

REPORT FOR: Harrow Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 20 July 2017

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT** – A review of Female Genital Mutilation in Harrow

Responsible Officer: Dr Andrew Howe,
Director of Public Health

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: A review of Female Genital Mutilation in Harrow

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out the current intelligence on female genital mutilation for Harrow. It covers prevalence and a range of issues to identify and to reduce the risk of FGM in young women and girls in Harrow.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Female genital mutilation (FGM) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is a criminal offence – it is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls, and therefore should be treated as such. FGM has been illegal in the UK since 1985, with the law being strengthened in 2003 to prevent girls travelling from the UK and undergoing FGM abroad.

The attached report will

- Define FGM;
- Identify the law and guidance on FGM in England;
- Present data on what we know about FGM in Harrow;
- Identify local actions to raise awareness of FGM;
- Identify local actions to protect and safeguard those at risk of FGM;
- Identify local actions to support those who have undergone FGM;
- Describe the reporting pathways; and
- Describe the governance arrangements.

Section 3 – Further Information

None

Section 4 Financial Implications

This report includes actions being taken by the council and by partner organisations. Funding for different elements of the activity is from a variety of sources including LA children's services budgets; LA community safety budget; LA education budget and individual schools' budgets; the CCG and provider health organisations primarily London Northwest Healthcare Trust.

Performance Issues

FGM notification is mandatory but there are no targets associated with it. The reporting system is to address the paucity of knowledge about the rate of FGM in England.

Ofsted and CQC both take an interest in the work on FGM. The recent Ofsted report for Harrow children's services recognised the local work on FGM as being "well integrated into broader safeguarding work" and there being "an understanding of the complex dynamics when there are concerns about abuse or neglect in a particular cultural context. This is apparent in a clear, effective and well-joined-up approach to the issue of female genital mutilation".

Environmental Impact

Not applicable

Risk Management Implications

The identification of young women and girls at risk of FGM is an area of concern for the council and is part of the safeguarding arrangements. We have not currently identified specific risks on this topic but will be continuing

to monitor the number of referrals coming through to MASH to ensure that those at high risk are identified and supported, if necessary through FGM prevention orders.

Section 5 - Equalities implications

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out?

No. An EQIA will be carried out on the action plan in due course.

Section 6 – Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

This report directly impacts on the health and wellbeing of female children, young women and adult women from specific ethnic communities. It therefore contributes to the council priorities

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for families

Name: Anthony Lineker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 4 July 2017		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Carole Furlong, Consultant in Public Health, 020 8420 9508