



# Autumn safeguarding bulletin

## July – Sept 2023

The Slough Safeguarding Partnership will send you quarterly updates on key safeguarding awareness days. This page brings you the latest safeguarding messages to keep residents of Slough safe. There are various safeguarding awareness days coming up across this quarter. We would greatly appreciate if these can be incorporated into your communications to help deliver our messages far and wide too difficult to reach communities of Slough.

**Action needed:** Please lift and shift messages into your communications internally with your staff and externally with residents, venues, and settings to promote safeguarding across Slough. You can drip feed some of the messages if you send out more frequent communications.

Also included is a safeguarding poster to promote the various helplines to protect vulnerable adults and children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

### 3rd – 9th July ASB Awareness Week 2023



ASB Awareness week is a national campaign to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). The week aims to encourage communities to take a stand against ASB and to highlight the actions that can be taken by those experiencing it.

The theme this year is 'Know Your Rights', with a particular focus on the ASB Case Review - a powerful tool for victims of ASB. ASB can have a devastating and long-lasting impact on the lives of victims and communities and can be a precursor to more serious crime.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced specific measures designed to give victims and communities a say in the way that complaints of ASB are dealt with. This includes the ASB Case Review (formerly known as the community trigger), which gives victims of

persistent ASB the right to request a multi-agency case review. More details about requesting an ASB Case Review in Slough can be found at: <https://www.slough.gov.uk/crime-safety/report-antisocial-behaviour/4>

#### How to report Anti-Social Behaviour

You can report incidents of ASB to the Council using the online reporting form on the Council's website - [Report ASB - Slough Borough Council](#)

You can report incidents of crime or ASB to Thames Valley Police on the non-emergency number 101 or online at <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/>. If a crime is in progress at the time of the call or someone is in immediate danger, please call 999.

For more information on the national campaign visit [www.resolveuk.org.uk](http://www.resolveuk.org.uk)

There are lots of helpful resources here: [www.resolveuk.org.uk/asb-awareness-week/resources-and-media-pack](http://www.resolveuk.org.uk/asb-awareness-week/resources-and-media-pack)

### Emergency services across the Thames Valley join forces with local Olympic swimmer to share important water safety message



As the weather starts to get warmer, emergency services, local authorities and the Environment Agency will be working together across the Thames Valley to share how to stay safe by the water and how simple changes and techniques could save a life.

Following tragic deaths in the water over the last few years in the Thames Valley, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire and Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Services, the Environment Agency, South Central Ambulance Service,

Buckinghamshire Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead have all been working together with the aim of warning and informing residents of how to stay safe by the water, particularly with young people who often head to the water side when schools are closed.

As a partnership, we are thrilled to be working with Olympic swimmer Tom Dean MBE on this important topic. This week a [short water safety video](#) is being shared across the Thames Valley that features Tom and includes advice around safe open water swimming, the dangers of jumping from bridges and what to do if you find yourself in trouble in the water.

Tom is a double Olympic gold medallist, winning gold individually in 200 metre freestyle and as part of a team in 4 x 200 m freestyle relay at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. He grew up in Maidenhead and is very passionate about the issue of water safety having lived near the Jubilee Flood Relief Channel, a popular open water spot in Berkshire.

The highest risk group for drowning deaths is young males aged 16-30. We have the hot weather starting and exam season coming to an end when more young people will be enjoying the outdoors and we want them to be safe while they do so.

Video made by local young people in Slough with Together as One: [Float to Live - YouTube](#)

Video with Olympic Gold Medallist swimmer Tom Dean: [Be #Waterwise this Summer - YouTube](#)

Video by the friends and family of Michael Scaife who lost his life in the Jubilee River: [Safety on the Jubilee River - remembering Michael Scaife - YouTube](#)

These resources have been shared on our Frimley Health and Care website: [Be safe around water | Frimley Health and Care](#)



## Types of Honour based violence

There are a number of honour-based violence crimes that are illegal and can cause immense harm to individuals, including sexual, physical, and psychological harm. In July, honour-based violence day will be observed to raise awareness about this often-hidden crime.

## Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Girls from affected communities are at higher risk of being cut during the summer holidays, or what can sometimes be known as the 'cutting season'. Young people are also at higher risk of being forced into marriage during the longer holiday periods.

Refer if it has been verbalised by the parents (especially grandparents, great aunts [female elders in the community]), that they are planning to take their child abroad for FGM, or just a general "my child will have FGM" statement.

Some helpful links:

[Safeguarding women and girls at risk of FGM - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Protecting children from female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | NSPCC Learning](#)

**OxfordAgainstCutting**  
ProtectingGirls&Women  
[www.oxfordagainstcutting.org](http://www.oxfordagainstcutting.org)

# Feeling Trapped?

**Being forced into marriage?** | **Worried about female genital mutilation (FGM)?** | **Being told you're bringing shame?**

**Call us, we're here to help:**

**NSPCC FGM Helpline:** 0800 028 3550  
24 - hour free advice, information and support on female genital mutilation.  
[fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk)

**Karma Nirvana:** 0800 5999 247 (Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm)  
Support for victims of honour-based abuse and forced marriage.  
[info@karmanirvana.org.uk](mailto:info@karmanirvana.org.uk)

**Forced Marriage Unit (FMU):** 020 7008 0151  
If you or someone you know is being forced into marriage.  
[fmu@fco.gov.uk](mailto:fmu@fco.gov.uk)

**The Reading Rose Centre, Reading, for FGM survivors:** [info@acre-reading.org](mailto:info@acre-reading.org)  
**Oxford Rose Clinic for FGM Survivors:** 07767 671 406  
**MASH / Slough Children's Services Trust:** 01753 875 362  
(Emergency Duty Team: 01344 786 543)  
**Hestia (Slough Domestic Abuse Service)** 01753 477352

Call 999 if you or someone you know is in immediate danger of FGM or forced marriage.

**KARMA NIRVANA**  
Supporting victims of honour-based abuse and forced marriage

## What is a forced marriage?

A forced marriage is a marriage where one or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used to force them into the marriage.

It is also when anything is done to make someone marry before they turn 18, even if there is no pressure or abuse. Forced marriage is a form of honour-based violence.

Since February 2023 it is now a crime to carry out any conduct whose purpose is a cause a child to marry before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, even if violence, threats or another form of coercion are not used.

Those individuals who are forced into marriage are often also subject to abuse, threats or emotional pressure from others and they may be made to feel as though they are bringing shame on their family if they do not agree to take part in the marriage.

Forced marriage affects people from many communities and cultures, so cases should always be addressed using all existing structures, policies and procedures designed to safeguard children and adults with care and support needs, including victims who may be trafficked, enslaved or are victims of domestic abuse,

for example, and who are forced to marry someone against their will. Read the latest guidance here: [government guidance on forced marriage](#)

For further information please see the following websites: [Forced marriage](#) | [Childline](#)

**Day of Memory**  
2023

Shafiea Ahmed  
14 July 1996 – 11 September 2022

30th anniversary  
of Karma Nirvana

Karma Nirvana will be launching the ninth Day of Memory on **14th July 2023**. They will mark the 30th anniversary of Karma Nirvana, which began in Jasvinder's front room and has since grown to become a leading charity in the fight against Honour Based Abuse. The Day of Memory is marked on [Shafiea Ahmed's](#) birthday and is an opportunity to collectively remember all of those lost to Honour Based Abuse. More information can be found here: [Karma Nirvana](#)

If you have a concern about a child please contact the police on 999/ 101 and Slough Children First on 01753 875362 or send a MARF to [sloughchildren.referrals@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk](mailto:sloughchildren.referrals@sloughchildrenfirst.co.uk)

If you have a concern about an adult, please contact the police on 999/ 101 and Adult Social Care on 01753 475111 (option 1) or email [adult.socialcare@slough.gov.uk](mailto:adult.socialcare@slough.gov.uk)

## Do you know what predatory marriage is?

Predatory Marriage is the practice of intentionally targeting and marrying a vulnerable (often older) person in order to gain access to their estate and assets upon their death. Predatory Marriage relies on grooming and coercion to exert control over another person to persuade them to marry for financial, material or other gain. The briefing explains the signs to look out for and what to do if you suspect someone is grooming a vulnerable parent/client/ neighbour/ friend/ family member.

### Predatory Marriage – 7 Minute Briefing

#### 1. Introduction

Predatory Marriage is the practice of intentionally targeting and marrying a vulnerable (often older) person in order to gain access to their estate and assets upon their death. Predatory Marriage relies on grooming and coercion to exert control over another person to persuade them to marry for financial, material or other gain.

#### 7. Additional Resources and further

- [Predatory marriage- Ann Craft Trust](https://www.predatorymarriage.uk/)
- [https://www.predatorymarriage.uk/Choice & decision making in Marriage](https://www.predatorymarriage.uk/Choice-&-decision-making-in-Marriage)
- [Predatory marriage: what is it and what you can do](#)

#### 6. What to do?

- Raise concerns with the registrar
- Concerns should be reported to the police and local authority
- Discuss the case with the Forced Marriage Unit
- Advise the family to seek specialist legal advice
- Consider applying for a Forced Marriage Protection Order
- Consider a 'caveat in expectation of marriage' via a specialist solicitor

#### 2. Legislation

In UK law, marriage and civil partnerships rely on consent. The Marriage Act 1989 requires that two adult parties agree to a marriage, it is implicit that they understand and agree to marry by giving informed consent which is dependent on capacity to make decisions as determined by the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 created the criminal offence of forced marriage. It is a criminal offence to marry a person who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage, regardless of any pressure. It is also a crime to pressure someone to marry by any means.



#### 3. What Does Predatory Marriage Look Like?

**Grooming:** Predators may identify a vulnerable target and spend time "grooming" them to persuade them that they hold them in high esteem and to make them feel valued and loved. Predators often describe themselves as the victims carer. The predator may move into the home

**Isolation:** Predators may spend time creating physical and emotional divisions between the individual and their friends and family to ensure only their voice is heard in isolation.

**Harassment:** Predators may stimulate or create conflict and division within families & friendship networks

#### 5. Things to consider

- The registrar should interview adults separately to ascertain capacity and consent, and stop any marriages where concerns are raised
- Legally in the UK a marriage will always revoke a Will so anyone who marries (or who re-marries) would need to make a new Will to be clear about their wishes upon death.
- Once married, the predator is entitled to make decisions regarding funeral arrangements which may eclipse any decisions made with family members prior to the marriage taking place.
- Predatory Marriage relies on coercive control and is a form of forced marriage.
- Lasting Power of Attorney does not protect against a coercive predatory marriage

#### 4. Signs, Indicators, and examples

The signs and indicators are similar to other types of abuse, the person may appear isolated, withdrawn, fearful or unsure about their relationship or the people around them.

When dementia is present, the victim may not be confused or fearful. Presenting as 'pleasantly confused' should not be interpreted as consenting or the people around them.

One example of predatory marriage is that of JB who was targeted in Leeds by a younger man and covertly married in November 2015, this predatory marriage only came to light following her death in March 2016.

## World Suicide Prevention Day – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023



On the 10th of September, organisations and communities throughout the world come together to promote suicide prevention in order to reduce the number of suicides.

According to the Office for National Statistics, there were 5,219 suicides in 2021. Suicide rates are increasing year on year, with males aged 50 - 54 having the highest rate. In spite of this, the increasing number of suicides in all age groups, including our young people, is a concerning trend.

Slough Safeguarding Partnership in collaboration with public health has produced guidance around this topic. The guidance includes:

- What makes someone think of suicide
- What are the warning signs
- Procedures for practitioners working with people at risk of suicide including general principles on **how** to work with people expressing suicidal thoughts
- Services that can help someone who is feeling suicidal

**Remember to always reassure the person that they matter!! We all matter!**

The guidance for adults and children who feel suicidal can be found on the link below.  
[Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership - \(sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk\)](https://sloughsafeguardingpartnership.org.uk)

