

Female Genital Mutilation Briefing Sheet



EAST CENTRAL FAMILIES IN FOCUS
BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Briefing Sheet 1:5

February 2020

Families IN FOCUS

Why is Female Genital Mutilation a Locality Priority ?



Making Female Genital Mutilation a priority within East Central Bristol

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is also known as female circumcision or female genital cutting. FGM has no health benefits, and it harms girls and women in many ways. It involves removing and damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue, and interferes with the natural functions of girls'

and women's bodies.

FGM is defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as "all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons".

FGM can cause severe bleeding, problems urinating, cysts, infections, infertility complications in childbirth and significantly impact emotional and psychological wellbeing.

The Female Genital Mutilation Act was introduced in 2003. The Act:

- * Makes it illegal to practice FGM in the UK;
- * Makes it illegal to take girls who are British nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM whether or not it is lawful in that country;
- * Makes it illegal to aid, abet, counsel or procure the carrying out of FGM abroad;
- * Has a penalty of up to 14 years in prison and/or a fine.

In October 2015 a duty was introduced that requires health and social care professionals and those involved in teaching work to report 'known' cases of FGM in girls to the police.

What are the Issues in East Central Bristol ?

FGM is **NOT** unique to East Central Bristol, but is of citywide and global concern. During 2018-19 there were 165 newly-recorded FGM cases in Bristol. [\[Source\]](#).

Because of the hidden nature of the practice of FGM and the location of the physical signs of the procedure, data is partial at best and it is not possible to assess how many UK or Bristol based women undergo FGM in a given time period. The FGM proce-

dures could have taken place at any time (not necessarily in the last year). However, Bristol has a strong reputation for FGM awareness and we would therefore hope that local medical staff are able to identify FGM and record appropriately.

Nationally, there were 4,120 newly recorded women and girls in the period April 2018 to March 2019, compared to 4,495 in 2017/18.

The Bristol Model of FGM work seeks to shift the "social norm" that has developed where families can find it difficult to stop the practice of FGM on their own as there is a sufficiently large segment of their social group prepared to let the practice continue. FGM abandonment typically needs a core group of individuals who are willing to stop the practice and set in motion a dynamic of change within their community. Click [here](#) for further information.

Locality Priorities

- CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION AND GANGS
- CHILDREN AFFECTED BY PARENTAL IMPRISONMENT
- DOMESTIC ABUSE
- DRUGS & ALCOHOL
- FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
- GYPSY, ROMA & TRAVELLER COMMUNITIES
- HOMELESSNESS
- SCHOOL EXCLUSION

FGM Services

- NSPCC FGM HELPLINE
- FIRST RESPONSE
- BRISTOL COMMUNITY ROSE CLINIC
- REFUGEE WOMEN OF BRISTOL
- INTEGRATE UK

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To get in touch with FGM services within East Central Bristol contact:

[NSPCC FGM helpline](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)
0800 028 3550
fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk

[First Response](tel:01179036444)
0117 903 6444

[Bristol Community Rose Clinic at Eastville Medical Practice.](https://www.bristolrose.clinic@nhs.net)
07813 016 911
bristolrose.clinic@nhs.net

[Refugee Women of Bristol](mailto:info@refugeewomenofbristol.org.uk)
0117 941 5867
info@refugeewomenofbristol.org.uk

[Integrate UK](mailto:info@integrateuk.org)
0117 907 2998
info@integrateuk.org

What services currently operate in East Central Bristol ?

NSPCC FGM helpline

If you need advice or information about female genital mutilation or are worried about a child at risk you can contact us 24/7.

FGM helpline (24 hours a day / 7 days a week, free from a landline) 0800 028 3550.

First Response

Anyone can ring First Response if they are concerned about a child or young person or if they think they need support.

First Response can:

- Making a referral to Families in Focus who can provide support to children, young people and families.
- Making a referral to a social work team.

Bristol Community Rose Clinic at Eastville Medical

Practice.

Provides support for women experiencing any health problems as a result of FGM. The clinic offers 'opening' surgery under local anaesthetic or can arrange for the surgery at a local hospital under general anaesthetic.

Refugee Women of Bristol

is a multi-ethnic, multi-faith organisation which specifically targets the needs of refugee women in Bristol. They are directly governed by women of the refugee and asylum-seeking community.

Integrate UK is an award winning charity fighting to end FGM and empowering young people.

If you are pregnant and

have had FGM or been circumcised, it's important that you register with a midwife as soon as you know you are pregnant. **Bristol Midwifery Services** can find a midwife through your local clinic.

Bristol midwives have experience of supporting all women and will understand the issues for FGM. Your midwife can refer you to any specialist services you may need including "opening" surgery.

Medical advice and treatment is confidential.

North Bristol NHS Trust

University Hospitals NHS Trust

Bath, N. Somerset and S.Glos NHS

For more information on how you can support any of the locality priorities within East Central Bristol, please contact Families in Focus on 0117 357 6460 or by email at:

FamiliesinFocusEastCentral@bristol.gov.uk



What is Families in Focus?

Families in Focus is a non statutory partnership of Bristol City Council and other agencies that work with children and families. Working with the consent of families, our aims are to:

- * Put together and coordinate a package of support for children, young people and families
- * Identify and join up agencies already working with families
- * Signpost and advise practitioners and families as to where they can find services
- * Do direct work with children, young people and families
- * Provide specialist support where suitable
- * Support schools and partner agencies who have safeguarding concerns and work in partnership with a wide variety of agencies to support vulnerable children, young people and families.