

## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Multi Agency Training Pathway

*Female genital mutilation (sometimes referred to as female circumcision) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. Whilst it is perceived by parents not to be an act of hate, it is harmful, and **is child abuse**. It is classified as physical abuse and is illegal in the UK.*

*It has been estimated that over 20,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the UK each year, and that 66,000 women in the UK are living with the consequences of FGM. However, the true extent is unknown, due to the "hidden" nature of the crime. The girls may be taken to their countries of origin so that FGM can be carried out during the summer holidays, allowing them time to "heal" before they return to school. There are also worries that some girls may have FGM performed in the UK.*

*There are **no** health benefits to FGM. Removing and damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue interferes with the natural functions of girls' and women's bodies.*

From 31 October 2015 a mandatory reporting **duty**, for FGM, has been introduced via the Serious Crime Act 2015. The duty requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report known cases of FGM in under 18-year-olds to the police. They should also make a referral to the RAIS teams.

The SSCB has produced a **training pathway** to ensure that everyone is aware of FGM and that all those who come into contact with or are working directly 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 FGM.

### Female Genital Mutilation

The following e-learning training resource is available for **all** staff, including those who do not work directly with children, young people and families.

**Home Office E learning** <https://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/>

Registration is required prior to accessing this free e-learning training. This e-learning course aims to improve awareness and understanding of FGM and the impact on children and young people. It will help professionals understand and recognize risk factors and ultimately work together effectively focusing on the goal of keeping children safe and meeting their needs.

It can also be accessed via the SSCB web page [www.surreyscb.org.uk](http://www.surreyscb.org.uk)

## **E-Learning for Health Professionals**

Health Education England (HEE), (March 2015), in partnership with a number of key stakeholders, have launched an e-learning programme which seeks to raise healthcare professionals' awareness of the issues which affect women, children and families impacted by FGM. eFGM is available free of charge to UK healthcare staff. Supported by the Department of Health's FGM Prevention team, the e-learning resource focuses on issues related to health, legal status and referral pathways. The sessions are knowledge based and will provide practical support to healthcare professionals facing challenges such as how to approach a conversation about FGM with patients

HEE e-learning resource: <http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes>

In order to access any e-LfH programme, you will need an e-LfH account. If you do not have one, then you can register by selecting the 'Register' button in the top right hand corner of the page. If you already have an account with e-LfH, then you can enrol on to the Female Genital Mutilation Programme by logging in to the e-LfH Hub, selecting **My Account > Enrolment** and selecting the programme. You can then access the programme immediately in the **My e-Learning** section.

### **How to Licence**

In the event that you do not qualify for free access to the Female Genital Mutilation programme, you are able to license access through eIntegrity, a community interest company established for this purpose. You can check whether or not you qualify for free access by clicking on the 'Register' button. For more information on the licencing options available for the Female Genital Mutilation Programme, please visit the eIntegrity website.

### **NHS Healthcare staff in England**

The Female Genital Mutilation Programme is also available to NHS Healthcare staff in England via the National Learning Management System (NLMS). The NLMS is an e-learning platform fully integrated with the Electronic Staff record which means learning can be recorded against the portable employee record. Please contact your local learning and development department about accessing this content via NLMS. Further details are available at: National Learning Management System Project.

### **New support package for healthcare professionals and organisations**

An FGM Resource Pack (November 2015) contains useful information and guidance for all agencies and professional groups. It includes case studies and effective practice suggestions:

The **new support package** includes documents that support the introduction of the duty:

- a poster explaining what the duty means for healthcare professionals
- guidance on what healthcare professionals should do if they think a child has had or is at risk of FGM

- training package to introduce the duty to healthcare professionals
- a leaflet explaining the duty to patients

Further information is available on the [NHS Choices website](#) to where there is a video clip discussing what the new duty means for professionals.

This e learning is intended to further increase knowledge and confidence in understanding and identifying indicators of FGM.

### **Further information and guidance for all professionals**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>  
[www.gov.uk/female-genital-mutilation-help-advice](http://www.gov.uk/female-genital-mutilation-help-advice)  
[www.west-midlands.police.uk/docs/advice-centre/help-and-advice/honour-abuse/FGM-Home-Office-leaflet.pdf](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/docs/advice-centre/help-and-advice/honour-abuse/FGM-Home-Office-leaflet.pdf)

### **Face to Face FGM training:**

SSCB has provided a Train the Trainers session on Honour Based Violence which includes training on FGM. Key professionals across a range of agencies will disseminate this information to colleagues either in discreet training sessions or as part of induction, updates and refresher training as required by their agency. A further Train the Trainers session is planned for 2016.

JD/LC27.11.15