

## **New FGM Mandatory Reporting**

“From 31 October 2015 there is a new professional duty for health professionals, teachers and social workers to report cases of FGM involving girls aged under 18 to the police”.

This legal duty has been introduced by the new Serious Crime Act 2015.

- The professional who identifies FGM / receives the disclosure must make the report to the **police by dialling 101**. Professionals should record the police reference / CAD number for this incident and document this and any other actions taken.
- If a professional thinks a **girl is at immediately risk of FGM being performed, including being taken abroad they should call 999**
- This duty only covers girls who are under 18 at the time of the disclosure. A disclosure by an adult who experienced FGM in their childhood is not covered by these rules.
- Failure to make a mandatory report when required could result in disciplinary proceedings and a review by your professional regulator who may consider the circumstances under the existing 'Fitness to Practise' proceedings.
- Mandatory reporting **does not** replace general safeguarding responsibilities: professionals must still undertake any safeguarding actions as required and make a referral to the appropriate social care team.
- For any further safeguarding advice refer to contacts and process in the CP Flow Chart.
- If you require further medical advice please follow the referral pathway for the Children's FGM Clinic. This clinic run at UCLH by Dr Deborah Hodes and Professor Sarah Creighton, offers appropriate and sensitive care to help in the management of the physical and psychological impact of FGM.

For further information refer to the Department of Health & NHS England Safeguarding Flow Chart at,

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/472691/FGM\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/472691/FGM_guidance.pdf)

To assist in your risk assessment refer to the safeguarding tools in the DH FGM Risk and Safeguarding Guidance for Professionals 2016

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/525390/FGM\\_safeguarding\\_report\\_A.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525390/FGM_safeguarding_report_A.pdf)