

The Guardian Project

SAFEGUARDING AND SUPPORTING
GIRLS AFFECTED BY FGM

@GUARDIANPROJUK

#ENDFGM



The Guardian Project - Part 1



- ▶ Coordinating Care and Support for girls and young women affected by or at risk of FGM
- ▶ Expertise and knowledge of two specialist FGM organisations
 - ▶ NESTAC – New Step for African Community
 - ▶ AFRUCA – Africans Unite Against Child Abuse
- ▶ Supported by New Economy and OPCC



The Guardian Project - Part 2



- ▶ Specific role to ensure 5 day a week coverage across Greater Manchester
- ▶ Coordinates care and support for girls and young women (up to 21 years old) affected by or at risk of FGM
- ▶ Working with professionals and agencies to standardize response and address the gap in support and service provision that is culturally competent and youth friendly
- ▶ Services are free and available across Greater Manchester



GM FGM Context



- ▶ 670 cases of FGM were identified by health professionals last year
- ▶ 115 of these were under 24 years old
- ▶ 2,000 girls living in Greater Manchester are believed to be at risk of FGM
 - ▶ Apr – Jun 16 – 195 cases (130 newly recorded)
 - ▶ Jul – Sept 16 – 165 cases (115 newly recorded)
 - ▶ Oct – Dec 16 – 185 cases (115 newly recorded)



Why the Guardian Project?



- ▶ Gap in service provision for girls and young women
- ▶ Need for clear coordinated consistent response across GM
- ▶ FGM expertise missing in developing action plans
- ▶ Professionals requiring support about their next steps and how to implement them
- ▶ Advice and guidance across thresholds



Multi-Agency and Partnership Work



- ▶ ‘Wherever possible, professionals should actively seek and support ways to reduce the prevalence of FGM in practising communities in the UK. Agencies should consider how preventative work, delivered by community organisations, can be embedded within their organisation’s work on protection, with a focus on involving community support for girls and families at risk.’

Multi-Agency Statutory Guidance on FGM



The Guardian Project – Services:



- ▶ Provide expert FGM advice for all professionals across GM
- ▶ Work in partnership with social services on FGM cases (strategy meetings, family visits)
- ▶ Improve outcomes of FGM cases – working with families to safeguard girls
- ▶ Support girls and young women to access youth friendly and culturally competent care and support
- ▶ Social Services; Health; Education; Police



Accessing the Service



- ▶ Email – guardian.project@outlook.com
 - ▶ electronic referral form
 - ▶ secure case management system, data protection

- ▶ Telephone: 07449651677
 - ▶ Mon – Fri; 9:30 – 5:30



What's the change we would like to see?



- ▶ Improved ability of professionals to: identify risk; support victims; and tackle FGM
- ▶ Standardized method for identifying risk and managing cases
- ▶ Consistent access to culturally competent and youth friendly support for girls and young women
- ▶ Established referral pathways across GM
- ▶ Improved engagement between professionals and families
- ▶ Better understanding of GM FGM Context



Support Us by...



- ▶ Developing collaborations and partnerships between the project and professionals and agencies; working in a multi-agency approach to ensure improved outcomes on FGM cases.
- ▶ Meeting with strategic leads within local authorities –
 - ▶ Discuss how the project can support professionals and agencies in your borough.



Contact Us



▶ Email:

guardian.project@outlook.com

▶ Phone:

07449651677