

Lincolnshire Police

Policy Document



Honour-based abuse and forced marriage policy

PD204

Policy document information

Reference number:	PD 204
Policy sponsor:	Deputy Chief Constable
Policy owner:	Crime Department: Head of PVP
Author:	PSH DCI
Publication date:	May 2026
Review date:	May 2028

Version history

Version	Date	Reason for issue
4	September 2019	Biennial Review
5	January 2022	Update onto new policy template / Review
6	January 2024	Biennial Review
7	May 2026	Biennial Review Addition of 1.4 (scope), 1.6 (Harmful practice terminology), 1.7 (HBA new definition), Amendment to Appendix A to include Harmful Practice terminology, Male Victims and Non-Therapeutic Male Circumcision. Equality Impact Assessment – Removal of previous EIA, Addition of full EIA for the updated version of Policy PD 268 May 2026.

Code of Ethics

All staff involved in carrying out functions under this policy and associated procedures and appendices will do so in accordance with the principles of the Code of Ethics. The aim of the Code of Ethics is to support each member of the policing profession to deliver the highest professional standards in their service to the public.

Legislative compliance

This document has been drafted to comply with the principles of the Human Rights Act. Proportionality has been identified as the key to Human Rights compliance, this means striking a fair balance between the rights of the staff and those of the rest of the community. There must be a reasonable relationship between the aim to be achieved and the means used.

Equality and Diversity issues have also been considered to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and meet our legal obligation in relation to the equality duty. In addition, Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Health and Safety Issues have been considered. Adherence to this policy or procedure will therefore ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and internal policies.

Other legislation/law which this policy has been drafted to comply with:

- [Human Rights Act 1998 \(in particular A.14 – Prohibition of discrimination\)](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#)
- [H&S legislation](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Freedom Of Information Act 2000](#)

Security classification

Policy to be published on Intranet: Yes

Policy to be published on Force Website: Yes, but not appendices.

Authorised Professional Practice (APP)

This Policy has been checked against APP. Lincolnshire Police has adopted the APP provisions, with supplementary information contained herein, which reflects local practice and the needs of the communities served by Lincolnshire Police.

Those provisions are shown in the links below and can be accessed via the home page of the APP website:

[Forced marriage and honour-based violence](#)

Please note the national strategy tackling Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage is available on this page, as well as the latest multi agency statutory guidance, legislation and links with the Crown Prosecution Service.

1. Policy aims (Purpose)

- 1.1 This policy relates to all circumstances where Lincolnshire Police is involved in reports and investigations relating to Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Forced Marriage.
- 1.2 This policy relates to all circumstances where Lincolnshire Police is involved in reports and investigations relating to Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Forced Marriage.
- 1.3 The Policy is aimed at all police officers and police staff who are working for the force and includes staff contracted to the Force, including volunteers.
- 1.4 This Policy does specifically not cover circumstances where Lincolnshire Police is involved in reports and investigations relating to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as this is covered in detail in the Female Genital Mutilation Policy PD 227.
- 1.5 Lincolnshire Police adopts the NPCC Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage Strategy (2015) vision, mission and aims.

Namely: -

“The Police Service’s vision remains nothing less than the total eradication of Honour Based Abuse (HBA), Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) from all communities. This was our ambition in 2008 when ACPO published the first national policing strategy to tackle Honour Based Violence (as it was known as then) & FM and it remains so today with the addition of FGM.”

- 1.6 Whilst Honour Based Abuse is the term used by statutory agencies and policing bodies, Lincolnshire Police Officers and Staff should be aware that external organisations that are supporting victims across the country are increasingly referring to this abuse as Harmful Practice. Savera UK tells us that Harmful Practices are persistent behaviours and actions that constitute abuse and are a violation of human rights, examples include; HBA, child/forced marriage, FGM, Breast flattening, virginity testing/hymenoplasty, dowry payments, son preference, bride price, marital captivity, conversion therapy, spiritual abuse and sex selective abortion.

- 1.7 In 2025, the UK Government announced as part of the Violence against Women and Girls strategy that a package of new measures will be introduced to tackle honour-based abuse, and this includes the introduction of a new statutory definition of honour-based abuse. This policy will be reviewed as more information is announced.

2. Policy statement (Key information)

- 2.1 This policy relates to all circumstances where Lincolnshire Police are involved in reports of honour-based abuse and forced marriage.
- 2.2 The policy is aimed at all police officers, police staff, Volunteers, Special Constables and includes staff who are contracted to the force.
- 2.3 Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage causes challenges for the Police service. The single most significant challenge is to ensure that every member of the service who may be the first point of contact for someone at risk has sufficient understanding of what is required to begin that person's journey from victim to survivor.
- 2.4 The benefits of successfully implementing this policy include:
- Fewer victims of Honour Based Abuse / Forced Marriage
 - More perpetrators brought to justice.
 - Increased community trust and confidence in police
 - Increased community intelligence
 - Increased capacity and capability in community organisations
 - Increased community cohesion
 - More complete evidence base on which to build future action.
 - Consistent level of service across UK
 - More effective partnership across the violence agenda.

3. Other related documents and appendices

- 3.1 Appendices.

- Appendix A - HBA / FM – Lincs Procedure Guidance
- Appendix B - Lincolnshire Risk Assessment and Protection Plan
- Appendix C - DNA Form / Vulnerable Volunteer Kit
- Appendix D - HBA Fingerprint Sample Continuity Document 1
- Appendix E - HBA DNA Sample Continuity Document 1
- Appendix F - HBV DNA & Fingerprint Samples Continuity Document 2
- Appendix G - Joint CPS and Police HBA/FM Protocol (2016)

All other documentation is available on the College of Policing APP section <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/forced-marriage-and-honour-based-violence/> or on the Force Intranet.

4. Monitoring and review

- 4.1 This policy will be subject to on-going review by the Detective Chief Superintendent Protecting Vulnerable Persons Unit to ensure that any changes in legislation, guidance or procedures are incorporated as soon as possible.

5. Who to contact about this policy

- 5.1 This policy is owned by the Head of the Protecting Vulnerable Persons Unit. Any enquires about this policy should be directed to DCI ,CID, 01522 9(47315).