

HARMFUL PRACTICE CASE STUDIES: SPOTLIGHTING NUANCES AND PRACTICE POINTS

Co Action Hub



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AISHA*

AISHA* has been referred to MARAC by her hostel worker. She is 24 years old and when she first moved into the hostel told the support worker that she had been thrown out of the family home after an argument. More recently she has started to share that she fled as she thought she was going to be forced by her parents to marry a man she had not met. She disclosed that her older sister was previously subject to a forced marriage.

A few weeks ago, Aisha told hostel staff that she had seen some family members near the hostel and was worried about them following her and forcing her back home. The hostel worker is not sure what to do but is very concerned for Aisha's safety.

Aisha was referred to an IDVA prior to the MARAC but she has been unsure whether to engage with them, as she is not sure who to trust. The hostel worker and IDVA have been liaising around how the support worker can safety plan with Aisha.

At the MARAC meeting it transpires that no other agency is currently working with Aisha or her family, but they were previously known to police and children's services. Children's services were involved with Aisha's older sister as she persistently ran away from home when she was aged 16. They share that there are 3 younger siblings in the family, two of whom are still under the age of 18. The police share that they were called to an incident several years ago when Aisha's brother, who was 19 at the time, assaulted their mother.

The names of her parents and siblings are shared but there is no other information on any other family members. The hostel worker thinks there could be a high number of perpetrators, including cousins, uncles, and the brother.

* The asterisk indicates anonymization of the name to maintain confidentiality of information and identity of the person

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AISHA

Actions for the MARAC to consider:

- Referring to a specialist by and for service if one is available in the area.
- Referrer to discuss confidentiality with Aisha, as victim/ survivors of harmful practices may be reluctant to engage with a by and for due to concern information will be shared within the community.
- Thorough risk assessment to be carried out with Aisha to understand the risks.
- Finding out more details of the perpetrators so that a risk management plan can be put in place.
- Exploring risk to other family members, particularly if Aisha has female siblings.
- Consider a port warning/ border force warning if there is a risk of Aisha being removed from the country.
- Discuss the pros and cons of the Forced Marriage Protection Order with Aisha.
- All agencies to mark on their systems that no information should be shared with family members.