



# Practitioners Forum

## Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership

### Penny Thompson CBE, welcomed Practitioners to the forum and provided the safeguarding update:

- City Partnership Board: Letter to the then Prime Minister – Cost of living crisis – 30.09.2022
- The Childrens Society: [The Good Childhood Report](#) – 10.10.2022
- Birmingham Childrens Partnership – 19.10.2022
- [The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse Final Report](#) – 20.10.2022
- Redthread Newsletter – 27.10.2022
- NCMD - Child Death Review Data: Year ending 31 March 2022 – Published November 2022
- [Working definition of trauma-informed practice](#) – 02.11.2022
- Safeguarding Leaders' Assembly - 03.11.2022
- [Sharing data to safeguard children \(ICO\) webinar](#) – 04.11.2022
- Faith Covenant Signing – 11.11.2022
- [Safeguarding black men and boys in Lambeth – Research](#) - published 14.11.22
- [Voice of the Child Practice Briefing](#) – 09.11.2022
- Cost of Living Roundtable CYPF Hosted by Cllr McCarthy - 11.11.2022
- New Birmingham City Observatory - 22.11.2022
- Executive Board – 23.11.2022

### Birmingham Against FGM

DC 9773 Gillian Squires, Birmingham MASH, WMP SME for Female Genital Mutilation

Public Protection Unit, West Midlands Police presented an passionate and thought-provoking overview of the very important work that the BAFGM group is undertaking to raise awareness of FGM within communities.

Unfortunately, there is no presentation available to view for this but the key messages that were relayed were:

- BAFGM is a multi-agency group who meet bi-monthly and have existed for 20 years. Gill has been involved in the group for 12 years. BAFGM is a very active group for individuals passionate about this area .
- The group's work includes producing leaflets, working with communities to raise awareness, supporting charities and influencing local and national policy and procedures. They were involved in the consultation and implementation of the 2015 Serious Crimes Act
- The group are currently researching the language used when talking about FGM with communities and families. This research will be published when complete.
- Zero Tolerance Day takes place on 6th February every year and a conference is planned for that day in 2023. Invites will be sent out after Christmas.
- Gill reminded all that if you find out about, or have reason to suspect, FGM it is mandatory to report this to the police, not just CASS.
- Virginity testing and hymenoplasty is illegal, as is forced marriage. Age of marriage will be raised to 18 as of 28/2/23. Even with permission from parents.

- Operation Limelight commencing again on 19th December. Focusing on flights between the UK and destinations where there is a high prevalence of FM and FGM. The operation involves engaging with airport staff and the general public on how to spot potential signs of abuse and how to report their concerns. Intelligence will also be used to identify potential victims entering or leaving the country.
- Gill made a passionate plea to practitioners saying “You have day to day relationships – there are cutters in the UK, this is not just taking place abroad. Please be vigilant and don’t be afraid to ask families. Any information should be passed on to police”.

The presentation was well received and prompted a valuable question and answer session.

#### Resources:

[GOV UK - Female Genital Mutilation: resource pack](#)

[Orchid Project \(with 28 Too Many\)](#)

[UNICEF](#)

[The National FGM Centre](#)

[DORCAS](#)

[Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

#### Learning and Development Update

David Passley, Learning & Development Programme Manager provided an overview of the multi-agency training courses currently scheduled and highlighted those courses with spaces available in January 2023. He particularly highlighted FGM courses that have been commissioned by BSCP.

[Book your place now](#)

#### [Identifying, Supporting and Protecting Girls and Women from FGM \(CPD Advanced\)](#)

Various dates throughout Jan, Feb and March.

#### [Safeguarding Disabled Children & Young People- 17237](#)

THURSDAY 12 JANUARY 2023 (09:30 - 16:30)

#### [Child Exploitation: Tackling CE Together in Birmingham\\*- 18256](#)

TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023 (09:15 - 16:30)

#### [Alcohol & Drugs - Delivering a Brief Intervention- 17180](#)

THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2023 (09:30 - 16:30)

#### [Working with Resistant Families\\*- 17420](#)

TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2023 (09:15 - 16:30)

#### [Advanced CSE - Trauma & Developing Skills for Practice\\*- 18257](#)

MONDAY 30 JANUARY 2023 (09:15 - 16:30)

#### [Graded Care Profile 2 \(GCP2\) for Practitioners \(3-part \) Training](#)

Various dates and venues.

#### Did you know?

The keynote speeches from the 2022 Practitioners Conference: “Working Together to Stop Child Neglect in Birmingham” are available to view on the [BSCP website](#) now.

Thank you to those who attended this Practitioner's Forum and for your continued hard work. Best wishes for the festive period and a very Happy New Year to you all!

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday 22nd March, 14:00 - 15:30.**