

FORCED MARRIAGE PROTOCOL

BETWEEN

Birmingham City Council

and

West Midlands Police

1. **Aim and Purpose**

The purpose of this protocol is to create a process for the collation and sharing of relevant information about possible or actual forced marriages within the Birmingham community in order to co-ordinate a safe and effective response by the agencies responsible for children and young people services.

This local protocol supplements the Multi-Agency practice guidelines: Handling Cases of Forced Marriage, and the Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage, and Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board policies and procedures.

2. **Objectives**

- 2.1 To provide guidance that enables parties to an application to apply a consistent approach to information sharing locally.
- 2.2 To facilitate and co-ordinate a response to referrals of possible and actual forced marriages, to ensure the protection and empowerment of all potential victims.
- 2.3 To ensure a high quality service to victims of forced marriages including but not exclusively the use of the criminal justice system.
- 2.4 To facilitate a multi-agency approach to forced marriages.
- 2.5 To facilitate the collation and analysis of data pertaining to forced marriages in order to develop further appropriate services
- 2.6 To ensure action taken by the respective agencies will be conducted in a timely manner aimed at working with victims or potential victims of forced marriages in accordance with the terms of Working Together 2010.
- 2.7 All agencies will recognise the common aspects of safeguarding and empowering children and young people as defined within No Secrets and Working Together who are at risk of or in forced marriages.

3. **Introduction**

- 3.1 Forced marriages can affect all communities, both genders and across all generations affecting the lives of those other than the parties to the forced marriage.

3.2 Forced marriages can be the result of a number of factors and reference should be made to Appendix 1 taken from Working Together and particular note should be taken of the referral information.

3.3 This protocol does not override the duty of care of all agencies to ensure the safeguarding of any potential or actual victim of a forced marriage and should not prevent or delay appropriate action being taken.

3.4 This protocol recognises the link between forced marriages, domestic violence, honour killings, child neglect and family breakdown.

4. Procedure

4.1 Each signatory legal representative to this protocol will be contactable, who will advise and be the significant contact point (including the Deputy) in relation to process of all referrals pertaining to a forced marriage as contained within this Protocol. Contact details of the representatives in respect of the Protocol is listed at Appendix 5.

4.2 Having been advised of a forced marriage referral the officer of the relevant agency will liaise with their peer officers to request any relevant information held by other agencies with a view to appropriate action legal or otherwise being taken.


4.3 Any such request will be responded to immediately if appropriate. A strategy discussion will be convened within 24 hours to collate all such information and to inform a multi-agency response to the referral in order to ensure the wellbeing of the victim or potential victim within the forced marriage referral. If necessary, this shall be followed up with a strategy meeting immediately.

4.4 All parties to the protocol will review and monitor the progress of this process. A review will take place within 6 months of the agreement being signed by all the agencies.


4.5 Agencies will not in any circumstances share the information given to them with the family of the alleged victim of a forced marriage thereby breaching the confidence of the complainant.

4.6 Agencies shall not simply accept the word of parents or extended family that there are no forced marriage proposals especially if a holiday or trip abroad is planned. The most careful scrutiny is required.

Birmingham City Council Children, Young People and Families

Signed:  J. JENSEN
Dated: 3rd June '13

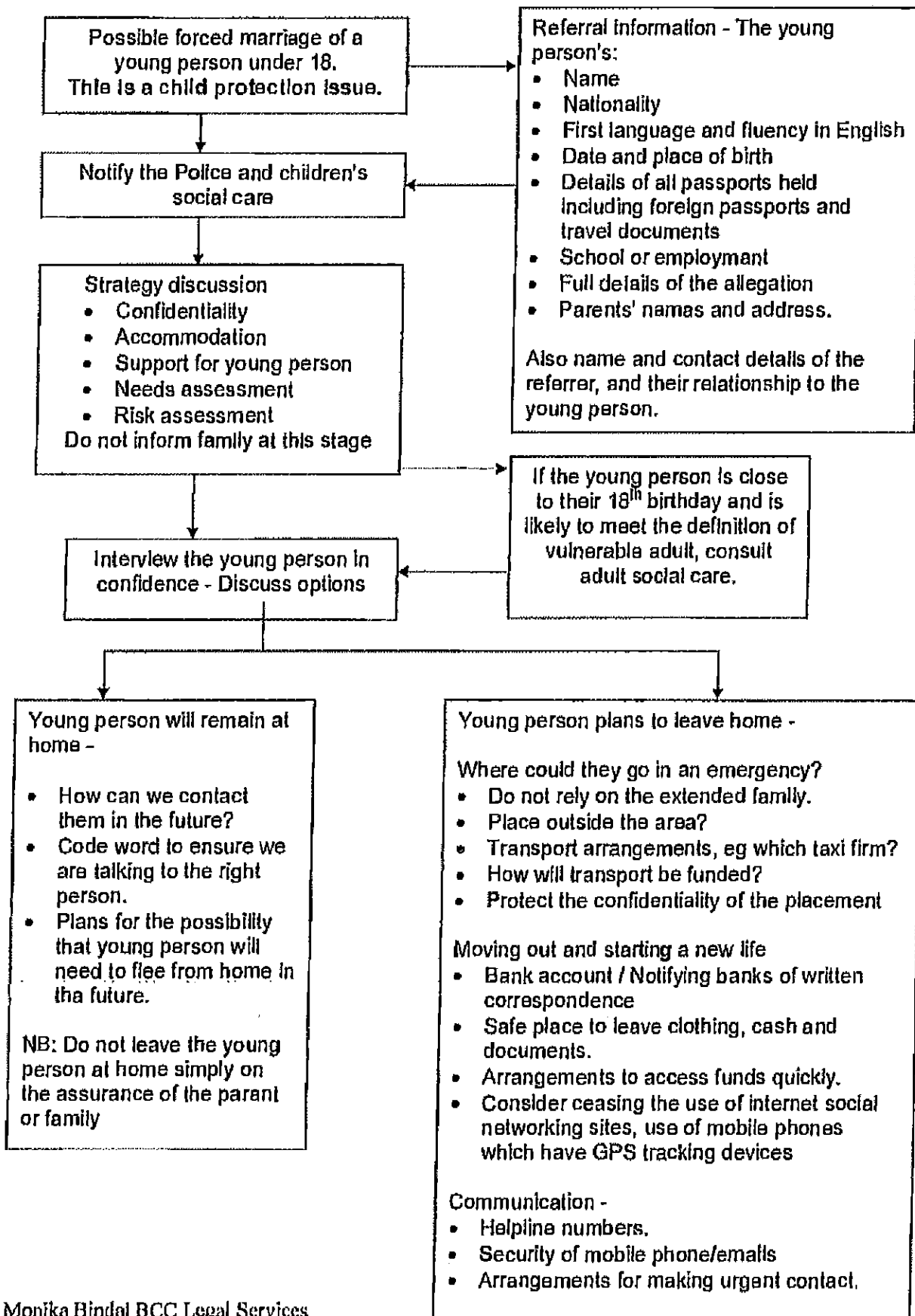
West Midlands Police

Signed:  S. HYDE
Dated: 6/6/13
DET CH SWPT

Appendix

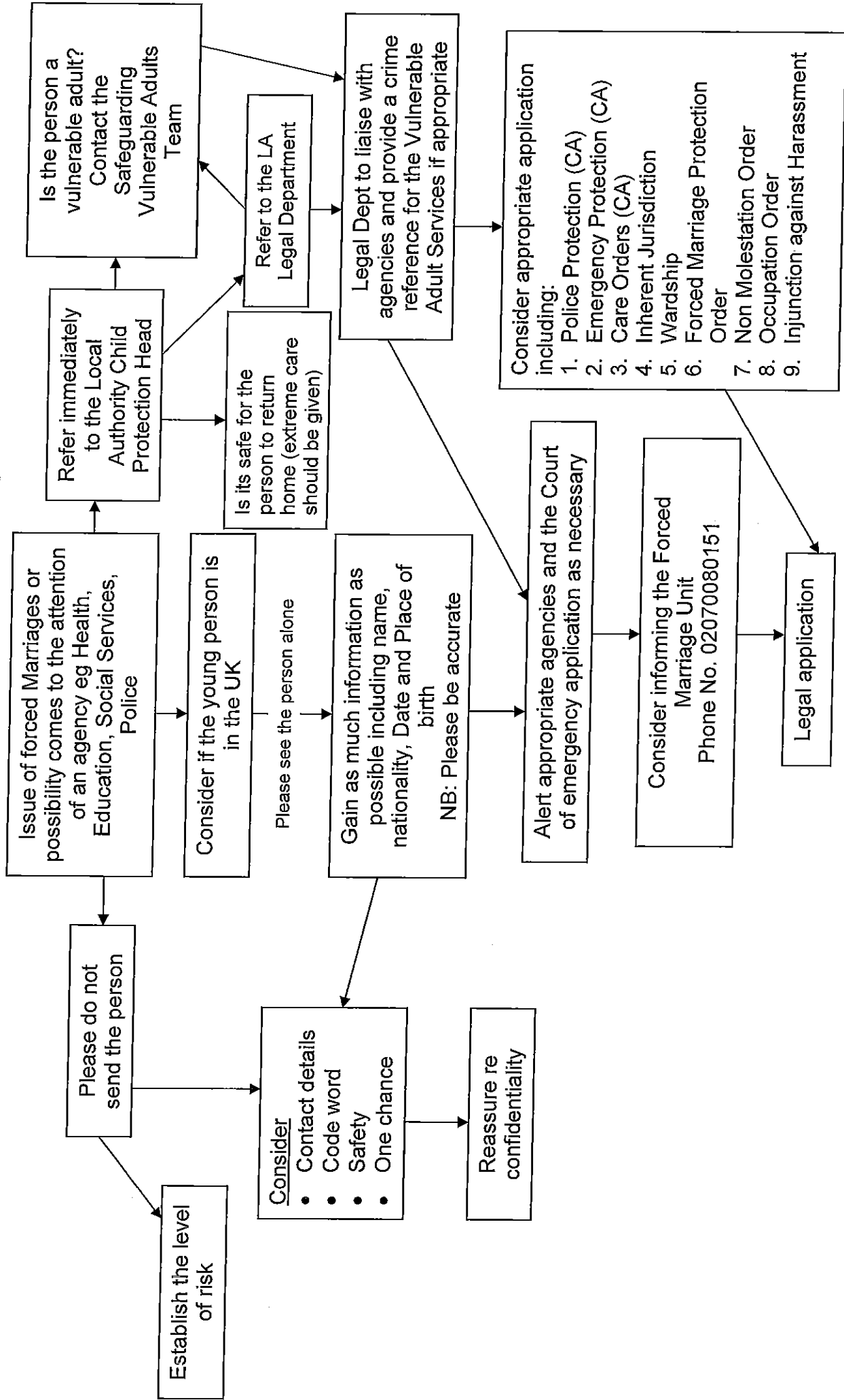
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RESPONDING TO FORCED MARRIAGE



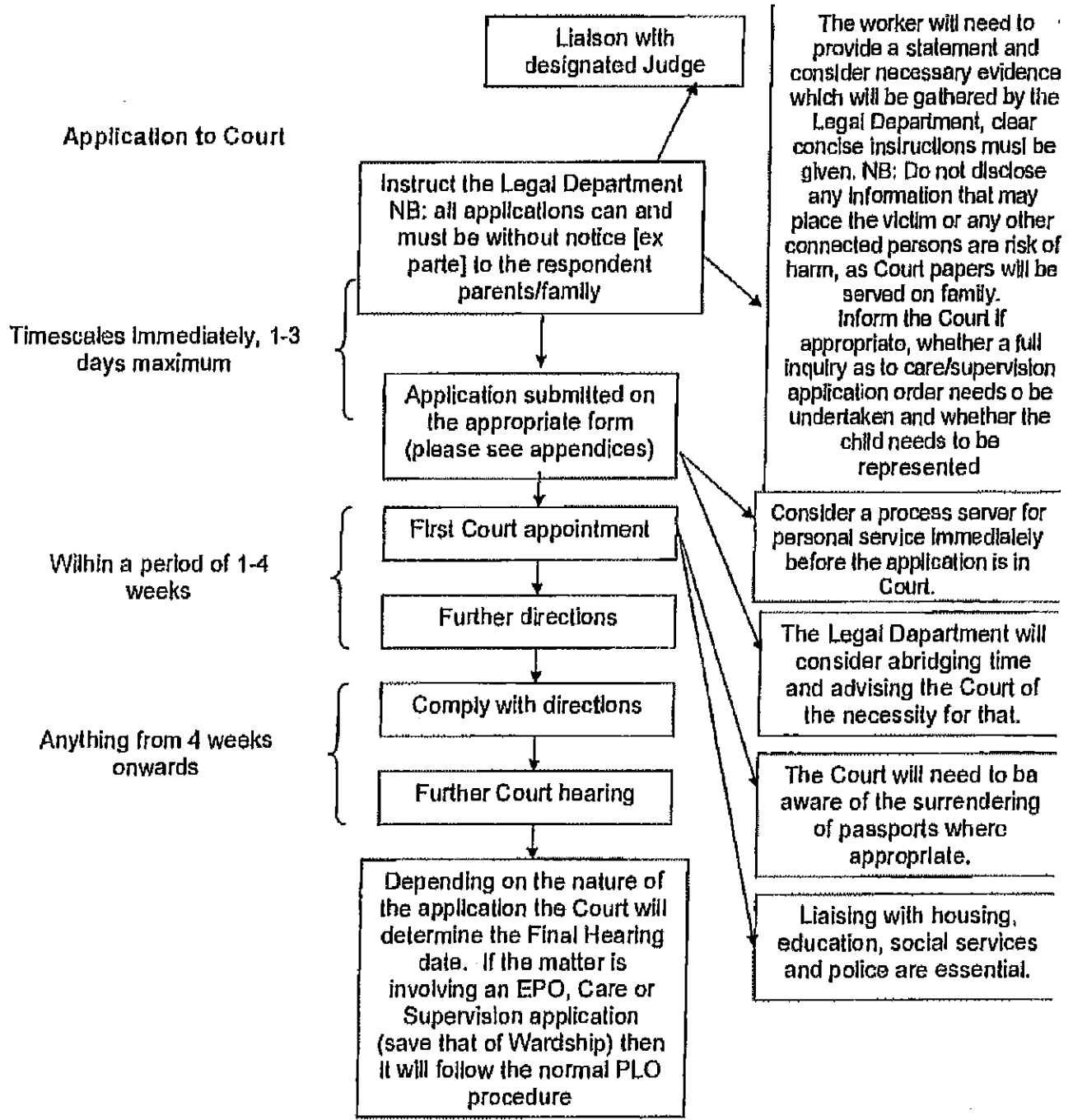
Appendix 2

INITIAL REFERRAL REGARDING FORCED MARRIAGES



Appendix

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If the matter is a different application then it will follow the procedure applicable to the application to the Court.

This is intended as a general guide and legal advice will be given regarding specific cases and specific applications.

The final hearing will determine the outcome and all parties to be notified. This may be a final hearing however may be advised as to further hearings due to the nature of the 10 applications that can be made to Court each case may well be different but the Legal Department will advise you as to the most appropriate action to be taken depending on the circumstances of the case.

Appendix

4

GUIDANCE TOOL IN SAFEGUARDING AND THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN

**Forced Marriage/Honour Based Violence Check List
INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR ALL CASES**

The information below should be gathered to enhance your usual policy and procedure

Person reporting incident: <i>(include name, address, phone number/s, email and organisation if applicable)</i>	Name		Address		Phone Numbers	
	E-mail address:					
Date/Time of Report:						
What is their relationship with the person at risk: Full Details of the allegation and concerns <i>(victim details are to be completed below)</i> . Please include details of any threats, abuse or other hostile action against the victim, whether reported by the victim or third party. Establish the nature and level of risk to the safety of the person <i>(eg is she pregnant? Do they have a secret boyfriend or girlfriend? Are they already secretly married?)</i>						
Full Name of person at risk: <i>(include any nicknames/aliases)</i>	Are they an adult or child?		Age		Date and place of birth:	
Have they got mental capacity? If not, specify in what areas they are lacking capacity and when was their last capacity test completed?						
Nationality <i>(Have they a dual nationality?)</i>						
Passport details: <i>(Have they a dual passport?)</i>						
National Insurance Number: <i>(if applicable)</i>						

Driving Licence Number: (if applicable)				
Obtain recent photograph and any other identifying documents not outlined above. Tick if attached.				
Document any other distinguishing features such as birthmarks and tattoos etc:				
Who has parental/guardian responsibility and what are their details:				
Has the victim or any other person you are trying to safeguard, got any apps on their phone that could give away their location eg "Find my iphone" (attached is a guide to disable them). They must deactivate any social network sites that they are using and change their phone number immediately. Remember to obtain the new contact number from them:				
Is the victim pregnant? How many weeks and where are their antenatal appointments and who is the designated midwife? Who is the father and what are their full details? Are the family aware of the pregnancy? Is the father/his family also at risk?	How many Weeks?	Where are the antenatal appointments held?	Designated Midwife	
	Father's Name	Father's address	Are the family aware of the pregnancy?	Is the father/his family at risk?
School/College details if applicable. To include School Name, Address, phone number and a trusted teacher/s name, if applicable.	School Name	Address	Phone Number	Trusted Teacher
Have they disclosed any abuse to friends or teachers in the past? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Would they support disclosure to their teachers to assist their safeguarding? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			

<p>Obtain a list from the victim of any friends and family who can be trusted and their full contact details (<i>Name, address, phone numbers, relationship to victim, will they be put at risk in any way if found to be assisting the victim?</i>)</p>	Name:			
	Address:			
	Phone Numbers:			
	Relationship to the victim:			
	Any risk if found to be assisting the victim?			
<p>Establish a codeword for the person at risk to use so safeguarding professionals will always know they are speaking to the right person and the person at risk will know they are speaking to a trusted professional. You may need more than one codeword for different questions.</p>	Code Word	Question		
<p>Establish a way of contacting the victim discreetly in the future that will not put them at risk of harm (<i>for example, text message, telephone call, email, friend</i>)</p>				
<p>Name/Address/DOB/Phone numbers/emails of parents or those with parental responsibility or guardianship:</p>	Name:	Address:	Date of birth	Phone Number:
<p>Detailed information of the family set up/family tree. What are their nationalities and where were they born?</p>	Email address:			
<p>Who are the main decision makers in the family? Use separate sheet for family tree.</p>				

<p>Establish if there are other members of the family at potential risk ie; other children, male or female, or parents/siblings who may be at risk once the perpetrator knows the victim has fled. Is there a family history of FM/HBV.</p>	
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Please ensure that you now also consult 'The Multi Agency Practice Guidelines' relevant to your agency (<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/travel-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/fmu-right-to-choose.pdf>) (press 'control' + click on link above to be directed to the guidance) and adhere to your local safeguarding procedures.

Notes

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Appendix 5

Protocol Contact details

Birmingham City Council

Legal and Democratic Services:

Monika Bindal

Telephone: 0121 464 3096

West Midlands Police

Legal Services:

Lisa-Marie Smith

Telephone: 0121 626 8317

Emergency and Referrals Contact details

Birmingham Children, Young People and Families Services

Emergency Duty Team

Telephone 0121 675 4806

West Midlands Police:

Non emergency: 101

Emergency: 999

Useful Contact details

Local Support agencies:

AINA Women's Centre
01922 644 006

Amirah Foundation
0121 572 0393

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid
Freephone: 0800 800 0028
0121 622 5055

Bharosa
0121 303 0368 or 0121 303 0369

Amirah Foundation
0121 572 0393

Rape and Sexual Violence Project
0121 643 5600

Stepping Stones 24 hour Help Line
0800 389 5790

Saya Multi lingual 24 hour Help Line
0800 369 6990

Victim Support Help Line
0845 303 0900

Women's Safety Unit
0121 685 8687

National Support agencies:

Forced Marriage Unit London	020 7008 0151 (or 0044 20 7008 0151 if overseas)
http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/information-for-victims	
Albert Kennedy Trust London Manchester	020 7831 6562 0161 228 3308 www.akt.org.uk
Ashiana Project (London):	020 8539 0427 www.ashiana.org.uk
Ashiana (Sheffield):	0114 255 6740 www.ashianahelp.org.uk
Asian Women's Resource Centre (London):	020 8961 6549 www.asianwomenscentre.org.uk
Forward (Specifically for African women):	020 8960 4000 www.forwarduk.org.uk
Freedom Charity 24/7 helpline:	0845 607 0133 www.freedomcharity.org.uk
Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO):	0207 920 6460/6461/6462
Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid (Glasgow):	0141 353 0859 www.hematgryffe.org.uk
Henna Foundation (Cardiff):	029 2049 6920 www.hennafoundation.org
Honour Network (Karma Nirvana):	0800 6999 247
JAN Trust:	020 8889 9433 www.jantrust.org
LIFE Project (Birmingham):	0121 554 3920 www.throughcare.com
National Domestic Violence Helpline:	0808 200 0247
Newham Asian Women's Project (London):	020 8472 0528 www.nawp.org

NSPCC	
Childline:	0800 1111
Help and Advice:	0808 800 5000
	www.nspcc.org.uk
Refuge:	0808 2000 247
	www.refuge.org.uk
Respond (Learning Disabilities):	020 7383 0700
	www.respond.org.uk
	www.forcedtomarry.com
Roshni (Nottingham Asian Women's Aid):	0115 948 3450, 24 hour
	www.womensaid.org.uk
Saheli:	0161 945 4187
	www.saheli.org.uk
Shakti Women's Aid (Edinburgh):	0131 475 2399
	www.shaktiedinburgh.co.uk
Souhall Black Sisters (London):	020 8571 9595
	www.souhallblacksisters.org.uk

