



# Item No: 28

Meeting Date: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

**Report By:** Susanne Millar, Chief Officer, Planning, Strategy & Commissioning / Chief Social Work Officer

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### FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM): NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	The purpose of this report is to outline current work in Glasgow regarding FGM and our response to Scotland's National Action Plan.
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<b>Recommendations:</b>	The Integration Joint Board is asked to:  a) note the contents of the report.
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#### Relevance to Integration Joint Board Strategic Plan:

Scotland's National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate FGM in 2016 contains several actions assigned to IJB's. The actions attributed to IJBs sit under *Prevention/Protection and Support/Provision*.

#### Implications for Health and Social Care Partnership:

<b>Reference to National Health &amp; Wellbeing Outcome:</b>	Outcomes 1,3, 4
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<b>Personnel:</b>	None
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<b>Carers:</b>	None
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<b>Provider Organisations:</b>	The protection and support to victims of FGM sits within existing child protection procedures and requires a multi agency response and participation of all partner agencies.	
<b>Equalities:</b>	No EQIA carried out as this report does not represent a new or amended policy, plan, service or strategy	
<b>Financial:</b>	The financial resources required (both revenue and capital) can be met from existing resources.	
<b>Legal:</b>	None	
<b>Economic Impact:</b>	None	
<b>Sustainability:</b>	Services to victims of FGM are provided by universal and specialist services.	
<b>Sustainable Procurement and Article 19:</b>	None	
<b>Risk Implications:</b>	None	
<b>Implications for Glasgow City Council:</b>	Glasgow City Council has the responsibility of ensuring that children and Young People are safe from harm and FGM is managed within existing resources and processes.	
<b>Implications for NHS Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde:</b>	Health have a key role to play in the identification and support of victims of FGM.	
<b>Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both</b>	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	✓
	2. Glasgow City Council	
	3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	
	4. Glasgow City Council and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline current work in Glasgow regarding FGM and our response to Scotland's National Action Plan.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The Scottish Government published Scotland's National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Female GM in 2016<sup>1</sup>. This plan sits within the Equally Safe Strategy

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/02/8232/0>

to prevent and eradicate violence against women and girls<sup>2</sup>. The plan's aims to prevent and protect and to provide services and support are set out with a number of actions in which partners will work with communities to meet the objectives of the plan. Within the National Action Plan several actions are assigned to Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) and the National Implementation Group. The actions attributed to IJBs sit under *Prevention/Protection and Support/Provision*.

- 2.2 FGM has been unlawful in Scotland since 1985<sup>3</sup>. The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2005<sup>4</sup> extended protection making it a criminal offence to have FGM carried out in Scotland or abroad. In 2015 these extra territorial powers were extended to include habitual, as well as permanent, UK residents through the Serious Crime Act 2015<sup>5</sup>.

### **3. Current Work in Glasgow**

- 3.1. FGM has been prioritised in Glasgow for many years, and the City Sexual Exploitation Working Group has had regular oversight of practice and policy developments. The membership of this group is extensive including Community Safety Glasgow, Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA), Police Scotland, Procurator Fiscal, Community Justice, Inequalities Team NHS, Tomorrow's Women, Child Protection, Women's Support Project, Criminal Justice and NHSGGC. The Adult Protection Committee has also joined this group ensuring that the discussions and actions around the interface between adult protection and the wider context are addressed. Members of this working group sit on a number of other forums and connections are made across, and between, groups such as Glasgow Child Protection Committee (CPC), Violence Against Women Partnership and the FGM Working Group chaired by the Women's Support Project.
- 3.2. Glasgow has existing FGM multi-agency practice guidance that was implemented several years ago. This is currently being updated to reflect changes in legislation and policy as well as the pending National Guidance on FGM (due for publication by the Scottish Government imminently). The updated guidance will be presented to the Child Protection Committee for discussion and implementation. Health services have developed a FGM referral pathway which will be linked to the multi-agency guidance.

### **4. Prevention and Protection**

- 4.1. FGM awareness sits within the delivery of a range services including Education, HSCP, Police and third sector partners. In 2016 the Child Protection Committee delivered a series of multi-agency FGM awareness sessions that were positively evaluated and well attended. HSCP have undertaken awareness training for staff within health settings including direct delivery and online learning. Work also continues to roll out training for both Social Work Children and Families and Adult Services and to embed FGM in Child Protection and Adult Protection training. This includes raising awareness of FGM and working with communities potentially

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/03/7926>

<sup>3</sup> Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985

<sup>4</sup> Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation (Scotland) Act 2005

<sup>5</sup> Serious Crime Act 2015

affected by FGM. Education Services have also undertaken awareness raising events for key education staff.

- 4.2. Families arriving in Glasgow, seeking asylum, or from the European Union, receive information about child care practices in Scotland. This reflects the fact that FGM is a crime in Scotland. The Asylum and Roma Children and Families Service have built up significant knowledge and skills in this area of work and have established good inter agency working relationships with colleagues from across a range of services (both statutory and third sector).
- 4.3. The Child Protection Committee is undertaking work with community groups to produce a Child Protection leaflet for families. This will be an accessible leaflet with information in community languages. The HSCP have delivered a Child Protection workshop/ information session for families from African communities in Glasgow. The potential to develop further work with communities around child care practices and the law in Scotland is being explored.
- 4.4. There is a robust process in place that ensures that any girl at risk / a victim of FGM is protected through Glasgow HSCP Social Work Services Child Protection Procedures. This is in line with the National Guidance for Child Protection<sup>6</sup>. On publication the updated Glasgow FGM Practice Guidance will ensure practitioners have information on legislation in Scotland and the UK, types of FGM, risk indicators, health and psychological impacts of FGM and practice considerations. The updated Glasgow FGM Guidance is due for publication soon. Where necessary a child will have a GIRFEC multi-agency child protection / child's plan to ensure their safety and well-being is being addressed and monitored and appropriate supports identified.
- 4.5. For young women where there is a risk of FGM work is ongoing to ensure that transitions pathways between children and adult services meet the needs of these young women. This will be reflected in the re-write of the Vulnerable Young Person's Guidance. Where necessary Adult Services may need to consider adult protection measures where a woman is deemed to be at risk of FGM.

## **5. Support**

- 5.1. Health services are key to identifying support for survivors of FGM. The health referral pathway supports the identification of, and support to, women survivors of FGM. Adult Services can also have a supportive role in assisting survivors to access services where necessary. Partners in the third sector provide a range of support and information services and continuing to develop capacity these partners and the HSCP will help to meet the needs of survivors of FGM.
- 5.2. The HSCP Social Work Child Protection Team has established a data base of children/young people where there are concerns that a child is at risk or has been a victim of FGM. There have been a small number of cases of concern in Glasgow relating to FGM, and there are processes in place that ensures that child protection procedures are initiated and the Child Protection Team is contacted and provides support, advice and guidance to locality teams and has an oversight with regard to practice across the City.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/05/3052/0>

## **6. Recommendations**

6.1 The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- a) note the contents of the report.