

7 MINUTE BRIEFING

Mandatory Reporting of Female Genital Mutilation

For more detailed information regarding mandatory reporting see the full document on our website here:

[Mandatory Reporting of FGM – Procedural Information](#)

You can access online training at the KSCB website:
<http://www.knowsleyscb.org.uk/multi-agency-training/>

For further information access the following websites:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation/pages/introduction.aspx>

www.forwarduk.org.uk

Local advice contact Savera on saveraliverpool@hotmail.co.uk
Helpline: 07716 266 484

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The World Health Organisation (WHO, 2010) has classified FGM as: “all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organ for non-medical reasons”

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland all forms of FGM are illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. Scotland has its own act.

Section 5B of the 2003 Act¹ introduces a mandatory reporting duty which requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report ‘known’ cases of FGM in under 18s which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. **The duty applies from 31 October 2015 onwards.**

‘Known’ cases are those where either a girl informs the person that an act of FGM – however described – has been carried out on her, or where the person observes physical signs on a girl appearing to show that an act of FGM has been carried out and the person has no reason to believe that the act was, or was part of, a surgical operation within section 1(2)(a) or (b) of the FGM Act 2003.

Throughout the process, you should ensure that you keep a comprehensive record of any discussions held and subsequent decisions made, in line with standard safeguarding practice.

Where you become aware of a case, the legislation requires you to make a report to the police force area within which the girl resides. It is recommended that you make a report orally by **calling 101**, the single non-emergency number. Practitioners are also required to contact the MASH on 443 2600 as this is a safeguarding issue relating to a child.

