

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – Mandatory reporting

BACKGROUND

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 Act introduces a mandatory reporting duty which requires regulated health and social care professionals, including GPs & 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.**

For more detailed information regarding mandatory reporting and FGM Protection Orders see the full document on our website

www.manchestersafeguardingboards.co.uk

You can access online training via our training website

training.manchesterscb.org.uk or the Home Office online learning course on FGM at www.fgmelearning.co.uk

For local advice:

Contact Manchester City Council on 0161 234 5001 or

mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk

For further information visit:

- www.gov.uk/fgm-mandatory-reporting-in-healthcare
- www.nhs.uk/female-genital-mutilation
- www.forwarduk.org.uk

Practitioners should consult with their safeguarding lead and then make a referral on the multi-agency referral form and email to mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk

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

What should I do?

Where you become aware of a case the legislation, and best practice, requires you to make a report to the police force area within which the child, or adult who is unable to protect themselves, resides.

It is recommended that you make a report by calling 101, the single non-emergency number.

‘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 child or adult 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.

