

Faith and Culture Safeguarding Children Checklist

Black and Minority Ethnic families often live with circumstances which reduce or completely obstruct their ability, with or without a professional safeguarding support plan, to do the things they need to do to keep their children safe.

Ask yourself the following questions:

If this parent:

- 1. Cannot speak, read or write English**, will s/he be able to e.g. get a job, arrange suitable childcare, register with a GP, pursue a legitimate asylum claim, understand the law etc?
- 1. Fears that the State is authoritarian**, will s/he be able to register with a GP, engage with the local children's centre, talk to the school about their child's progress/difficulties, call social services or the police if necessary e.g. for help with domestic violence?
- 2. Lacks strong social networks**, will s/he be able to cope with the stresses of child rearing and the tensions and emergencies of everyday living?
- 3. Lives in temporary housing**, e.g. B&B, will s/he be unsettled, moving at [irregular] intervals to new and unfamiliar areas, not able to begin building a supportive social network, needing constantly to engage with a new GP, children's centre, school etc?
- 4. Is living below the poverty line**, will s/he have the added burden of not being able to buy enough food and clothing, keep warm enough, travel as needed or give things to their child as they would like, to add to the stresses of child rearing and the tensions and emergencies of everyday living?
- 5. Has a child who is of a different appearance and culture to them**, e.g. a single mother whose child has inherited their father's appearance (and as a young person chooses their father's culture), will the mother's skills and the child's identity and self-esteem be sufficiently resilient?
- 6. Is living in a close-knit community**, will s/he be too scared or ashamed to engage with statutory and other services for herself e.g. domestic violence, sexual abuse/rape, repudiating female genital mutilation or spirit possession, or for her child e.g. honour based violence or sexual promiscuity?
- 7. Has a perspective on parenting practices underpinned by culture or faith which are not in line with UK law and cultural norms**, will s/he put their child at risk of harm through e.g. leaving young children at home alone, exercising robust physical punishment, forcing a child into marriage etc?
- 8. Recognises his/her faith or community leader as all powerful**, will s/he put their child at risk of harm rather than questioning the leader?
- 9. Puts a very high value on preserving family honour**, will s/he put their child at risk of harm rather than exposing the family to shame. in their community? **and, if this young person;**

10. **Is compromised in relation to his/her community**, through being westernised e.g. sexually active (incl. teenage motherhood), having a girl/boyfriend not from the same community; or by having a stigmatising experience e.g. sexual abuse, mental ill health or a disability, will s/he be able to seek help to keep safe from the community or statutory and other services?
11. **Has strong allegiance to a group or gang**, e.g. radicalised, will this stop him/her from seeking help from the community or statutory and other services, to stay safe?