

Tackling Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the West Midlands

Six- month progress update on recommendations – Wolverhampton City Council

Recommendation 4	
Councils, schools and health organisations (including NHS Trusts) need to ensure FGM is recognised as a priority by their boards and executives – and activity is not just led by determined individuals – to ensure prevention and referral is embedded in “how we do things round here”.	
Evidence of Progress	
Organisation	Comments
Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton is in the process of developing a refreshed Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy (VAWG) 2016-19; FGM features as a key area of focus within this new strategy. Safer Wolverhampton Partnership and both Adults and Children’s Safeguarding Boards have committed to deliver against the VAWG strategy with the City of Wolverhampton Council, schools and local health partners recognising their respective roles.

Recommendation 6	
Given the importance of understanding the risks and effects of FGM in preventing the continuation of the practice, practitioners need access to training. All Safeguarding Children Boards should co-ordinate training and organisations should ensure that front-line staff are trained to spot the signs / risks of FGM and understand referral pathways.	
Evidence of Progress	
Organisation	Comments
Wolverhampton	Multi-agency training to front-line practitioners has already commenced in Wolverhampton as part of the Children’s Safeguarding Board training programme. A dedicated training resource has been funded by Safer Wolverhampton Partnership to build training capacity for each of the VAWG strands.

Recommendation 7	
<p>The PCC should work with West Midlands Police, local authorities, health organisations, and the third sector to ensure that pro-active community empowerment work is being undertaken with communities from FGM practising countries (whilst recognising the value of broader engagement with such communities too), including appropriate men and women’s groups.</p>	
Evidence of Progress	
Organisation	Comments
Wolverhampton	Engagement of communities where FGM prevalence is high within countries of origin features as an important area for development within the Wolverhampton VAWG strategy and action plan.

Recommendation 8	
<p>The PCC and local authorities recognise the crucial role that schools can play in engaging with parents, and therefore, encourage schools, where there are children from FGM practising countries, to play an active role in educating, preventing and referring. FGM should be included within school safeguarding policies and all staff and governing bodies should receive training.</p> <p>Further education colleges and universities also provide opportunities to engage with young people and staff should be able to spot the signs / risks of FGM and have knowledge of referral pathways.</p>	
Evidence of Progress	
Organisation	Comments
Wolverhampton	At a recent Keeping Children Safe in Education conference held in Wolverhampton for primary and secondary schools, the importance of schools in engaging parents, raising awareness amongst staff, pupils and parents and understanding mandatory reporting requirements and referral pathways for support was emphasised. The role of schools in helping to tackle FGM features strongly within the VAWG strategy and is included in the training schedule.