

## Briefing notes on Issues included in the Forward Plan Issue 2004/05

**SERVICE AREA:** Social Services

Report ref	Report title
	Young people and vulnerable adults facing forced marriage.
<p><b>Summary:</b></p> <p>This report informs Members of the guidance on forced marriage produced jointly by the major government departments, including the Home Office, Department for Education and Skills and the Department of Health, and of the protocol to be followed in Brent to implement the guidance.</p> <p>The report will inform members that the guidance must be followed as part of the all London Child Protection Procedures and be adopted by the Area Child Protection Committee.</p> <p>The guidance clearly establishes that forced marriage is a child protection and protection of vulnerable adults issue. It defines what forced marriage is and makes clear the difference between arranged and forced marriage. It explains the legal position in the United Kingdom and describes best practice in working with young people, vulnerable adults and their families in cases where forced marriage is threatened or has taken place. The guidance clarifies the role and responsibilities of Social Services and other council departments in intervening in cases of forced marriage and the options open to protect young people or vulnerable adults.</p>	
<p><b>Nature of Decision to be taken/Intended Outcome</b></p> <p>There are approximately 250 cases of forced marriage reported each year to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and many more come to the attention of Social Services, the Police or Education. Forced marriage is an issue which requires a sensitive and informed approach and this report is brought before members so that they are aware of the issues and of the Council's responsibility to protect young people and vulnerable adults who come to the attention of officers in Social Services and other Council departments.</p>	
<p><b>Timescale for decision:</b> 31 August 2004</p>	
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