

Sandwell Stopping Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Group

Terms of Reference

Vision

Sandwell Stopping Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) subgroup will provide leadership, oversight, support and challenge to prevent the practice of FGM in Sandwell.

The FGM group will aim to achieve this by:

- **Prevention**
Raised awareness and prevention work on FGM with agencies professionals, community groups, faith groups and education/youth services.
- **Protection**
Supporting agencies to improve the identification and protection of females at risk of FGM and those who have undergone FGM.
- **Engaging the Community**
Ensure pro-active community empowerment work is undertaken with communities and engage with community organisations to identify and train community champions to raise awareness of FGM and associated support services within communities

Role

The Sandwell Stopping FGM group will:

- Increase our local understanding of the scope, nature and profile of FGM as it affects Sandwell residents and communities.
- Develop a multi-agency action FGM policy for Sandwell which provides guidance for frontline professionals, community groups, faith groups and education/youth services.
- To undertake actions to address identified issues in partnership with health services, communities, schools and other agencies.
- To raise awareness amongst agencies and communities affected of FGM and its impact on victims, families and communities.
- To influence the provision of FGM training and develop protocols/policies within Sandwell.
- To engage with regional FGM Task Group and apply its guidance, recommendations and procedures.
- To engage with community organisations to identify and train community champions to raise awareness of FGM and associated support services within communities.

Structure, Membership & Accountability

Sandwell Female Genital Mutilation reports principally and directly to the SANDWELL Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP) but will provide updates to the Sandwell Safeguarding Children's Board.

Membership of the strategic group includes representation from the following:

Sandwell MBC
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust
Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG (Chair)
Sandwell Women's Aid
Birmingham Solihull Women's Aid
West Midlands Police
Rights Equality Sandwell
Public Health Sandwell
Education
Voluntary & Community Sector Organisations
UK Visa and Immigration

Meetings

Regularity of Meetings

The group will meet as regularly as necessary to carry out its function. Routinely this will be bi-monthly.

Papers/reports/agenda

Papers will be circulated in advance of the meeting and items can only be tabled at the meeting with explicit permission of the Chair and then only in exceptional circumstances.

Special meetings

A meeting can be convened outside of the scheduled meetings, with the permission of the Chair.

Conflicts of interest

All members of the group or sub-groups must declare any conflict of interest where necessary.

Action/decision between meetings

Appropriate actions between meetings can be taken in consultation with the Chair of the group on urgent matters regarding the delivery of the programme. Such actions shall be reported to the next meeting of the group.

Review of Terms of Reference

The Sandwell Female Genital Mutilation Group will review its terms of reference as appropriate and in response to changing circumstance.