

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

What is FGM and why is it done?

- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is child abuse, it is a criminal offence and illegal in the UK
- There are NO medical reasons to carry out FGM

When can FGM happen?

- There is no specific age when FGM can happen, it can occur at different times of a girl or woman's life including:
- When a baby is new born
 - During childhood or as a teenager

Indicators that FGM may be about to take place

- Unexpectedly absent from school
- Female family elder visiting from country of origin
- You hear reference to FGM in conversation
- Talk about a 'special procedure' or that she is going to 'become a woman'.
- A girl may request help
- Parents state that they or a relative will take the child out of the country for a prolonged period.
- A girl may talk about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent
- Parents seeking to withdraw their children from learning about FGM
- Has happened to another female family member

RISK Indicators: FGM may already have taken place

- Difficulty walking, sitting or standing
- Spending a long time in the toilet
- Urinary, menstrual or stomach problems
- Prolonged or repeated absences from school
- Noticeable behavior change
- Requests to be excused from PE/swimming
- Girl or family member tell someone or ask for help
- May talk about pain or discomfort between her legs

SHARING CONCERNS / IN CASE OF DISCLOSURE

The young person's safety and wellbeing is the primary concern and overrides all other considerations



Information and support for professionals and survivors:

- Juno Women's Aid 24 hour Freephone domestic and sexual violence helpline - 0808 800 0340
- Leeds FGM Support Clinic: 07824 580 988
- Mojatu: 0115 845 7009

Referrals:

- Nottingham City Council Children and Families Direct: Tel: 0115 876 4800 Email: candfdirect@nottinghamcity.gov.uk; OR
- Nottinghamshire County Council Children's MASH on: Tel: 0300 500 80 90 Email: Mash.safeguarding@nottscc.gov.uk;

For all cases where there is already CONFIRMATION that FGM has taken place you MUST also call 101 under the Mandatory Duty to report.

For more information on local and national support access the Ask Lion website:

<https://www.asklion.co.uk/kb5/nottingham/directory/advice.page?id=33L8hL8OG2w>

FGM is a complex issue and requires a calm, sensitive and thoughtful approach