

Briefing in a minute

October 2015

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

FGM is a form of child abuse, which involves the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.

It is illegal in England and Wales under the FGM Act 2003 and from the 31st October 2015 the Serious Crime Act 2015 introduces a mandatory reporting duty which requires health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report '**known**' cases of FGM in under 18s which they identify in the course of their work to the police.

What do I need to do?

If you are one of the organisations with a reporting duty don't panic! For everyone make sure you are familiar with our [local pathway and practice guidance](#) for reporting concerns about FGM, which provides you with a simple step by step approach.

What else is happening locally?

In Newcastle we have a multi-agency group that meets to consider what we need to do together to protect children who are at risk of FGM. A local strategy is being developed to further the work locally and there is free online training available on the Safeguarding Children Board website <http://www.nscb.org.uk/training-courses/related-learning>

Who can I contact for more information?

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