



WORKS 4 U

Forced Marriage Policy

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Works 4U recognise the potential threat of forced marriage to young people accessing our service. In the interest of safeguarding good practice, we acknowledge and adopt the policies and guidelines of our local Safeguarding Children's Board upon which our policy is based.

Mission Statement

Forced marriage is a child abuse and child protection problem. It often affects the 14-18 year old age group. Also the Children of forced marriage are often at greater risk of abduction and abuse. The aim is to put the safety of victims or potential victims first and to focus on prevention, protection and provision.

Victims of Forced Marriage come from various ethnic backgrounds, faiths and communities. The government's Forced Marriage unit has dealt with cases involving families from the Indian sub-continent, East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

Forced Marriage cannot be justified on religious or cultural grounds. There is no major world religion that gives consent to Forced Marriage.

Any young person who cannot understand fully the concept of marriage or give consent could be vulnerable to pressure to marry. Young people with learning disability are particularly vulnerable to forced marriage.

Works 4U understands forced marriage to be a form of abuse and a breach of human rights. It is therefore important to safeguard any children or young people that experience forced marriage or attempted forced marriage.

Note;

Comprehensive information and guidelines on working with young people facing forced marriage are available from your safeguarding officer Wendy Mackie.

IMPORTANT

If any member of staff at Works 4U has any reason to believe a young person accessing our service may be in danger of a Forced Marriage or have already undergone a Forced Marriage they MUST immediately bring it to the attention of our safeguarding officer Wendy Mackie.

We will

- Seek to assure the young person that we provide a safe, secure and confidential environment in which they can share their fears and concerns.
- Listen to them and seek to protect them.
- Act in their best interest.

We will not

- Send the individual away or disregard them in the belief this is merely a private domestic matter and not one that we should respond to.
- Ignore what the young person has told us or dismiss the possibility that the young person may require immediate protection.
- Approach the young person's family, friends or those with influence in the community, unless the individual expressly ask us to do so and our safeguarding officer has reviewed and sanctioned such action.
- Attempt to be the mediator as this can be a dangerous response to Forced Marriage.
- Share information with anyone without the express consent of the individual unless we have concerns about the significant harm or the likelihood of criminal activity. Our child protection procedures will be followed if there is concern about significant harm.

Note

A Forced Marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage which is a non-abusive contract between two consenting adults and is therefore fundamentally different from a Force Marriage.