

13th October 2020



Dear Colleagues,

Honour Based Violence & Abuse and / or Forced Marriage - safeguarding children and protecting adults from the associated abuse.

And

Female Genital Mutilation -- safeguarding children and protecting adults.

Following on from the letter sent to you in June 2020, I am writing to you to remind you that Children, young people and adults are at more risk from either or both these issues during the summer holidays so her / his withdrawal from education is not noticed as quickly. Some children/young people may not have returned to education as expected. As part of the awareness raising, we are asking all schools within Nottingham City and County to be mindful of this and aware when a student does not return to education.

Although women and girls are more predominantly at risk from HBVA/FM, men and boys are also at risk.

We previously provided you with information about HBVA/FM and FGM along with contact information for national guidance and training.

FGM and HBVA/FM COVID 19

Although travel outside of the UK is being significantly restricted during the pandemic this **does not** remove the risk of FGM or HBVA/FM. Children are currently significantly less visible with fewer opportunities to voice their concerns. As the UK faces the pandemic and a predicted economic decline research would suggest these two factors increase violence and abuse particularly relating to women and girls. It is vital that we remain vigilant to indicators of FGM and HBVA/FM.

Referrals and Support

All staff have a Duty of Care to protect children and young people, who are at risk from FGM and or HBVA/FM. It is not the role of teacher or staff to investigate disclosures of FGM and or HBVA/FM. However, staff need to know what information to ask, what not to do and where to refer to for the most appropriate support and help for that child / young person

If a teacher or other member of staff suspects that a child may not have returned to school or removed from education because of FGM and or HBVA/FM a referral should be made to Nottingham City Council Children and Families Direct

If you require further information and guidance around this issue, please contact the DSL in your school.

Referrals can be made to:

Nottingham City Council Children and Families Direct: 0115 876 4800 / Nottingham City Council Adult Social Care: 0300 131 0300 or Nottinghamshire County Council on: 0300 500 80 90

Information and support for professionals and survivors:

Juno Women's Aid 24 hour Freephone domestic and sexual violence helpline - 0808 800 0340

For FGM information about making a referral and the mandatory reporting duty please watch <https://youtu.be/l579odpjgUY>

Yours sincerely,

John Dexter
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