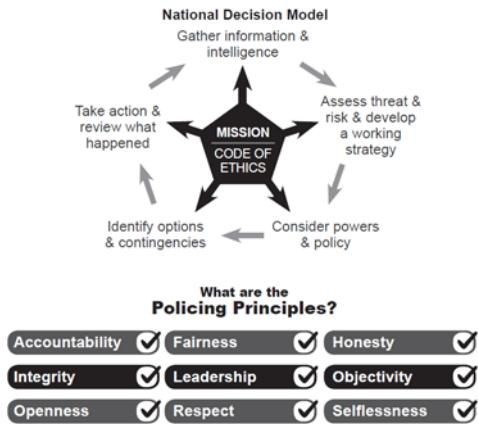




Ending Violence against Women and Girls – including Harmful Traditional Practices

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AUTHOR:	Force HTP Advisor / HTP Portfolio Lead
Name:	DS 2959 Michael Chalk (on behalf of the force advisor) D/Supt Sailesh Limbachia
Job Title:	Detective Sergeant –Public Protection Support Unit Detective Superintendent – Public Protection
Telephone number:	01483 631606 / 01483 638151
Email address:	Michael.chalk@surrey.pnn.police.uk



1. Background

- 1.1. This report is intended to provide an insight into the work being done by Surrey Police and partners to End Violence against Women and Girls including Harmful Tradition Practices (HTP). These practices include Forced Marriage (FM), Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Honour Based Abuse (HBA).
- 1.2. The report also covers work being done in the areas of Child Exploitation (CE) and Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO).
- 1.3. All of this work is underpinned by the goal that no woman or child should live in fear of violence and that every girl should grow up knowing she is safe, with the aim of making Surrey an inhospitable place for perpetrators.

2. Overview of HTP Portfolio Plan Update

- 2.1 The Surrey Police HTP Portfolio Plan is formulated of actions and recommendations from a National Action Plan and receives governance at the Forces Domestic Abuse Management Board (previously the HTP Management Board).
- 2.2 The general progress of these actions, is overseen by the HTP force advisor and HTP Portfolio Lead.
- 2.3 As of March 2019 there were 14 live portfolio actions, all of which were graded using the `BRAG` system. This has now been reduced to 5 current live portfolio actions, meaning progression has been made in 9 actions which have been successfully completed and archived.
- 2.4 The current actions are graded as Green (0) and Amber (5) with no Red (0) graded actions.

Portfolio Actions - HTP

PP Action2 - Ensuring all appropriate staff in all agencies have comprehensive training and practical tools in HTP, the understanding of cultural practices and beliefs to make sure that it is embedded within our organisations' ethos and approach. To equip our staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to handle these cases and support victims and witnesses.

Surrey Police provide HBA training days internally with attendance extended to statutory partners.

Surrey Police continue to enjoy a professional and fruitful relationship with both True Honour and Karma Nirvana. Both are independent charities that support anybody who is at risk or who has suffered any form of HTP. Both agencies have and continue to provide training in force to officers and staff to improve their understanding of HBA and to recognise the hidden indicators and how to respond to them to ensure the safety of vulnerable people. Both agencies have also provided fast time advice and support to investigating

officers who have been engaging with victims of HBA. The most recent example of this was a fast time investigation in Woking with a victim of DA and HBA who was unable to freely disclose the abuse that she was suffering.

True Honour continue to provide training inputs on a Surrey Police HBA Awareness course from the perspective of a survivor and the Investigation of such matters. As a charity they have received 6 call for support and assistance from individual female's resident within the Surrey Police area (since Jan 2019). The feedback continues to be extremely positive and since 1 Jan 2019 the input has been delivered on 4 courses with up to 20 attendees per course thereby increasing the knowledge and awareness to all areas of Surrey Police.

Acute Named nurses include honour based violence as part of their DA training.

Your Sanctuary hosted a forum on DA for North West Surrey GPs this included honour based abuse.

PP Action 11 - To have HTP SPOCs who have advanced training in order to equip front line staff more effectively to deal with cases of HTP and ensure that learning is captured and disseminated to agencies. To identify training and individuals to act as SPOCS within Surrey Police and where possible, encourage replication in other agencies.

Surrey Police have now trained and qualified 42 SPOC's and the next course is planned for April 2020 which will increase the figure of SPOCS to over 60 across the force. The SPOCs operate as accessible subject matter experts able to guide and advise staff regarding HTP investigations and reports.

PP Action 5 - Working with key stakeholders to influence marketing campaigns which drive and deliver our key message that HBA/FM and FGM are crimes and safely signpost victims and prospective victims to the police and specialist support agencies. We aim to produce innovative communication and guidance that reach into our communities and support national awareness campaigns.

During 2019 Surrey Police supported a National Day of Memory for Victims of HTP and a campaign on National Zero Tolerance Day for FGM, working alongside 3rd Sector Partners.

Surrey Police also work in partnership with Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum (SMEF), who have many members and access to hard to reach communities across Surrey. Workshops and internal publicity messaging campaigns, supported by SMEF, support our work in raising awareness of HTP with hard to reach community members. These campaigns focus on raising awareness of HTP, securing trust and providing access to support. This work will continue throughout the remainder of 2019 and into 2020. This work has partly been funded by OPCC. SMEF delivered 4 sessions on Domestic Abuse and Harmful Traditional Practices to communities in Surrey Heath and Woking. A total of 78 women from diverse backgrounds attended the sessions. The evaluation indicates that participants found the delivery of sessions in Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali and Nepali most effective and the format of the discussions enabled a better understanding of the issues. SMEF will deliver 4 more of these sessions in the coming months.

PP Action 8 - Making effective use of FM Protection Order (FMPO) & FGM Protection Orders (FGMPO) to safeguard victims & prospective victims and FM/FGMPOs to manage offenders' behaviour as part of an integrated plan of protection and ensure that officers and statutory partners have sight of these orders nationally e.g. using PNC/PND/WATCH LIST/WARNING INDEX. Ensure that there is clear communication and information sharing when any agency has a FMPO or FGMPO including whether it is varied at a later stage.

Surrey Police currently have 9 FMPO's in place for Surrey residents and there are 2 other FMPO orders that Surrey police initiated for persons who had previously resided in Surrey but who now reside outside of Surrey. Their current home Police force has been updated. There are no FGMPO's in place across the force. Plans are being discussed regarding the monitoring and enforcing of the orders and consideration is being given to them being managed by the Forces new High Harm Perpetrator Units (HHPUs)

3. Plans in Place to reduce offences of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

- 3.1** 84% of victims of all sexual offences over the last 2 years in Surrey have identified as female. The more serious the offence, the greater likelihood that the victim is female - 89% of rape victims are female. The number of reports relating to the most serious sexual offences have also increased over the last two years. 106 more reports of rape against females were recorded in 2018/19 compared with the previous years. The data for 'sexual assault' showed an increase of 93 offences against females over the same period. In comparison the offences against male victims reduced, albeit slightly, in both offence categories.
- 3.2** The largest group of female victims to sexual offences were between 13 and 17 years old (1017), followed by those aged 18 to 25 (793) then those aged 12 and under (707).
- 3.3** To counter a decline in positive outcomes relating to these sexual offences and the significant national impact of reviews into disclosure and digital evidence, the force has improved the quality and timeliness of investigation via a force improvement plan. Specific focus upon case file improvement, child rape and resourcing versus demand throughout our Sexual Offences Investigation Team and Safeguarding Investigation Units has been subject to previous reporting through the Force Performance Board and to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.4** The above data originates from a profile of recorded sexual offences that, combined with partner information, is integral to the design of a new rape prevention plan for Surrey. The plan will focus upon Victims, Offenders, Locations and Themes. Elements of preventative work are already being completed by Surrey officers and key partners. Numerous female university students were reporting sexual offences and were vulnerable due to often moving away from their homes and networks of family and friends for the first time. Members of the Sexual Offences Investigation Team, Sexual Abuse Resource Centre (SARC) and Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) attended Fresher's Fairs within the county during September 2019 to promote healthy relationships and increase awareness of 'consent' within English law. Staff engaged with hundreds of new students. Three victims subsequently referred to the SARC as a consequence. It is hoped the activity can develop further and be mirrored within further education (16 -18 year olds).
- 3.5** Officers are also working with partners to increase awareness and the access to the police and support services for members of the traditionally hard to reach Asian and East European communities.

4. Plans in Place to reduce Children (Girls) being victims of Exploitation

- 4.1** Whilst not specific to girls Surrey Police have embarked on a substantial amount of work to tackle Child Exploitation in Surrey, with partners. It is currently the forces number one Control Strategy Priority and attracts significant support across the force as a result. Work in this area also pays significant attention to the priorities recently published by the recently reconfigured Surrey Safeguarding Childrens Partnership (SSCP), of which Surrey Police are a key executive member.
- 4.2** As of October 2019 72 girls were assessed as being at risk of exploitation in Surrey. Over the last 18 months Surrey Police and its partners have developed close working relationships and aligned processes and objectives, with a focus on safeguarding those at risk and pursuing those placing them at risk. A snapshot of this work is detailed below.
- 4.3** Surrey Police Co-Chair a Multi – Agency Exploited Missing Children Delivery Group, which feeds into the SSCP. The group has representation from Children Services, Education, Health and the 3rd Sector and work towards a jointly developed Strategic Action Plan aimed at tackling criminal and sexual exploitation of children. The work of the Group includes;
- Developing Risk Management Meetings (RMMs) – A Multi-Agency Forum that assesses and manages the risk to children experiencing or at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation.

- Reducing Missing Episodes – Working with Children’s Homes and Schools to reduce repeat missing episodes and inappropriate/unnecessary reporting and to ensure all agencies responsibility for their duty of care to children. Missing episodes for children have reduced by 743 (25%) in the last year.
- The formation of 3 Divisional Child Exploitation and Missing Units in Surrey Police – Bespoke teams of Subject Matter Experts who build relationships with children vulnerable to exploitation and pursue perpetrators. They ensure a consistent approach to identifying risks and safeguarding children and young people from exploitation and are responsible for:
 - Raising awareness of Child Exploitation (CE) matters
 - Increasing reporting of Child Exploitation
 - Pursuing Perpetrators
 - Increasing safeguarding measures to help protect children and young people from being exploited.
 - Preventing High Risk Missing episodes of vulnerable children at risk of exploitation
- Introducing local multi-agency Mapping Offenders, Locations and Trends (MOLT) Meetings to provide a collective assessment of current and emerging exploitation issues and educate responses.
- Multi-Agency Training, Conferences and Awareness Events and Media Campaigns:
- **Operation Sportsafe** – An awareness campaign targeting sports clubs, venues and arenas to look out for the signs of Child Exploitation (criminal exploitation/county lines and CSE) and providing a mechanism to report concerns to police.
- **Operation Makesafe** – An awareness campaign for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) targeting Hotels/Taxis/Pubs and Restaurants and Children’s Homes. Training delivered to hundreds of taxi drivers on spotting the signs of CSE. YouTube videos made specifically for Hotels/Taxis/Pubs.
- **Youth Produced Sexual Imagery (Sexting)** – A Surrey Police led social media campaign for school children to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of Youth Produced Sexual Imagery in a bid to reduce the number of experimental ‘Sexting’ and aggravated ‘Sexting’ incidents and associated harm caused to children. The campaign aimed to deter offending by highlighting the risks of taking, making, permitting to take, distributing, showing or possessing Youth Produced Sexual Imagery and raising awareness of the law. In addition it offered parental advice and included work with partners and professionals, particularly within schools, to agree and ensure a consistent approach with how it’s dealt with. On Facebook alone the posts reached 150,618 people, with engagement from 12,385.
- **Emily’s Story** – Surrey Police worked with a victim of CSE to produce a video telling her story. In the video Emily talks about how she was sexually exploited and physically abused by a man she thought was her boyfriend, the help she received and what advice she’d give to someone who might be going through the same thing. This video was published on the police social media accounts and has so far reached 73,459 with a total engagement of 8197. The video was also used across Surrey Police to highlight how we can improve our approach to victims.
- **Safeguarding Adolescents to Tackle Child Exploitation** – In conjunction with Surrey County Council a Conference is being held with partners in November. The interactive conference will seek to focus on the theory and practice behind Contextual Safeguarding in order to prevent the exploitation and abuse of children and young people.
- **Breck’s Last Game** – Surrey Police worked with three other Forces on a learning resource and media campaign, including a video and accompanying lesson plans for all secondary schools highlighting the dangers of being groomed online. Three lesson plans were developed with the support of the Breck Foundation and with national PSHE input. They were aimed at KS3 and KS4

and delivered by the schools. Whilst the video was about a boy, the accompanying lessons focussed on boys and girls being victims and covered Believe and Be Aware, Educate and Empower, Communicate and Report.

- **Stop It Now IIOC Deterrence Campaign** – Surrey Police worked with the Lucy Faithful Foundation (LFF) and Police Forces across the South East in launching a campaign to deter people from viewing indecent images of children. The target audience were pre-arrest offenders, also with messaging for their families and friends, and the wider public. The aims were to drive people to Stop It Now! Resources in the form of the helpline and self-help website. Press releases were sent to local media, LFF and police social media channels were used, and physical adverts were put in place. As a result of this campaign LFF saw an increase of 17% in IIOC-related calls to the Stop It Now helpline, which included an increase from offenders and people calling about offenders.

5. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) - Effectiveness of Force process to embed identified lessons learnt

- **5.1.** Surrey Police work alongside partners in undertaking statutory reviews in relation to Safeguarding Children's Practice and Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). Again, whilst not specific to Women or Girls this work goes towards learning the lessons from previous cases, often involving women and girls, and improving practice so that the likelihood of others becoming victims is reduced or at least better addressed if they do tragically become victims of violence.
- **5.2.** CSPR and DHR panels are attended by the newly appointed Force Statutory Review Officer. The post has improved consistency in identifying and responding to learning, providing a single view across statutory reviews allowing for themes and trends to be identified and addressed through change of practice. The post holder has recently identified Child Neglect as an issue in current reviews, leading to a programme of work with partners to improve awareness and responses in Surrey.

6. Data:

The below figures provide an indication of the level of reporting to Surrey Police and investigation outcomes.

- 10 x HTP Crimes recorded from Oct to March 2019 with 3 positive outcomes, compared to 16 x HTP Crimes recorded from April to Sept 2019 with one positive outcome.
- 10 x HBV/Forced Marriage crime recorded from Oct to March 2019 compared to 15 x HBV/Forced Marriage crimes recorded from April to Sept 2019.
- 909 x Serious Sexual Assault Crimes recorded from Oct to March 2019 with 45 positive outcomes, compared to 894 x Serious Sexual Assault Crimes recorded from April to Sept 2019 with again 45 positive outcomes.
- 96 x CSE Crimes recorded from Oct to March 2019 with 11 positive outcomes compared to 79 x CSE Crimes recorded from April to Sept 2019 with 9 positive outcomes.

7. Conclusion[s]

- **7.1.** Whilst a substantial amount of work is being undertaken to end violence against women and girls in Surrey including the CE and RASSO work detailed in the report, there is undeniably more work to be done to understand the true nature, scale and complexity of HTP in Surrey. This area in particular, as part of efforts to end violence against women and girls, requires engagement with communities where such practice is known to be an issue, accepting the challenges of this. Whilst progress has been made internally with Surrey Police's understanding of, and response to HTP, low reporting is an area of some concern.

8. Decision[s] Required

- 8.1. None- for information only.

9. Attachments / Background Papers

None