

Quality Improvement Framework

Section 1 – Safeguarding

Subsection: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Guidance Notes	Reflective Questions	Resources	Your Evidence
<p>Female Genital Mutilation (also known as Female Circumcision or Cutting) is illegal in the UK and is a form of Child Abuse. It affects girls and young women and can have lasting effects both physically and emotionally on the individual.</p> <p>It involves the girl's genitalia being modified (cut, injured or changed) with no medical justification for doing so.</p> <p>With links to cultural, religious and social beliefs, practitioners may doubt their authority to challenge where they feel a girl is in danger of, or has been affected by FGM. This is not the case. As with any form of abuse, professionals should follow their safeguarding policies and procedures.</p> <p>Practitioners need to be conscious of the signs and indicators of FGM, having an understanding of physical changes, behavioural changes, and patterns in attendance etc. to enable them to better safeguard children in their care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have staff been offered FGM training? If so, what opportunities have there been for staff to embed this learning and apply it to the context of their day to day work? • Are staff able to articulate their knowledge of the signs and indicators of FGM? • Do staff feel confident in the reporting process when concerns are identified? If not, what action needs to be taken? • What information do you share with parents regarding your responsibilities in protecting young girls from FGM? • Do staff feel confident in engaging with parents regarding the subject matter? If not, what can you do to support staff in feeling more able to effectively communicate with parents? 	<p>Q Cards</p> <p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)</p> <p>Training</p> <p>LSCB</p> <p>Virtual College Home Office</p> <p>Useful Links</p> <p>NHS</p> <p>Forward - Safeguarding rights and dignity</p> <p>NSPCC FGM</p>	<p>Guidance note: Remember to date your evidence to allow you to revisit and review relevance.</p>