

Social Care Services Board
2 September 2016
FGM Task & Finish Group

Purpose of report: Scrutiny of Services

This report provides an update to the “Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015: response to new statutory responsibilities” report presented to the Social Care Services Board on 7 September 2015. The purpose of this report is to feedback to the SCSB on the work being done by the Female Genital Mutilation Task and Finish Group and its partners.

Introduction:

1. The Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Task & Finish group is chaired by the lead Consultant in Public Health for Safeguarding. The group brings together partners from the Police, Police and Crime Commissioners office, Health including designated safeguarding leads, Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum (SMEF) and Surrey County Council Colleagues from Children, Schools and Families, Adult Social Care and Public Health.
2. The group has five strands main strands of work:
 - Scoping the extent of the problem of FGM in the county and mapping local areas of risk;
 - Researching good practice throughout the country to inform local practice;
 - Reviewing and updating Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Policies and Procedures for FGM;
 - Developing a training package for practitioners across all agencies; and
 - Developing a local action plan using the above intelligence and research.

Progress

3. Identifying those at risk

- 3.1 According to the Home Office¹ FGM is prevalent in 30 countries. These are concentrated in countries around the Atlantic coast to the Horn of Africa, in areas of the Middle East, and in some countries in Asia.
- 3.2 It is estimated that approximately 103,000 women aged 15-49 and approximately 24,000 women aged 50 and over who have migrated to England and Wales are living with the consequences of FGM. In addition,

¹ Home Office (2016) Multi-agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

approximately 10,000 girls aged under 15 who have migrated to England and Wales are likely to have undergone FGM².

- 3.3 The age at which FGM is carried out varies enormously according to the community. The procedure may be carried out shortly after birth, during childhood or adolescence, just before marriage or during a woman's first pregnancy¹.
- 3.4 To date it has been difficult to identify a data source to best map those at risk in Surrey. It is thought many cases go unreported but strengthening of the law governing FGM under the Serious Crime Act 2015 has led to mandatory reporting across a number of professions;

Since April 2014 NHS Hospitals have been required to record:

- If a patient has had Female Genital Mutilation;
- If there is a family history of Female Genital Mutilation;
- If a Female Genital Mutilation-related procedure has been carried out on a patient

GPs and Mental Health Trusts have also joined the NHS FGM annual reporting system.

From October 2015 health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales have been required to report known cases of FGM in under 18 year olds.

- 3.5 From October 2016 an additional category for the child of 'Birth of Origin' will be added to the school census, this should help with the identification of young people at risk of FGM.

4. Good practice

The group have looked at examples of best practice from around the country. Best practice demonstrates that school and community-based approaches work best when raising awareness about FGM.

Community-based approach

The Office of the Police Crime Commissioner have funded Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum to identify and train community champions on Domestic Abuse, Honour based violence and FGM. These Community Champions will provide further sessions and share knowledge within their communities.

Schools-based approach

FGM, Honour based and Forced Marriage has been recommended for inclusion within the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Healthy

² Multi-agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (2016), <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

Schools pack. This is currently under review and due in late 2016. Surrey secondary schools were provided with a Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) resource last year. They will receive updates to the resource including programme information and session plans in order to deliver FGM awareness and information sessions in their schools.

5. **SSCB Policies and Procedures group**

The Surrey Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) Policies and Procedures group are currently updating the Surrey FGM procedures protocol. They will be using the Manchester FGM protocol as an example of good practice. The Department of Health FGM guidance for practitioners has been uploaded on the SSCB website.

The Chair of the FGM Task and Finish Group liaises with the Public Health representative on the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB). The SSAB have knowledge of the work of the FGM Task & Finish Group and have had sight of the action tracker.

6. **SSCB Learning, Development and Communication Group**

The SSCB has produced a training pathway to ensure that everyone is aware of FGM and that all those working with children and young people are able to recognise and respond appropriately to ensure the safety and protection of children and young people at risk from or experiencing FGM³.

Conclusions:

7. With continuing improvements in available data and more reporting of FGM, the mapping and understanding areas, population groups or schools in Surrey most affected by FGM will become more accurate.
8. The FGM Task & Finish group will continue to review best practice and changes in legislation to inform member organisations.

Recommendations:

9. The Board is invited to make recommendations to the FGM Task and Finish group.

³ Surrey Safeguarding Children Board, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Multi Agency Training Pathway www.surreyscb.org.uk

Next steps:

The FGM Task & Finish Group meets six monthly with virtual check-ins every three months.

To continue to improve problem profile for Surrey as new data becomes available.

To look at the support services available to women who are identified as having had FGM procedure carried out.

To look at extending the remit of the FGM Task & Finish group to include Forced Marriage and Honour based violence.

Report contact: Hannah Bishop, Public Health Lead, Adult Social Care & Public Health

Contact details: 01737 737104; hannah.bishop@surreycc.gov.uk

Sources/background papers:

Multi-agency Statutory Guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (2016),
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-statutory-guidance-on-female-genital-mutilation>

Surrey Safeguarding Children Board, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Multi Agency Training Pathway,
http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/79061/SSCB-Training-Programme-April-to-Sept-2016.pdf