

**What is the Bright Choices Service?**

Bright Choices is a partnership between Sacro, Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equalities Council and Multi-Cultural Family Base. The project will support families in Edinburgh to overcome problems arising from honour abuse. The project is funded by the Big Lottery fund for four years and will also include direct work with communities to increase understanding of issues of honour abuse and raise awareness of the project.

**What is Honour Abuse?**

Honour abuse or Honour-Based Violence (HBV) is any kind of abusive or violent behaviour against an individual by a member of their family of their community perpetrated when the individual is perceived to have ‘transgressed’ the family’s community’s acceptable codes of behaviour. Such behaviour is deemed to be ‘dishonourable’ and people can be subjected to violence or abuse to prevent them from behaving in this way in the future or to punish them for their transgression and to restore their ‘honour’.

**What kind of behaviour is considered to be ‘dishonourable’?**

Ideas about what constitutes ‘honourable’ behaviour differ between families and communities but there are certain situations that are widely considered ‘dishonourable’:

* Not adhering to the dress code of the family’s culture or religion
* Refusing to enter an arranged marriage or trying to leave a marriage
* Participating in activities or behaving in ways that are considered to go against their culture or religion (ex. Drinking alcohol, smoking, etc.)
* Being in a relationship with a British person or someone from a different community
* Being in a pre-marital or extra-marital relationship
* Identifying as LGBTQ
* Being seen interacting with a member of the opposite sex

**Who is at risk?**

Anyone can be at risk of Honour Abuse if their family or community adhere to very traditional or religious values:

* Children and Young People of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Backgrounds or members of the Roma/Traveller community
* BME girls who run a higher risk of being subjected to Honour abuse, and who are at a higher risk of being punished more severely than their male counterparts for the same behaviour
* People who speak very little or no English or whose immigration status is uncertain or dependent on a spouse or family member.

**Where will the service be delivered?**

The service will be delivered in a range of venues including organisation offices, home and community settings, depending on the intervention and needs of individuals, families and communities.

**What kind of approaches will Bright Choices use?**

* Therapeutic and practical 1-1 and group support: for individuals and families, at home, in the community, or in the organisation’s premises. The aim is to provide a safe and confidential space where issues can be disclosed, discussed and resolved. If appropriate, further referrals might be made to other organisations to ensure the service user(s) are offered the support they need to move forward.
* Mediation and restorative approaches: These are skilled and principled interventions aimed at helping people to find practical solutions acceptable to everyone involved in a dispute. Mediation may be appropriate provided there is no risk of harm to the service user(s) and all parties are willing to engage in the process. Restorative approaches can be used to prevent harm or address harm done: through facilitated meetings, the person harmed has the opportunity to communicate the impact of harm personally or through a representative, giving the person(s) causing harm to take responsibility and make amends.
* Outreach support, engagement and awareness raising

**Who is eligible to use the service?**

Anyone who has been subjected to honour-based violence and who would like to receive emotional/practical support, explore their options for restorative practice, or anyone who might be at risk of honour based violence and would like to become more aware of their choices, rights and responsibilities.

Please be aware that not all individuals will be eligible to access all of the above services. The primary concern for Bright Choices is to ensure the person’s safety and minimize risk. The appropriateness of each approach will be decided following a rigorous and in-depth risk assessment of each individual situation.



