

<b>DIRECTORS' REPORT AUTUMN TERM 2015</b>	<b>ITEM NO 19</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>	<b>ATTENTION OF:</b> All governors
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Female Genital Mutilation</b>		
<b>SUMMARY</b>	The Female Genital Act 2003 has been updated via the Serious Crime Bill 2015 with implications for schools.		
<b>KEY ACTION POINTS</b>			
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Since the previous article on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), the Serious Crime Bill 2015<sup>1</sup> has received Royal Assent and updated the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 by:

- Extending the reach of the extra-territorial offences in the 2003 Act to habitual (as well as permanent) UK residents (Commenced May 2015)
- Making parents or those responsible for caring for a child liable for failing to prevent their child being subjected to FGM (Commenced May 2015)
- Granting victims of FGM lifelong anonymity from the time an allegation is made (Commenced May 2015)
- Creating a new FGM civil protection order (FGMPO) to protect a girl who is at risk of FGM or a girl against whom a FGM offence has been committed. (Commenced July 2015)
- Introducing a mandatory reporting duty requiring teachers, regulated health and social care professionals to report known cases of FGM in under 18s to the police\*

*\*The commencement dates for the mandatory reporting duty will be announced in due course.*

In order to prepare schools to fulfil their mandatory duty to report known cases of FGM, the health improvement team (HIT) recommends that the following steps be taken:

#### **Reporting concerns:**

Schools should make it clear to all staff that they if they have any FGM concerns regarding a pupil, they should report the concern to their designated child protection (CP) lead who should contact the Ealing Children's Integrated Response Service (ECIRS): 0208 825 8000 option 2.

#### **Review of the following policies:**

Schools need to regularly review and refresh the following policies to ensure FGM is featured where relevant

- Safeguarding policy: FGM is a safeguarding issue and should therefore be reflected in a school's safeguarding policy.
- Attendance policy: Girls are known to be taken out of schools to be subjected to FGM. Therefore the school's attendance policy should reflect how they will be vigilant where FGM is concerned.
- Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) policy: Governors have a statutory duty to ensure that their school (whether primary and secondary) has an RSE policy. This should state what RSE training is provided for teachers and detail how pupils will be taught about FGM.

Examples of the above policies with reference to FGM can be found at

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/9/section/75/enacted>

<https://www.egfl.org.uk/services-children/female-genital-mutilation-fgm>

### **Staff training:**

The health improvement team recommends that all school staff, especially designated CP leads, receive training on FGM. This can be accessed via:

- Central training at the Ealing Education Centre <http://www.ealingcpd.org.uk>
- Bespoke, whole school training delivered by the health improvement team. Contact Karen Gibson for more information.

### **Parental engagement:**

Parents and those with legal responsibility for a child are now liable under the Serious Crime Bill for failing to protect a girl in their care from FGM. It is therefore important to raise awareness of all parents about FGM not only because safeguarding is everybody's business, but also because of the legal implications for them. Schools can do this under the umbrella of safeguarding by:

- Giving out leaflets and putting up posters around the school. These can also be found at <https://www.egfl.org.uk/services-children/female-genital-mutilation-fgm>.
- Providing a parent's workshop either on FGM or on safeguarding

### **Training for governors**

Governors can attend the 'RSE and e-safety' briefing at the Ealing Education Centre, which is aimed to help raise awareness, dispel myths, misconceptions and uncertainty about the need for RSE. It also outlines how RSE contributes significantly to the safeguarding of children and young people online and offline. FGM is covered in this training and governors can register via <http://www.ealingcpd.org.uk>

If you would like training on RSE for staff and/or governors in your school, please contact Karen Gibson ([karen.gibson@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:karen.gibson@ealing.gov.uk)) to discuss in more detail.