



Female genital mutilation Policy and Procedure

Female genital mutilation or FGM is defined as *“any procedure that involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.”*

Offence of female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation act 2003 states that a person is guilty of the offence of FGM if they exercise, infibulates or otherwise mutilates either part of or the whole of a female’s labia majora, labia minora, or clitoris. However no offence is taken if an approved person procedures to perform a surgical operation on a girl is taken which is necessary due to her physical or mental health, or a surgical operation is taken upon a girl who is in any stage of labour, has just given birth or for any purposes connected to labour or birth. No offence is taken if the surgical procedure is undertaken outside of the UK.

Approved persons include a registered medical practitioner or in relation to a girl giving birth a registered midwife or a person undertaking a course of training to become a midwife or practitioner.

An offence is undertaken by any person aiding, abetting, counselling or encourages a girl to undergo any form of FGM no matter where the procedure takes place.

Procedure to follow regarding FGM :

The manager has received training on FGM and what procedure to follow if a child is suspected to having or about to undergo FGM. This information has been cascaded down to all staff as it is also now described as a form of abuse. As FGM is regarded as a form of abuse we follow the “What to do if you're worried a child is being abused” flowchart (Please see Safeguarding Noticeboards).