

TITLE OF REPORT: Female Genital Mutilation and Child Sexual Exploitation

REPORT OF: Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health
Care Wellbeing and Learning

HEADLINES

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

General Points

- We are not seeing any non suppressed data to suggest there are women attending a clinic/hospital appointment prior to the age of 18 in the Newcastle Gateshead CCG area where there is a recorded case of FGM seen.
- For cases that are recorded the majority of these procedures appear to have been carried out between the ages of 5 and 9 and took place in Northern Africa.
- According to the available non suppressed data Newcastle Gateshead CCG contributes almost all the FGM recorded in Cumbria and the North East.
- At LA level Newcastle appears to be responsible for the majority of the FGM cases recorded.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The Missing Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) sub group of the LSCB also has oversight of cases where there are concerns about sexual exploitation. There were 47 individual young people discussed at MSET in 2016-2017 (27 of them more than once) and this was an 8.5% increase from the previous year. It is not possible to separate how many of those cases were discussed due to missing episodes and how many due to CSE due to the overlap between the two but a CSE risk assessment was carried out for each case that was discussed.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to give the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee an overview of female genital mutilation (FGM) and child sexual exploitation (CSE) data for Gateshead and some of the work being undertaken to address these issues.

BACKGROUND

2. FGM is the deliberate mutilation of female genitalia. This is often the removal or cutting of the labia and clitoris. The World Health Organization describes FGM as any procedure that injures the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM has no health benefits and is in fact very harmful to health in many ways.
3. FGM is illegal. Even if carried out by a healthcare professional or if it takes place outside the UK. It is a form of gender-based violence, it is a human rights violation and it is a form of child abuse.
4. There are several types of female genital mutilation (FGM) as defined by the World Health Organisation grouped into these categories:

Type 1 Partial or total removal of the clitoris and/or the prepuce (clitoridectomy)

Type 2 Partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia minora, with or without excision of the labia majora (excision)

Type 3 Narrowing of the vaginal office with the creation of a covering seal by cutting and appositioning the labia minora and/or the labia majora with or without excision of the clitoris (infibulation)

Type 4 All harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes, for example: pricking piercing, incising, scraping and cauterization.

There is also 'History of FGM Type 3' and 'FGM Type 3 Re-infibulation Identified.

5. CSE is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them.
6. Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed and exploited online.

7. Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

8. General Points

- We are not seeing any non suppressed data to suggest there are women attending a clinic/hospital appointment prior to the age of 18 in the Newcastle Gateshead CCG area where there is a recorded case of FGM seen.
- For cases that are recorded the majority of these procedures appear to have been carried out between the ages of 5 and 9 and took place in Northern Africa.
- According to the available non suppressed data Newcastle Gateshead CCG contributes almost all the FGM recorded in Cumbria and the North East.
- At LA level Newcastle appears to be responsible for the majority of the FGM cases recorded.

9. Newly Recorded Cases of FGM (All Types) Apr 2015 – March 2016 (Local Authority)

The key points identified are:

- For the year 2015/16 there was 5 newly recorded cases of FGM for Gateshead LA.
- Gateshead contributed 7.14% of all newly recorded cases for Cumbria and North East region (70).
- Newcastle contributed 45 cases and Middlesbrough 10, all of the other LA's had a number of cases between 0 and 4 and were consequently suppressed as per the guidelines.

10. Total Attendances of FGM (All Types) Apr 2015 – March 2016 (LA)

The key points identified are:

- For the year 2015/16 there was 10 total attendances for FGM for Gateshead LA.
- Gateshead contributed 13.33% of total attendances for the Cumbria and North East region (75).
- Newcastle contributed 50 cases and Middlesbrough 10, all of the other LA's had a number of cases between 0 and 4 and were consequently suppressed as per the guidelines.

11. Newly Recorded Cases of FGM (All Types) Apr 2015 – March 2016 (CCG)
Age at Which FGM was carried out (Due to low numbers figures represent Gateshead and Newcastle CCGs)

(Note this is the age the person was when the FGM procedure was carried out)

The key points identified are:

- For the year 2015/16 45 of the 50 newly recorded cases of FGM for the Newcastle Gateshead CCG had a non suppressed age at which the procedure had been carried out.
- There were 5 cases carried out when the girl was under 1 year old
- 10 cases carried out between the age of 1 and 4
- 15 cases carried out between the age of 5 and 9
- In 15 cases the age it was carried out was not stated, and there are 5 more cases that were either 'Not recorded', between 10 and 17, or 18+ where the number for these was between 0 and 4 and consequently suppressed.

12. Newly Recorded Cases of FGM (All Types) Apr 2015 – March 2016 (CCG)
Country where the FGM was carried out

(Note this is the country where FGM procedure was carried out)

The key points identified are:

- For the year 2015/16 40 of the 50 newly recorded cases of FGM for the Newcastle Gateshead CCG had a non suppressed country where the procedure had been carried out.
- There were 5 procedures carried out in Eastern Africa.
- 15 cases in Northern Africa
- 10 cases in Western Africa
- In 10 cases the country it was carried out was not stated/unknown, and there are 10 more cases that were either 'Not recorded', 'Rest of Africa', 'UK', 'Western Asia', 'Rest of Asia' and 'Rest of World' where the number for these was between 0 and 4 and consequently suppressed.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

13. The Missing Sexually Exploited and Trafficked (MSET) sub group of the LSCB also has oversight of cases where there are concerns about sexual exploitation. There were 47 individual young people discussed at MSET in 2016-2017 (27 of them more than once) and this was an 8.5% increase from the previous year. It is not possible to separate how many of those cases were discussed due to missing episodes and how many due to CSE due to

the overlap between the two but a CSE risk assessment was carried out for each case that was discussed.

14. Northumbria Police also produce a "Problem Profile" which details crimes, incidents and child concerns with a CCN marker and also locations linked to CSE intelligence. The report for 2016-2017 is not yet available and the previous report does not cover a full year's worth of data so is not represented in this report. These reports are monitored by the joint LSCB and SAB Strategic Exploitation Sub Group.
15. The 2014-2015 LSCB Annual Report detailed a highly effective piece of work where the LSCB commissioned Chelsea's Choice, a hard hitting drama workshop focusing on CSE, to be delivered to over 2,500 young people. We jointly commissioned this with a number of schools in 2016-2017 and the session was delivered to over 2,000 further young people. The sessions have been shown to impact on young people by raising awareness of CSE, how to respond, how to protect yourselves and the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships. There is anecdotal relationships of young people radically changing the way they behave online after the sessions and also examples of young people making disclosures afterwards.
16. There is an expectation that all children who are at risk of CSE are "flagged" on the Children's Social Care electronic recording system. At year end there were 16 young people flagged as having a risk of CSE. These cases are a mix of males and females (although mainly female) and children in the Looked After system, on Child Protection Plans and Child in Need cases. Throughout 2016-2017 there were 16 cases that were "flagged" on the system and 14 cases who had their flag removed.
17. The 2015-2016 LSCB Annual Report detailed work that was undertaken by the LSCB Business Manager with colleagues from Northumbria Police and Gateshead Council Licensing to ensure that all taxi drivers licenced by Gateshead Council were aware of the signs of CSE and how to respond. This work continued into 2016-2017 and a number of additional sessions were held for new drivers to continue to raise awareness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The OSC is asked to note the information provided in this report.