


# Bradford Central PRU

## Forced Marriage Policy

Policy agreed by Staff on:	1 March 2016
Ratified by full Management Committee:	14 March 2016
Review Date:	Spring 2019
Agreed Frequency of Review:	3 Yearly
Allocated Group / Person to Review:	MC can delegate to committee or individual member or HT
Signed by Chair:	
Signed by Headteacher:	
Amendments to content (Named Person)	19 July 2017

## Overview

BCPRU is fully committed to its safeguarding, statutory and moral responsibilities in this policy. However we believe a proactive and preventative approach is a constructive way to a healthy and supportive environment for our pupils and their families.

As a result, we will endeavour to create an open and supportive environment for parents, families and children to help empower and eliminate these adverse circumstances in arising in the first instance. This will not just help our pupils but siblings and empower communities.

In the circumstances that they should occur, we have outlined the measures we have put in place.

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is an unacceptable and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor.

BCPRU will endeavour to raise awareness of this issue through education.

## Legislation on Forced Marriage

[The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) makes it a criminal offence to force someone to marry this includes:

- Taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether or not the forced marriage takes place)
- Marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they're pressured to or not)
- Breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order is also a criminal offence
- The civil remedy of obtaining a Forced Marriage Protection Order through the family courts will continue to exist alongside the new criminal offence, so victims can choose how they wish to be assisted
- Details of the new law can be found on the [Legislation website](#)
- Forcing someone to marry can result in a sentence of up to 7 years in prison.

### **If you suspect a pupil is being forced into marriage:**

- Speak to the pupil about your concerns (Female staff preferable)
- Collect as much information as possible

- Liaise with the Safeguarding Lead Teacher(s):

Aireview – Trevor Loft or Liam Gordon  
Jesse Street – Trevor Loft or Hayley Sykes

**Do Not:**

- Treat such allegations merely as a domestic issue and send the pupil back to the family home.
- Ignore what the pupil has told you or dismiss out of hand the need for immediate protection.
- Decide that it is not your responsibility to follow-up the allegation.
- Approach the pupil's family or those with influence within the community, without the express consent of the pupil, as this will alert them to your concerns and may place the pupil in danger.
- Contact the family in advance of any enquiries by the police, the Forced Marriage Unit, adult or children's social care, either by telephone or letter.
- Share information outside information sharing protocols without the express consent of the pupil.
- Attempt to be a mediator or encourage mediation, reconciliation, arbitration or family counselling.

**If a pupil stops attending the PRU:**

If a teacher or other member of staff suspects that a pupil has been removed from, or prevented from, attending education as a result of forced marriage, a referral should be made to the local authority adult or children's social care and the police.

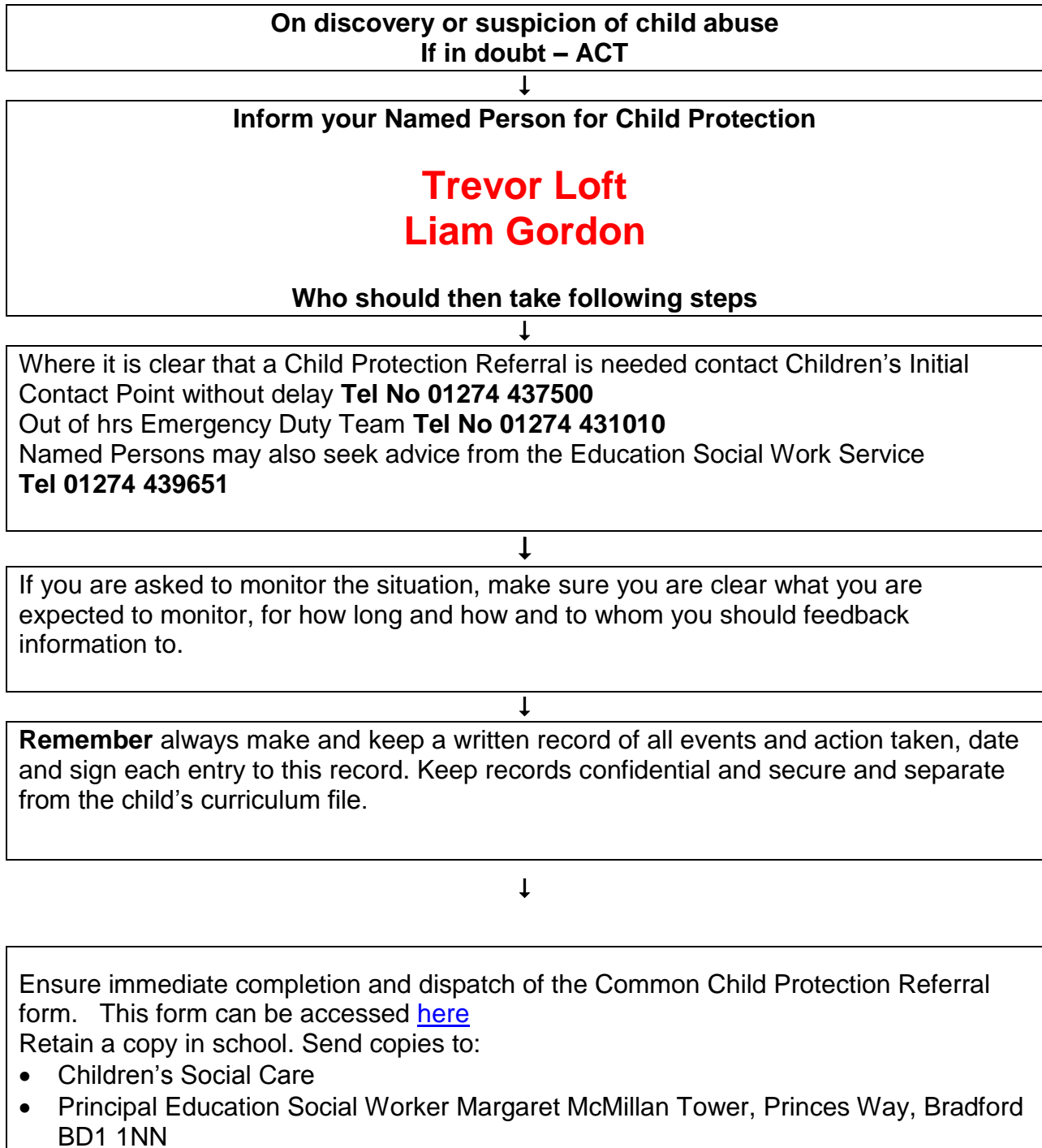
- Liaise with the local police domestic abuse unit.
- Contact the Forced Marriage Unit.
- Try to obtain as much information about the pupil as possible.
- Establish if there is a history of siblings being forced to marry.
- Consider speaking to the pupil's friends.

**DO NOT:**

- Remove the pupil from the register without first making enquiries and referring the case to police and local authority adult or children's social care.
- Dismiss the pupil as taking unauthorised absence.

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4th Floor South  
Jacob's Well  
Bradford  
BD1 5RW  
  
01274 437460**

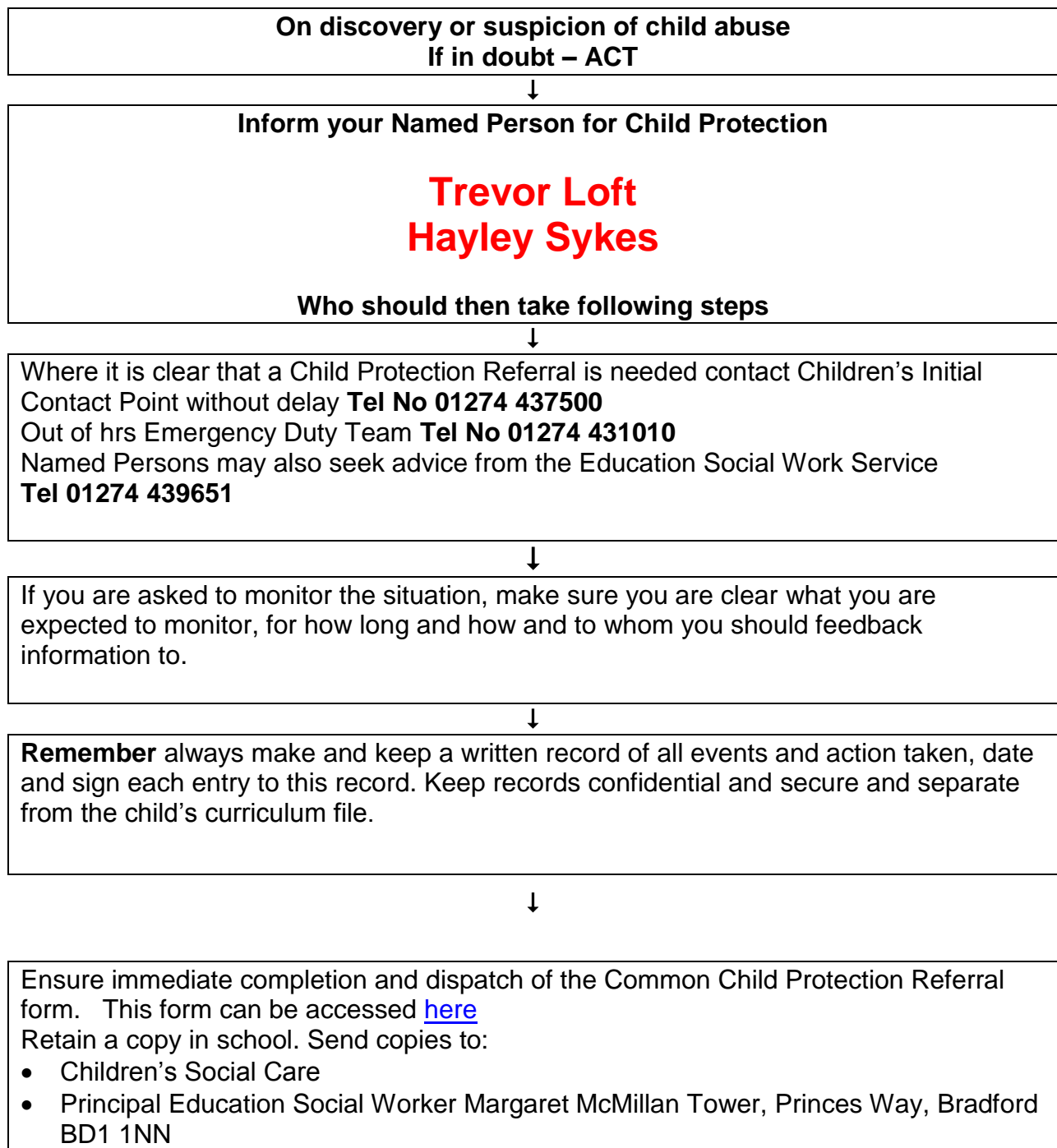
Child Protection Procedures Flow Chart January 2016



**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Children’s Social Care Initial Contact Point: 01274 437500  
Emergency Duty Team: 01274 431010  
Education Social Work Service: 01274 439651  
Police: Javelin House, Child Protection Unit: 01274 376061

Child Protection Procedures Flow Chart January 2016



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