

# A Not-So-Hard Conversation

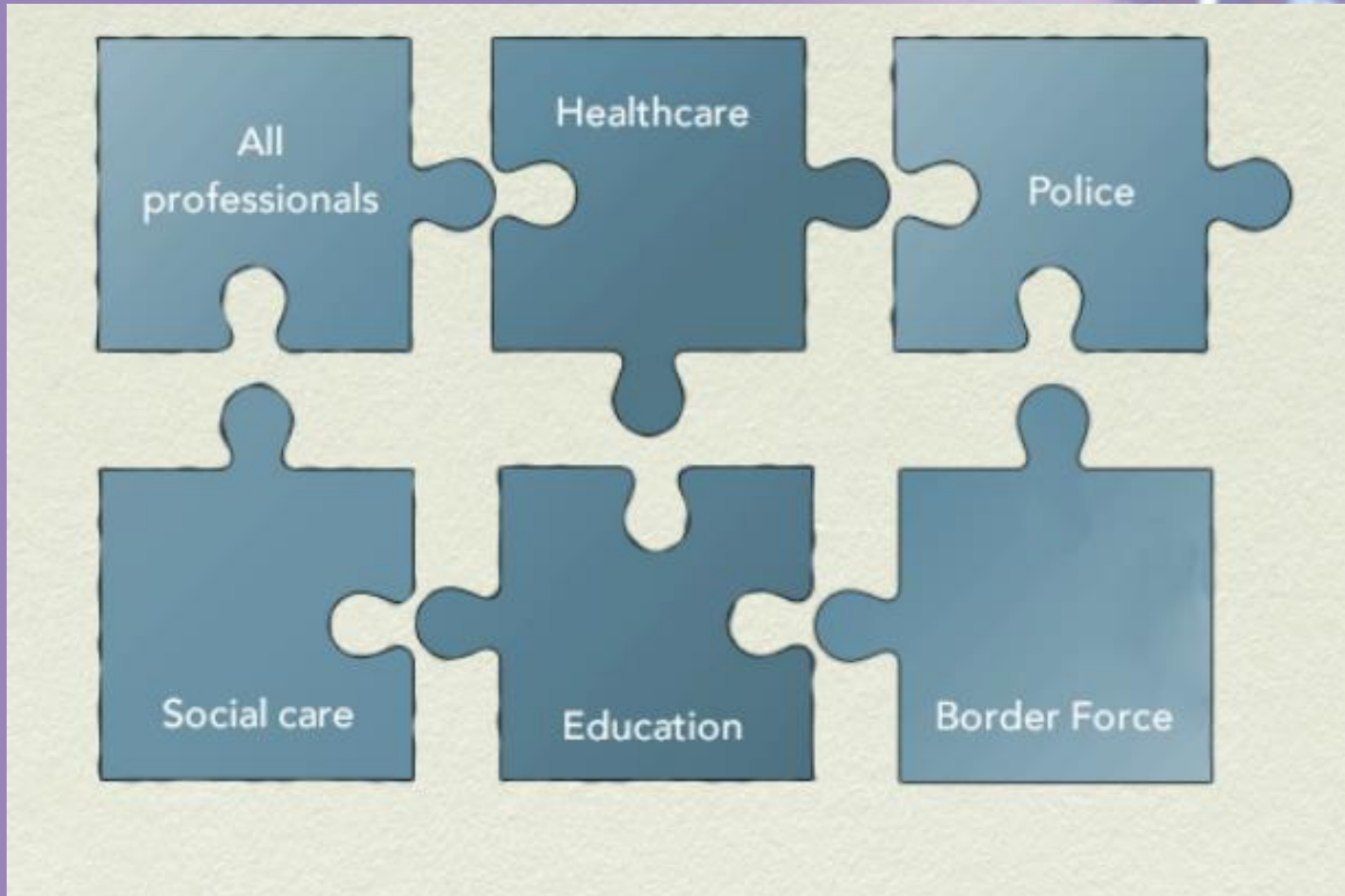
It's easier than you think...



*medway youth parliament*



# Multi-agency Issues



A close-up photograph of a person's eye, looking slightly to the right. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent purple color, which serves as a background for the text. The eye itself is brown and appears to be looking directly at the viewer.

# What is Honour Based Abuse

*“Honour based violence is a violent crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community.”*

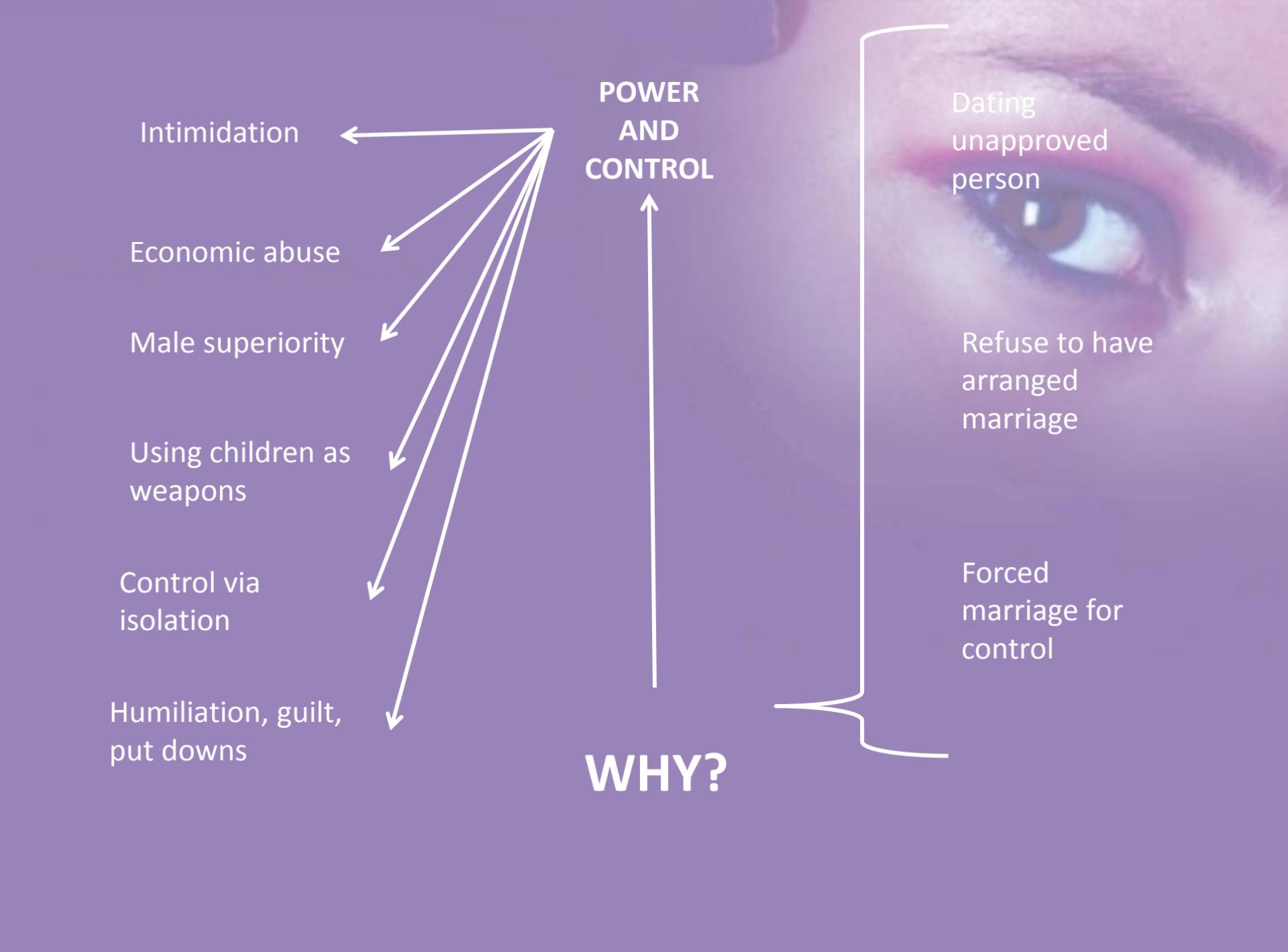
**-ACPO**

# What is Honour Based Abuse?

- Forced marriage
- Attempted murder
- Manslaughter
- Procuring an abortion
- Encouraging or assisting suicide
- Conspiracy to murder
- Conspiracy to commit a variety of assaults
- Domestic abuse (physical and psychological)
- Abducted/ held against will
- *Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)*

# What is seen as “Dishonour”?

- Inappropriate make-up or dress
- Becoming westernised
- Talking to a boy (or a girl) or to a stranger
- Expressions of sexual autonomy, public displays of affection
- Having a boyfriend/girlfriend
- Resisting an arranged marriage
- Sex outside of marriage I.e. losing virginity, adultery, pregnancy
- Social networking
- Being a victim of rape
- Homosexuality
- Seeking a divorce (in event of DA)
- Reporting/fleeing domestic violence or FM
- Rumours or even suspicions of any of the above



**POWER  
AND  
CONTROL**

Intimidation

Economic abuse

Male superiority

Using children as  
weapons

Control via  
isolation

Humiliation, guilt,  
put downs

**WHY?**

Dating  
unapproved  
person

Refuse to have  
arranged  
marriage

Forced  
marriage for  
control

# Who are the Victims?

Within Middle Eastern, South Asian, Eastern European and Traveller Communities:

- Women
- Young Women
- Children
- Men
- People with Disabilities
- Gay, Lesbian and Transgender people
- Anyone who attempts to help them

# Who are the Perpetrators?

- Male family members (fathers, brother, husband, uncles, cousins)
- Women Family Members (mother, sisters, in laws etc)
- Bounty Hunters
- Contract killers
- Member of victims communities
- People under the order of community leaders

# Potential Indicators

- Family/community use keywords such as shame, kill honour (may relate to other family member)
- Decline in mental health/ signs of self harm
- Signs of physical and emotional abuse
- Regular and/ or prolonged periods of absence from school
- Surveillance by siblings or cousins at school
- Decline in behaviour, engagement, performance or punctuality
- Not allowed to attend extra curricular activities
- Sudden announcement of engagement to a stranger
- Prevented from going onto further/higher education

# Why do Forced Marriages Happen?

To control unwanted behaviour and sexuality particularly that of women and to prevent 'unsuitable' relationships

To uphold family honour or long standing family commitments

Because of peer group or family pressure

To protect perceived cultural or religious ideals

To attempt to strengthen family links

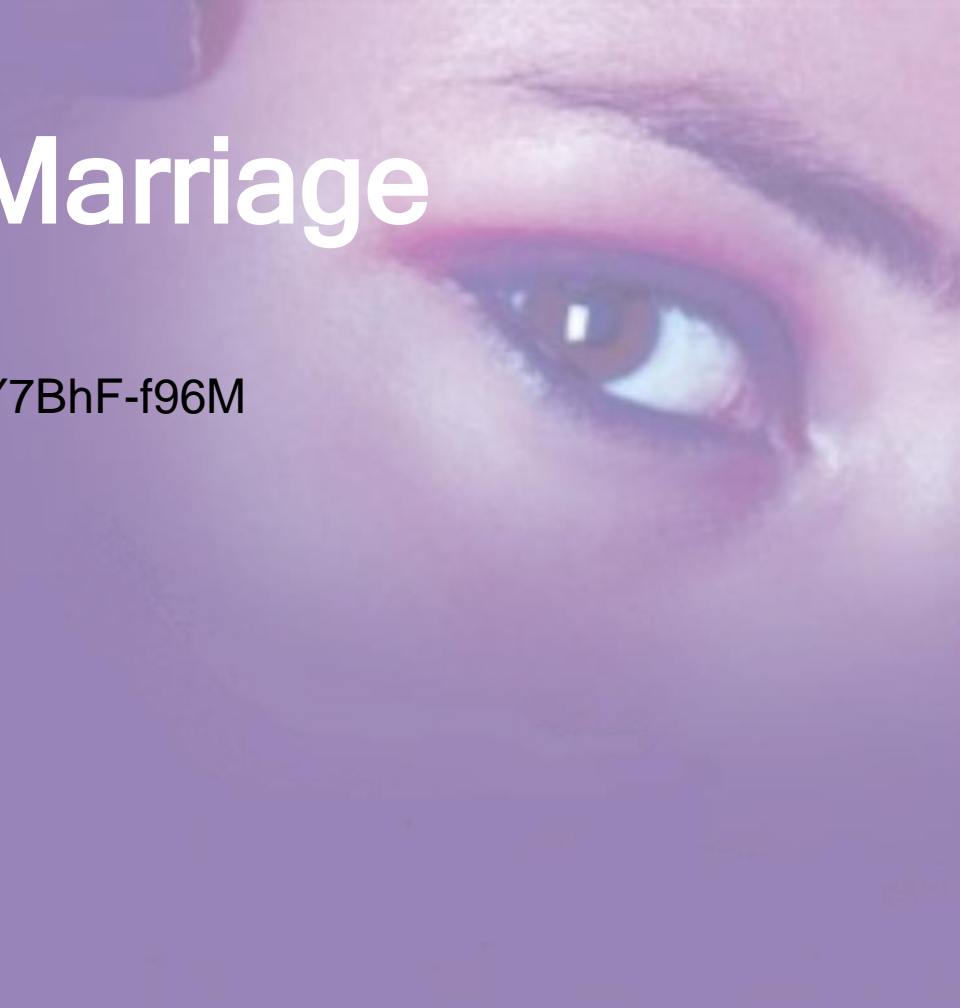
To ensure wealth & land remain within the family

To assist claims for residence and citizenship

To provide a carer for a disabled family member and to reduce the 'stigma' of disability

# Forced Marriage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MY7BhF-f96M>



# HBV

Banaz Mahmood had been forced into an abusive, violent marriage. When Shantika Ahmed wanted to be a lawyer and to make her own relationship choices. But her parents judged the 17-year-old's aspirations to be shameful to the family, so they killed her and made their other children watch the consequences of perceived dishonour.

When Surjit Atwal sought refuge from her abusive arranged marriage by

enjoying nights out with friends she'd made through a new job, her mother-in-law arranged for her to be lured out of the country and killed.

What country? India? Pakistan? The Middle East?

# What to do

- Listen...
- Do not dismiss their fears
- Do not attempt to mediate with the family
- Never send the victim away to return at a later date
- Treat with respect
- Never speak to the victim in the presence of family members
- Assure confidentiality
- Maintain discreet contact
- Never contact the family or extended family members or community leaders
- Check before using an interpreter – ask the victim if they know them
- Ensure you put the victim out of the general public area
- Contact the police and social care for assistance

A close-up photograph of a woman's eye, looking directly at the camera. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent purple color, which serves as the background for the text. The eye is brown and appears slightly red or irritated.

# One Chance Rule

YOU ONLY GET ONE CHANCE TO  
HELP A WOMAN OR GIRL WHO IS  
A POTENTIAL VICTIM OF HONOUR  
BASED VIOLENCE.

YOU NEED TO BELIEVE IN THEIR  
FEAR.

A close-up photograph of a person's eye, heavily made up with purple and pink eyeshadow and eyeliner. The eye is looking directly at the camera. The background is a solid purple color.

# It does Happen in Medway

Yes – honour based abuse can affect anyone who disobeys family rules, brings so called dishonour to the family or refuses an arranged marriage.

This can include many different communities within Medway and there have been numerous reports of honour based abuse in Medway

*This can happen to people from lots of different backgrounds e.g. Islamic community, Traveller community*

# FGM

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a woman's eye, looking directly at the camera. The eye is brown and framed by dark eyeliner and mascara. The skin around the eye is fair. The image is partially obscured by a purple overlay on the left side where the text is located.

*“Female genital mutilation (FGM) includes procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.”*

-World Health Organisation

- Illegal to practice in the UK and to take young women abroad to practice it
- 14 years in prison for performing, arranging or assisting
- Seen to uphold family honour

A close-up photograph of a person's eye, looking slightly to the right. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent purple color, which serves as a background for the text. The eye itself is a light brown color, and the surrounding skin is visible through the purple tint.

**HBV and FMG is not a religious practice,  
although it s often justified as such.**

**It is child abuse.**

**Cultural sensitivity should not prevent you  
from tackling the issue.**

# Types of FGM

1. The removal of all/ part of the clitoris
2. All or part of the labia and clitoris removed
3. Stitching/ blocking of the vaginal opening
4. All other harmful procedures e.g.  
Stretching/ burning/ scraping of the clitoris  
or introducing herbs into the vagina

# Health Effects

A close-up photograph of a person's eye, looking slightly to the side. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent purple color, which serves as a background for the text. The eye itself is brown and appears to be looking towards the right side of the frame.

## Short term health effects:

- Severe pain
- Urine retention
- Fatal haemorrhaging
- Bleeding
- Infection

## Long term Health effects:

- Twice as likely to die in childbirth
- More susceptible to urine, vaginal and pelvic infections
- Psychological damage and PTS
- Pain for many years after
- Cysts
- Infertility

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a person's eye, looking slightly to the right. The eye is brown and has a sharp, focused expression. The surrounding skin and eyelashes are visible, with a soft, natural lighting. The image is partially obscured by a semi-transparent purple overlay that covers the entire slide.

# Who's at Risk?

- 20,000 girls in the UK ever year
- 5 to 15 (variation)

**Teachers can educate children to help decrease the risk of being a victim and potential health affects in the aftermath**

# Spotting Children at Risk

- They come from practicing communities

**HIGH RISK:** Somalia, Guinea, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Mali, Sierra Leon, Sudan, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Liberia

**MODERATLY LOW:** Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Senegal

**LOW RISK:** Central African Republic, Yemen, Tanzania, Benin, Iraq, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon

- Female family members are victims
- Taken out of the country for prolonged periods of time
- Long holiday in country of origin
- Talk of a “special procedure” or occasion
- Requests for help (from them or siblings)
- Girls who are withdrawn from PSHEE and PE
- An older family member is over to visit

# Indicators it's already Happened

- Long periods of time away from the class room/ in the toilet with bladder or menstrual problems
- Prolonged absence from school
- Changes in behaviour when they return
- Indications from siblings
- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Reluctant to be medically examined
- Asks for help but may be vague about the problem

# Scenarios- which are Indicators?

1. The girl's parents write a letter to excuse her from PE for a few weeks
2. For the first time this week, a girl needs the toilet and takes 3 minutes
3. Their grandma is staying at their house for a while
4. You hear her talking about a having a "special procedure"
5. She is from France

A close-up photograph of a person's eye, heavily shadowed with purple eyeshadow. The eye itself is looking slightly to the right. The background is a solid purple color.

# What should you do?

- Consider:
  - FGM is illegal
  - You have a duty to safeguard those in your care
  - The risk to other members of their family
  - If they have left the country for the procedure
- **Inform Social Services and/ or the police**
- **NSPCC FGM helpline- 0800 028 3550**

# Asking difficult questions

When talking about FGM and HBV, you should:

- Ensure that a female professional is available to speak to (in the case of girls) if they would prefer
- Make no assumptions
- Give them time to talk and be willing to listen
- Give them the opportunity to disclose in private
- Be sensitive to the subject
- Be aware that the individual may wish to protect their parents

# Asking difficult questions


When talking about FGM and HBV, you should:

- Be non-judgmental (point out the illegality and health risks but do not blame)
- Obtain accurate information about whether the situation is urgent or not
- Take detailed notes
- Use simple language and straightforward questions
- Use understandable terminology e.g. They may not see the behaviour as abusive

# Asking difficult questions

When talking about FGM and HBV, you should:

- Don't use offensive terminology e.g. Barbaric
- Use understandable, value neutral terms
- Ask direct questions to avoid confusion, embarrassment or discomfort
- Ensure that they know they can come back to you

A close-up photograph of a person's eye, looking directly at the camera. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent purple color, which serves as a background for the text. The eye itself is a light blue or grey color, and the surrounding skin is a pale, warm tone.

**You can do something  
to help eradicate HBV  
in the UK;  
please do it.**