understanding the implications of what they are agreeing to. In these circumstances, the marriage would be forced, rather than arranged.
- 5.4 People with learning disabilities, physical disabilities as well as LGBT people are disproportionately affected by Forced Marriage. People with mental health issues are also particularly vulnerable to being forced to marry, and it is equally important to remember that any mental health issues that affect them could be the result of the pressure to marry.
- 5.5 As such, it is crucial that professionals and services that support them are trauma-informed, person-centred, and well informed on their sex, gender identity, cultural and religious requirements.

6. Who may be affected?

- 6.1 Both women and men can be forced into marriage, although most cases involve girls and women aged between 13 and 30. Women who are divorced or who have children from a previous relationship/marriage and women who are pregnant or who have had children outside of marriage are at particularly high risk as they are deemed to have brought 'shame' to their family or community. This risk involves both Forced Marriage, as

well as other forms of so called 'honour' based abuse, including so called 'honour' killings.

- 6.2 People with physical and learning disabilities may be forced into marriage by families wanting to ensure their long-term care. They may further be resistant to leaving the marriage for fear of losing any option of long-term care.
- 6.3 Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are also more likely to be affected. For many communities, the LGBT identity is seen as transgressive of cultural/religious norms and ensuring that a heterosexual marriage takes place is a way of maintaining the family's or the community's 'honour'. This is true of traditional and faith-based communities, but not exclusively. It is further worth noting that a number of people seeking asylum in the UK and Scotland are seeking asylum on the grounds of LGBT identity, which would place their lives at risk in their countries of origin.
- 6.4 Although children and young people are most at risk of forced marriage, people of middle/older age can be affected based on their individual circumstances. For example, women who are over 30 who have never married, women who are divorced and/or who have children from a previous marriage/relationship or people who have been widowed might also experience pressure to marry or re-marry. People from this demographic might well be under-represented in services due to a lack of knowledge of where/how to access support, although they are able to access support and information through the resources identified in Section 13: Roles and Responsibilities.
- 6.5 Children in care and care-experienced people are also at risk of forced marriage. In the absence of direct family influences, there is often pressure continuing to be exerted by the wider family or community.
- 6.6 Most reported cases in the UK so far have involved South Asian families (Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi). This partly reflects the large, established South Asian population in the UK. There have been cases involving East Asian, European and SWANA (South West Asia and North Africa) communities as well. It is also important to note that asylum-seeking and refugee communities are at particularly high risk, often due to a lack of knowledge that forced marriage is a crime in Scotland, or a lack of awareness of alternatives.

- 6.7 Gypsy/traveller communities also anecdotally report high rates of forced marriage; this is often not reported to services due to the tightly-knit nature of the community. The City of Edinburgh operates to 'The City of Edinburgh Council Management of Roadside Encampments' protocol which identifies the roles and responsibilities of Police Scotland and Family and Household Support in identifying and responding to the needs of families and communities in roadside encampments. The protocol aims to improve access to public services and uphold the rights of people present in the encampment, including any affected by, or at risk of, forced marriage.
- 6.8 At times, forced marriage involves elements of human trafficking with people moved within or in to the UK for the purposes of marriage and subsequently having their official documents stolen. This creates additional barriers to leaving a forced marriage and seeking support. In some communities, such as the Roma community, it is considered 'normal' to be expected to repay a long-standing debt for being transported within or between countries, and this keeps people trapped in forced marriages for longer.
- 6.9 Forced marriage is an issue that can affect people from all ethnic, cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. However, it is important to recognise that people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) are particularly at risk of forced marriage, domestic abuse and other forms of violence and abuse.
- 6.10 Similarly, people experiencing forced marriage and domestic abuse might be deterred from reporting or seeking support for fear of destitution or deportation, if their leave to remain in the UK is dependent on their marital status. Poverty and destitution can be both a driving force behind forced marriage (as a way of securing someone's way out of poverty) as well as its outcome – as survivors sometimes leave a marriage with no income or employment prospects, no property, and any state benefits being allocated to their spouse rather than themselves.
- 6.11 Forced marriage does not exclusively affect BAME communities, as it can also affect faith-based or traditional communities of any ethnic origin. However, no major world religion condones forced marriage, nor does the practice have a religious basis.
- 6.12 There are occasions where people go through a religious, but not a civil wedding ceremony. This subsequently creates problems for people who

may overstay their visas or who may wish to leave the marriage but have no recourse to public funds or stable immigration status. In recent years in Edinburgh this has been noted as an issue particularly affecting international students.

- 6.13 Some forced marriages take place in Scotland with no overseas element, while others involve a partner travelling to the UK from overseas or a British national being sent abroad. In some cases, religious marriage ceremonies can also take place over the phone, with partners based within the UK or abroad.

7. What is the impact of forced marriage?

- 7.1 Isolation is one of the biggest problems facing those trapped in, or under threat of, a forced marriage. They may feel they have no one to speak to about their situation – some may not be able to speak English.
- 7.2 These feelings of isolation are very similar to those experienced by victims of other forms of domestic and child abuse. Only rarely will an individual disclose fear of forced marriage.
- 7.3 Therefore, someone who fears they may be forced to marry will often come to the attention of health professionals, police, social care services, education services or other professionals for various behaviours consistent with distress.
- 7.4 It is also important to remember however, that some people (especially young people between 16-18 years of age), might not know that their marriage is being arranged, in the UK or abroad. Some may have been told that they are going abroad for a family holiday, or to attend 'a family celebration'. As a result, they may feel excited rather than distressed.
- 7.5 In such situations, it is the responsibility of organisations and services supporting them to be alerted to any potential risks of forced marriage in the UK or abroad, to take the necessary steps to mitigate risks and to report any concerns to the relevant agency (for example, to report a child who is missing after not returning from a holiday abroad).
- 7.6 Young people forced to marry, or those who fear they may be forced to marry, are frequently withdrawn from education, restricting their educational and personal development. They may feel unable to go against the wishes of their parents and be threatened with disownment if

they do – consequently they may suffer emotionally, often leading to depression and self-harm.

- 7.7 These factors can contribute to impaired social development, limited career and educational opportunities, financial dependence and lifestyle restrictions. Self-harm and suicide are also possible consequences.
- 7.8 Children and adults with support needs are particularly vulnerable to forced marriage and its consequences because they are often reliant on their families for care; they may have communication difficulties; and they may have fewer opportunities to tell anyone outside the family about what is happening to them.
- 7.9 There have been reports of children and adults with mental health needs, learning and physical disabilities being forced to marry. Some adults with support needs do not have the capacity to consent to the marriage. Some children and adults with support needs may be unable to consent to consummate the marriage.
- 7.10 Sexual intercourse without consent is rape, and sex within a forced marriage is tantamount to rape. This in itself is extremely traumatic, especially if occurring within a prolonged period of time, against a child or other person with limited capacity to consent.

8. What are the possible consequences of forced marriage?

- 8.1 Women forced to marry may find it very difficult to initiate any action to end the marriage and may be subjected to repeated rape (sometimes until they become pregnant) and ongoing domestic abuse within the marriage.
- 8.2 In some cases, they suffer violence and abuse from the extended family, often being forced to undertake all the household chores for the family. There are links between forced marriage, human trafficking and modern slavery.
- 8.3 Victims frequently become trapped in a relationship marked by physical and sexual abuse.
- 8.4 Leaving might not seem possible, because often the entire family, extended family and community might be conspiring to ensure that there is sustained pressure on the victim to stay in the marriage.

- 8.5 If they leave, they can be completely ostracized and abused by their community, leaving them without any source of support.
- 8.6 There have been reports of people disappearing after leaving a forced marriage. This can be due to a number of factors: limited availability of support services; destitution or fear of destitution, homelessness and poverty; lack of life management or decision-making skills; and criminal exploitation of the vulnerability of people who leave a forced marriage and who experience severe levels of trauma.
- 8.7 There have been reports of women resorting to using substances to cope with the distress of leaving, and at times, resorting to selling sex for survival.
- 8.8 The trauma of forced marriage is also increasingly linked with chronic or lifelong pain conditions such as fibromyalgia, with increasing numbers of women survivors diagnosed with the condition.
- 8.9 The impact this has on children within the marriage is extremely serious. Children may learn that it is acceptable to be abusive and that violence is an effective way to get what is wanted. They may learn that violence is justified, particularly when angry with another person. They may also learn that forcing someone to marry is the norm for their family or community, and thus not speak up or seek help if they, or someone they know is at risk.
- 8.10 Forced marriage has intergenerational components and strong links to intergenerational trauma. Children and adults born and raised in a forced marriage are likely to be affected by trauma throughout the lifespan and to require specialist and intensive support for this.
- 8.11 Children witnessing abuse can be traumatized, because witnessing persistent violence undermines children's emotional security and capacity to meet the demands of everyday life.
- 8.12 Children's academic abilities can be affected. Witnessing violence as a child is associated with depression, trauma-related symptoms and low self-esteem in adulthood.

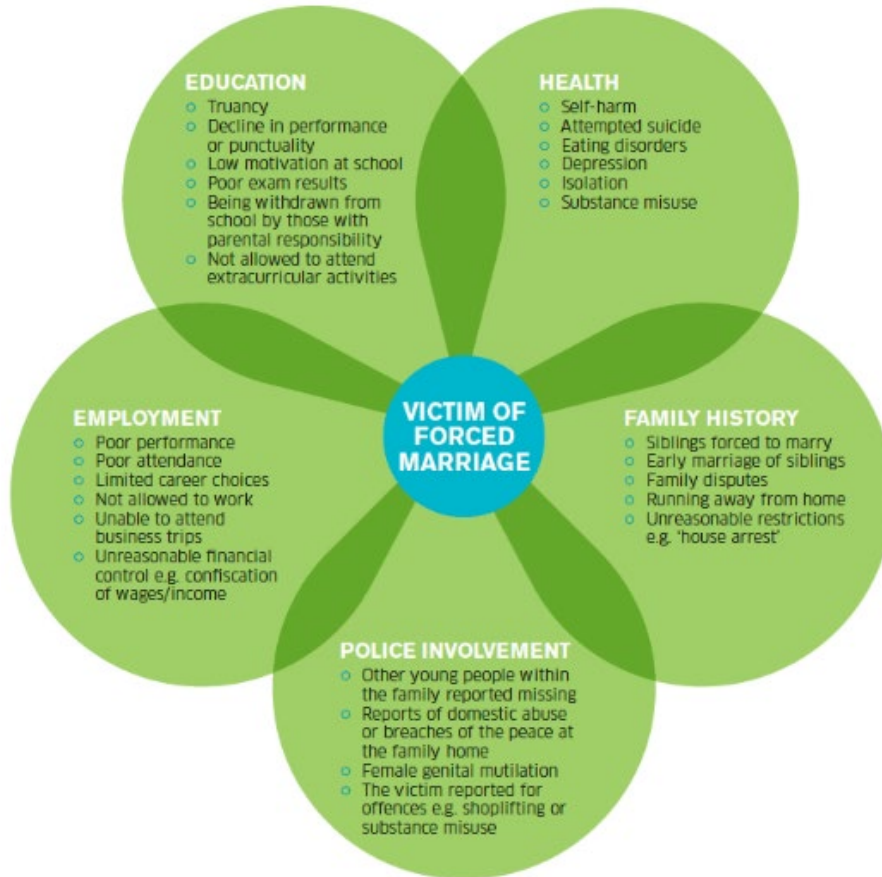
9. Legal context

- 9.1 The law in Scotland provides both civil and criminal protection.

- 9.2 Any forced marriage legislation should be used in conjunction with Child and Adult Protection legislation.
- 9.3 The [Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) made forced marriage a criminal offence. This means that forcing someone to marry or taking advantage of their lack of understanding to trick them into taking part in a marriage is against the law in Scotland; so too is taking someone away from Scotland, against their will, to be married elsewhere.
- 9.4 There may be associated criminal activities, such as abduction, physical abuse and threats.
- 9.5 The [Forced Marriage etc \(Protection and Jurisdiction\) \(Scotland\) Act](#) was passed in 2011 and created Forced Marriage Protection Orders. Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPO) are designed to prevent a forced marriage from occurring or to offer protective measures when a forced marriage has taken place.
- 9.6 The court's powers are wide-ranging and the terms of the order can be tailored to the specific needs of the victim. Orders may contain prohibitions, restrictions or requirements to stop or change the conduct of those who would force the victim into marriage.
- 9.7 FMPOs are a civil remedy. They exist alongside the criminal offence of forced marriage. This means that a victim can apply for an FMPO to the civil court separately from criminal proceedings. Depending on the circumstances, criminal proceedings may take place in tandem.
- 9.8 A FMPO can be:
- granted by the civil sheriff courts for either a child or adult
 - applied for by third parties (including the police and local authorities) on a victim's behalf
 - applied for by all other relevant third parties, with leave of the court
 - made by a civil court on its own initiative under certain circumstances
 - applied for on behalf of the victim in criminal cases by the Lord Advocate, if the case has been referred by the court.

- 9.9 If there are complexities associated with immigration status, nationality, dual nationality and whether the victim is in Scotland, elsewhere in the UK or overseas, the Forced Marriage Unit can be contacted for advice, as these complexities might affect how victims can be assisted.

10. Potential warning signs



- 10.1 In order to make sensitive and informed professional judgements about the child's or potential adult victim's needs, it is important that professionals are sensitive to differing family patterns and lifestyles, and to child-rearing patterns that vary across different racial, ethnic and cultural groups.
- 10.2 At the same time, they must be clear that abuse cannot be condoned for religious or cultural reasons – therefore, forced marriage must be responded to as a protection and safeguarding issue.
- 10.3 The diagramme on page 9 illustrates some of the indicators that professionals in different areas of work might observe that should raise their concern about the safety and wellbeing of a person who might be at risk or experiencing a forced marriage.

- 10.4 More detailed indicators are also included in sections 4.443 – 4.447 of the [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland](#) (updated 2023)
- 10.5 It is critical to know that forced marriage is a cultural and not a religious practice. Any professional with concerns around forced marriage is encouraged to ask sensitive questions around the practice to confidently establish the circumstances leading up to a marriage or leading a person to wish to end a marriage.
- 10.6 Professionals are also strongly encouraged to seek advice and guidance by specialist services listed in Section 13 of this Policy.

11. Key Practice Messages and Checklist

11.1 The following key messages and checklist are for frontline practitioners who have identified that forced marriage may be an issue. Forced marriage should always be referred to Social Care Direct as an adult protection or child protection issue, depending on the age of the victim.

11.2 Focus on safety and protection:

- i. always focus on the safety and protection of victims and avoid contributing to risk. This includes not including members of their family, extended family or community in conversations around their concerns.
- ii. always take the issue and the concerns of the victim seriously and recognise the potential risk of significant harm to the victim; many practitioners underestimate, or find it hard to believe, the lengths that families go to in order to force a marriage and that families do kill in the name of 'honour'
- iii. ensure that risk is assessed thoroughly, including risk of other harmful practices such as FGM and crimes like human trafficking
- iv. Assess whether there are other family members at risk of forced marriage, for example other siblings or family members with additional vulnerabilities
- v. **do not** attempt family counselling, mediation, arbitration and reconciliation if forced marriage is an issue; this can put a victim at further risk

- vi. **do not** share information with family / friends / community members; and, as with all cases, only share information with other practitioners in your own or other agencies if it is necessary to protect victims
- vii. as with all records belonging to individuals, forced marriage cases should be kept secure to prevent unauthorised access by anyone other than those dealing directly with the case.

11.3 Checklist:

11.3.1. You may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim of forced marriage, and therefore, only one chance to:

- i. see the victim on her/his own – even if s/he is accompanied by others
- ii. see her/him immediately in a secure and private place where you will not be overheard
- iii. reassure her/him that you will not give information to family / friends or community
- iv. take what s/he says seriously
- v. ensure an independent translator¹ is available if necessary
- vi. be aware a woman may not be allowed or willing to speak to a male worker alone
- vii. recognise and respect her/his wishes
- viii. obtain as much information as possible from her/him about the situation and the risks s/he faces

¹*There are risks in using interpreters so you should be cautious and ensure they are professional, independent and have no links with the community or victim's family. Make sure the interpreter understands that their role is to translate verbatim and not "interpret" the message or censor / omit any of the information.*

- ix. agree a way to contact her/him safely (for example, agree a code word)
- x. obtain full details and record these safely to pass on to Social Care Direct or the police
- xi. explain all the options to her/him and their possible outcomes, as much as you are able
- xii. give her/him (or help her/him memorise) your contact details and/or those of a support agency, such as Shakti
- xiii. consider the need for immediate police involvement, protection and placement away from the family, and arrange this if necessary; this includes any action to stop her/him from being removed from the UK (please see FMU contact details below)

11.3.2. Be ready to inform victims about their options - both civil and criminal, the help available and how to get it. Advising a woman that she can apply for a Forced Marriage Protection Order may help reduce any anxiety about criminal sanction.

11.3.3. The consent of the victim is not a prerequisite for criminal proceedings. The views of the victim would be one factor for prosecutors to consider when deciding whether to initiate or continue with criminal proceedings in any particular case.

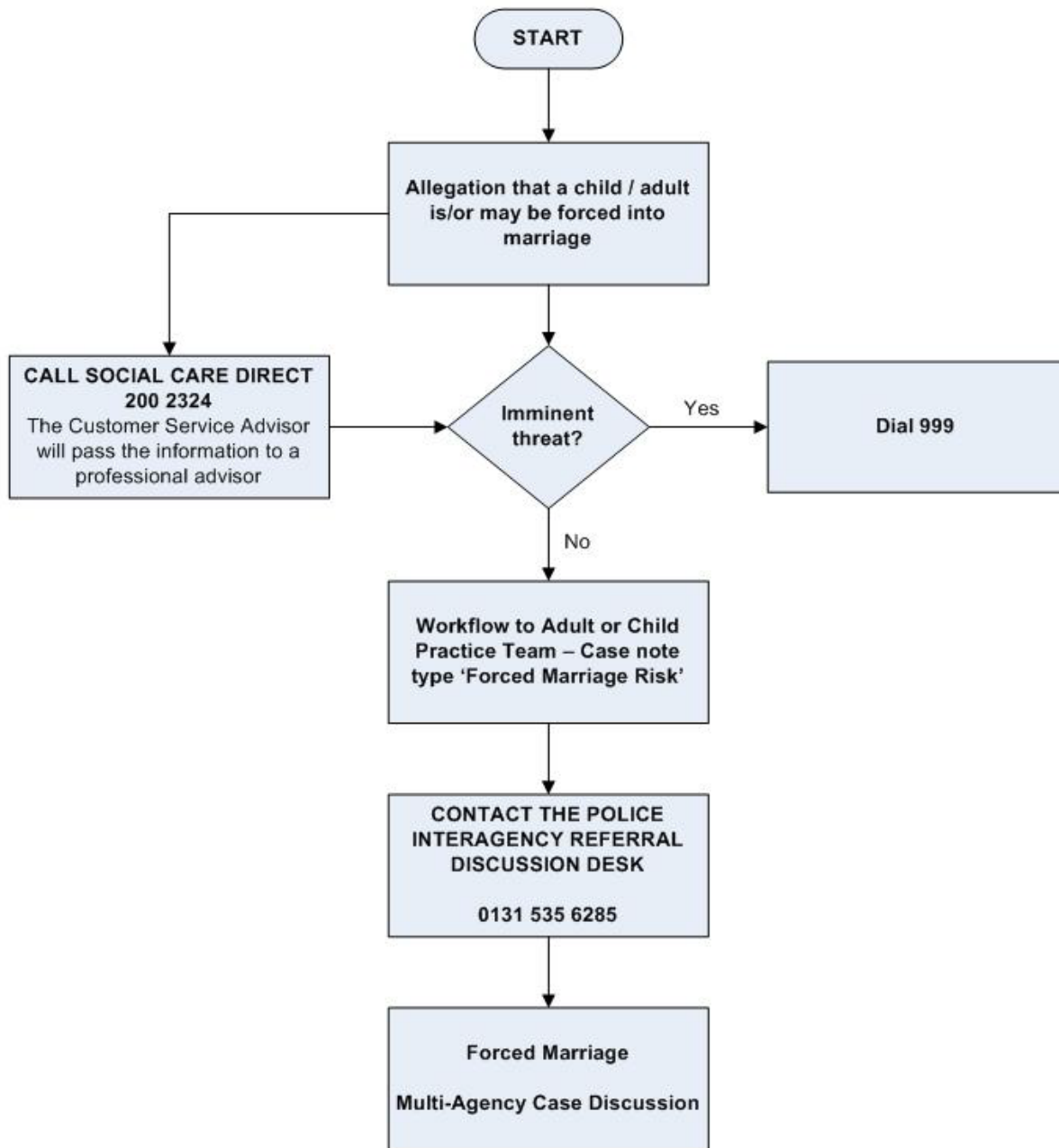
11.3.4. However, prosecutors have a duty to make decisions based on the wider public interest.

11.3.5. Contact Social Care Direct immediately if you become aware that forced marriage may be an issue. It is important not to contact the victim's friends / family, community or community leaders or attempt to mediate with them.

11.3.6. How services will align with the family will be considered as part of the forced marriage multi-agency discussion, which will take place following the referral to Social Care Direct.

11.3.7. Child Protection processes will be considered up to the age of 18. This is in line with the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#)'s definition of a child as anyone under the age of 18.

Allegation that a Child/Adult is/or may be forced into Marriage



Planning options from forced marriage case discussion – considerations could include: investigation of criminal offence, safe use of interpreters, locking down records, support from Shakti, or other relevant specialist agency, application for Forced Marriage Protection Order, initiation of further adult and child protection processes, identifying any other / younger siblings who may also be at risk, risk assessments and safety plan completed, travel / abduction precautions (passport details / dual passports / immigration status), Trigger Plan if child disappears, including list of all vehicles used by family, full details of extended family (addresses in UK and abroad), photograph of victim / DNA sample taken/details of distinguishing marks, details of school attended and school contact, establish regular safe contact.

Implementation

12. Implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all City of Edinburgh Council employees working in public protection, as well as of professionals in the voluntary sector who are represented in the Council's Public Protection Committees.

It is the responsibility of all managers within the City of Edinburgh Council and within partner organisations on Public Protection Committees to familiarise themselves with this policy and to ensure that staff teams within their services are also familiar with this policy and its application.

Roles and Responsibilities

13. Useful contacts for general advice and guidance:

All agencies should follow the procedure above if forced marriage cases are identified. However, the contacts below can provide general advice and guidance.

Scotland's Domestic Abuse and Forced Marriage Helpline

Free helpline with trained advisors on hand 24 hours a day

0800 027 1234; www.sdafmh.org.uk

Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)

You should contact the FMU if you know or suspect that a child or adult victim is being taken out of Scotland or out of the UK. It can assist in alerting the police and authorities at points of departure so that the victim and those accompanying the victim can be prevented from leaving the UK.

Tel: 020 7008 0151 (Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm); Email: fmu@fco.gov.uk.

Lead person within each agency

Each agency has a lead person for forced marriage who can offer general guidance and advice.

City of Edinburgh Council

Social Care Direct

If you are concerned about forced marriage, you can refer a child or adult to Social Care Direct for support through Social Work.

Tel: 0131 200 2324

(Monday- Thursday 8.30am-5pm and Friday 8.30am to 3.55pm_

Outside office hours, you can contact Emergency Social Work:

0800 731 6969

(Monday to Thursday 5pm-8.30am and Weekends from Friday 3.55pm to Monday 8.30am)

Email: socialcaredirect@edinburgh.gov.uk

Police Scotland

In an emergency, or if someone's life is at risk, call 999. If it is not an emergency, contact Police Scotland on 101.

Other sources of support

Other organisations and agencies that can provide support, advice and information can be found on the [City of Edinburgh Council website](#)

Related documents

14.1. Relevant Council Policies and Procedures:

14.1.1. [Adult Support and Protection: Enduring rights and preventing harm](#)
(Adult Protection Multi-Agency Guidelines)

14.1.2. [City of Edinburgh Council Adult Protection Policy](#)

14.1.3. [City of Edinburgh Council Adult Protection Procedure](#)

14.1.4. [City of Edinburgh Council Child Protection Procedures](#)

14.1.5. [Edinburgh and the Lothians Inter-Agency Procedures for the Protection of Girls and Women at Risk of Female Genital Mutilation](#)

14.2. Relevant National Guidance

14.2.1. [National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021](#) (updated 2023)

- 14.2.2. [Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007: Code of Practice](#)
- 14.2.3. [Adult Support and Protection Improvement Plan 2019-2022](#)
- 14.2.4. [Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance](#) (2014)
- 14.2.5. [Forced Marriage Practitioner Guidance](#) – update 2014
- 14.3. Relevant Legislation:
 - 14.3.1. [Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#)
 - 14.3.2. [Adults with Incapacity \(Scotland\) Act 2000](#)
 - 14.3.3. [Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)
 - 14.3.4. [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#)
 - 14.3.5. [Female Genital Mutilation \(Protection and Guidance\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#)
 - 14.3.6. [Forced Marriage etc. \(Protection and Jurisdiction\) \(Scotland\) Act 2011](#)
 - 14.3.7. [The Forced Marriage etc. \(Protection and Jurisdiction\) \(Scotland\) Act 2011 \(Application to Civil Partnership and Consequential Provision\) Order 2023](#)
 - 14.3.8. [The Forced Marriage etc. \(Protection and Jurisdiction\) \(Scotland\) Act 2011 \(Relevant Third Party\) Order 2017](#)
 - 14.3.9. [Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)
- 14.4. Further information:

Practitioner guidance: multi-agency guidance intended to inform all frontline staff and volunteers within agencies who are likely to come across adults or children and young people threatened with or in a forced marriage and who are at risk of the abuse associated with this. There is specific guidance for:

 - health workers
 - school, college and university staff

- police officers
- children and families social workers
- adult support and protection staff
- local authority housing

Practitioner guidance can be accessed [here](#)

Statutory guidance: guidance describes the responsibilities of chief executives, directors and senior managers within agencies involved in handling cases of forced marriage. It covers roles and responsibilities, accountability, training, inter-agency working and information sharing, risk assessment and information sharing, risk assessment and record keeping.

Pdf version of statutory guidance can be accessed [here](#)

Other sources of support

Other organisations and agencies that can provide support, advice and information can be found on the [City of Edinburgh Council](#) website.

Integrated impact assessment

15. The Integrated Impact Assessment for the revision of the City of Edinburgh Council's Forced Marriage Policy identified that this is a much-needed update of a policy relevant to all areas of public protection.

15.1. The revised Forced Marriage policy has broadened the spectrum of the original policy to include a wider range of people with protected characteristics.

15.2. As Forced Marriage is a sensitive issue involving personal characteristics, family and community dynamics, it is possible to expect both possible positive and negative outcomes for people affected. This review is intended to reflect best practice for all professionals and agencies involved in both supporting survivors and people at risk of Forced Marriage

15.3. The revised Forced Marriage Policy makes more explicit mention of the risk factors for specific populations with particular characteristics, both protected and not protected by the 2010 Equality Act

15.4. The Integrated Impact Assessment did not find any positive or negative environmental impacts as a result of this policy review.

15.5. The Integrated Impact Assessment has been published on the City of Edinburgh Council's [Communities and Families Integrated Impact Assessment webpage](#).

Risk assessment

16. This policy represents an overarching statement in relation to the multi-agency assessment and management of risk of forced marriage. It seeks to reduce and mitigate risks to those at risk of forced marriage as described in the Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011.

Review

17. This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis.