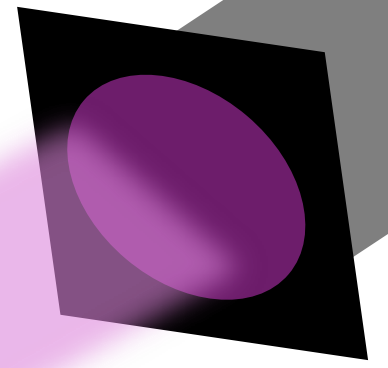


North Lincolnshire
**CHILDREN'S
MULTI-AGENCY
RESILIENCE &
SAFEGUARDING
BOARD**



In the Spotlight...

**Female Genital Mutilation
and Honour Based Abuse**

In this Spotlight...

In this edition of the Spotlight you can, find information about...

- Key messages for practice
- Education and Training
- Key tools and resources
- Contacts

The focus of this edition of the Children's MARS Spotlight is Female Genital Mutilation and Honour Based Abuse.

***Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)** is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act for the victim and can cause harm in many ways. The practice can cause severe pain and there may be immediate and/or long term health consequences, including mental health problems, difficulties in childbirth, causing danger to the child and mother; and/or death.*

[Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation, 2020](#)

*There is no statutory definition for **Honour Based Abuse**. It is defined as an incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community's code of behaviour.*

[College of Policing: Honour-Based Abuse Advice for first responders, 2021](#)

***Forced marriage** is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Force can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. In the cases of vulnerable adults who lack the capacity to consent to marriage, coercion is not required for a marriage to be forced*

[Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage and Multi-agency practice guidelines: Handling cases of forced marriage, 2022](#)

Key messages for practice

You may not have come across a family from a country that practices FGM yet, but it may be your next case – we must ensure we are prepared and vigilant

[The National FGM Centre](#)

Educational establishments should aim to create an 'open environment' where pupils feel comfortable to discuss the problems that they are facing – an environment where FGM can be discussed openly and support and counselling are provided routinely. Pupils need to know that they will be listened to and their concerns are taken seriously

[The National FGM Centre](#)

The one-chance rule - staff may only have one chance to speak to a potential victim, and thus they may only have one chance to save a life. If the victim is allowed to walk out of the door without support being offered, that one chance could be lost

[College of Policing](#)

Before accessing support, victims of domestic abuse at risk of honour based violence or forced marriage, experienced abuse for 2 years longer than other domestic abuse victims

[SafeLives](#)

Education and Training

Children's MARS Female Genital Mutilation Awareness e-workbook

Our e-workbook on FGM provides multi-agency staff with a basic awareness of FGM. Staff will learn what the different types of FGM are, the health effects of FGM and what to do after it has taken place.

This e-workbook is available to download from the [training page](#) of the Children's MARS website.

Home Office: Recognising and Preventing FGM e-learning

This free e-learning module provides safeguarding professionals with an overview of FGM as well as information on how to prevent FGM and how to support those who have been subjected to the procedure.

The e-learning is available to access anytime from this link <https://fgmelearning.vc-enable.co.uk/Register/>

Foreign Office: Awareness of Forced Marriage e-learning

This free e-learning will provide you with the knowledge to recognise the warning signs of forced marriage, take action to protect the victim and work with other agencies.

The e-learning is available to access anytime from this link <https://www.virtual-college.co.uk/resources/free-courses/awareness-of-forced-marriage>

Karma Nirvana – Tackling Virginitly Myths

Following the recent announcement that Virginitly Testing and Hymenoplasty are to become illegal in the UK, Karma Nirvana are holding workshops to help professionals tackle virginitly myths.

Upcoming dates:

- 14 June 1pm to 3pm
- 17 June 10am to 12pm
- 20 June 10am to 12pm

To book onto the session, please register via the Eventbrite link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/karma-nirvana-31896999911>

Key tools and resources

SafeLives – Blogs and Podcasts on 'Honour'-based violence and forced marriage

National FGM Centre – FGM Direct Work Toolkit

World Health Organisation - Care of Women and Girls living with FGM: A clinical handbook

Home Office FGM resource pack contains case studies where FGM has been experienced in the UK and links to support organisations, clinics and helplines which staff can signpost to

28TooMany: Facilitating dialogues with men on FGM guidance

28TooMany: Teacher training guide: Safeguarding girls from FGM

National FGM Centre: Good referral guide for practitioners

Honour based abuse practice summary (college.police.uk)

National FGM Centre: Discussing FGM with pupils in primary schools guidance

Family Holiday Leaflet: Keeping your girls safe from FGM: Summer Holidays, the Law and You

Training toolkit for professionals engaging with minority ethnic culture and faith communities, groups and families to safeguard their children

Further reading

1. [Children's MARS Domestic Abuse Toolkit](#) contains information relating to FGM and legal orders including Forced Marriage Protection Orders and Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders
2. [Children's MARS policy and procedure for identifying and responding to concerns about Female Genital Mutilation](#) provides information on the types of FGM, the possible signs and indicators and advice on what to do if you suspect a child or adult is at risk of or has undergone FGM
3. [Children's MARS policy and procedure for identifying and responding to concerns about honour based abuse and forced marriage](#) contains information about what honour based abuse and forced marriage is and what to do if a child or adult is at risk
4. [2 minute guide for schools and settings on Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation](#) – these guides are aimed to help staff identify and respond to concerns in education settings
5. The [Karma Nirvana website](#) contains information relating to honour based abuse including current campaigns and available training
6. [The National FGM Centre website](#) contains a large amount of information and resources including best practice guidance, an FGM assessment tool and direct work toolkits
7. [The SafeLives website](#) contains a number of resources, blogs, videos and podcasts on honour based abuse

Contacts

The Children's MARS Board produces quarterly news updates which provide information on the work of the Board and includes updates on local and national guidance. We also promote new education and training opportunities, resources for professionals and volunteers, support for children and families and information relating to events and conferences through our communications email list.

If you wish to subscribe for Children's MARS communications emails, please complete the [communications sign up form](#).

A collection of our previous news updates can also be found on the [communications page](#).

The Children's MARS Board regularly post updates via the partnership social media pages Safe North Lincs. Support and advice for children and families can be found on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Follow us on Facebook [Safe North Lincs](#) or Twitter [@SafeNorthLincs](#)



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