

Consultancy, practice development and training – innovation in learning

- **FGM peer challenge** reviews the effectiveness of an organisation's delivery of FGM services, and identifies actions to improve outcomes for affected girls and young women in terms of prevention and protection.
- **Practice development** is available around specific topics such as talking with children about FGM, dealing with disclosure, or making FGM referrals.
- **CPD accredited training** at advanced level is designed for participants who have understanding and experience of safeguarding. Bespoke training can also be provided.



“There was a frank and clear discussion of issues that are still often seen as ‘taboo’. Also there was clear instruction in terms of what we must do as professionals if a disclosure is made.”

Participant at half day training

“I wasn't looking forward to the course but I am so glad I came”.

Participant at half day training

Knowledge Hub – available to all professionals

The interactive Knowledge Hub provides a “one-stop shop” for quality assured national and international data, information and resources regarding FGM. It helps to support the continued learning of professionals, the development of good practice, and the understanding of excellence in FGM services.

The National FGM Centre delivers high quality innovative services for girls and families affected by FGM. The diverse and changing society and the nature of FGM provide a particularly complex and challenging context within which to undertake child protection and community work. The National FGM Centre has the skilled and experienced staff and developed services to help local authorities and agencies respond to these challenges to keep girls at risk safe and end FGM.

Early indications suggest that the National FGM Centre model could have wider applicability than originally foreseen, and we would be pleased to have discussions how the model could be applied more widely across other service types including honour based abuse, radicalisation, and refugee services.

For more information about the National FGM Centre's work, the cost of its services, and what it can provide including:

- Social work services
- Community Outreach
- Consultancy, practice development, and training
- Knowledge Hub

For more information please:

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“I am really happy with the way you explain and clarify things for me. I really like how you gave me a chance to speak”.

Mother

The National FGM Centre –
services and products
for local authorities
and other agencies



Developing excellence
in response to FGM

The National FGM Centre is a partnership between Barnardo's and the Local Government Association (LGA).

It was established with funding from the Department for Education's Children's Social Care Innovation Programme. The project aims to lead innovation in the delivery of services for girls and families affected by female genital mutilation (FGM).

The **National FGM Centre** works with parents and other family members so that FGM does not occur when girls are identified as at risk. This includes ensuring that communities are aware that FGM is illegal, child abuse and has devastating short and long term effects.

The **National FGM Centre's** vision is to keep girls and women across the country safe from the FGM and end new FGM cases by 2030. It aims through its work to:

- **Prevent** new cases
- **Protect** girls and women
- **Support** those affected by FGM
- **Partner** to deliver services and learn

The partnership combines the skills and knowledge of **Barnardo's**, Britain's largest children's charity with 150 years' experience of working with the most

vulnerable children and families, with the **LGA's** current understanding of the context within which councils and their local partners across England operate to tackle FGM.

Until recently there was relatively little public awareness of FGM in the UK. The result is that in most parts of the country social care and other professional staff may be untrained, have no experience, of FGM and lack confidence to work with families affected by FGM.

The **National FGM Centre** knows and understands the need to change the way in which care is delivered. It is able to provide better care and improved outcomes at lower cost.

Contact us to find out how we can help you improve your services for girls and families affected by FGM.

“No Local Authority in England and Wales is likely to be free from FGM”

It is estimated that:

- 137,000 women and girls with the physical and psychological scars of FGM, born in countries where FGM is practised, are living in England and Wales
- 60,000 girls aged 0 – 14 have been born to mothers with FGM in England and Wales

Wherever you are living, wherever public services are being provided, girls and women affected by FGM will be living and using local services, including health, education and social care.

FGM has been a criminal offence in the UK since 1985, but recent legislative and policy changes have strengthened actions to end the practice. The mandatory reporting duty for FGM, Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders (FGMPOs) and the mandatory recording of FGM all provide additional means to protect girls.

The National FGM Centre knows from experience that potentially there are complex FGM cases in every local authority. These will require a worker to:

- Know about the types of FGM
- Understand the differences in practice and risk in Africa, the Middle and Far East, and the Indian sub-continent
- Make a full FGM risk assessment
- Be familiar with working with interpreters
- Be knowledgeable about immigration and nationality rules, and working with refugees and asylum seekers
- Be informed of the relevant national and international legislation and reporting requirements available to protect girls
- Be confident in talking to children and women about FGM

FGM is a specific and emerging high profile safeguarding risk which agencies in every local authority need to address.



The products and services available from the National FGM Centre

Social work services – commissioning for value

An innovative, flexible offer is available. Social workers are placed directly into each local authority's multi-agency safeguarding team, and across local authorities. Excellent front-line social workers provide advice and guidance, and work with girls and families affected by FGM. The National FGM Centre employs and supports the social workers, and through economies of scale is able to provide a high quality, cost effective service to deliver identified and agreed outcomes.

This service has been developed successfully with six pilot authorities and is now ready to be expanded nationally. Its package of social work services can be adapted to areas of low prevalence as well as local authorities with significant numbers of families from affected communities.

“Thank you for your support during the Ofsted Inspection.... The excellent work that you are doing in relation to FGM....was highlighted in the feedback by the Inspectors as an important strength”

Director of a pilot local authority

“Men often don't know what FGM entails and can have mixed feelings about it. It is important to include them in efforts to change attitudes as they play an important role in determining the continuation or abandonment of the practice.”

Community organisation at stakeholder group

Community outreach – prevention in practice

The National FGM Centre recognises the need to engage communities in prevention to change embedded attitudes and behaviour. This includes working with men and boys and faith leaders from all faiths. Project workers at the National FGM Centre are experienced in the use of collaborative methods and community champions to support change. Community organisations are engaged through stakeholder events and community intervention programmes, and schools via programmes for teachers and young people.