

BSCB Annual report

FGM safeguarding children group annual summary

The FGM safeguarding group has continued its multi-agency work around raising awareness, training and policy development for Bristol Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB). The group continues to link with the FGM network and Advisory group. These two groups support the community work of adults and voluntary groups working on FGM issues. The advisory group has traditionally reviewed the contract delivery of FORWARD and the Refugee Women of Bristol project (RWOB). To reduce duplication it has been decided to merge these two groups into the FGM delivery group. One of the achievements of these groups has been the scoping of agencies work around FGM and promoting the BSCB FGM safeguarding training.

Below is a list of the achievements for all groups working on the issues related to FGM, this is not an exhaustive list:

- Integrate Bristol (young peoples charity) received a national film award in London for their film 'Silent Scream'.
- 3rd revision of the BSCB FGM Guidelines
- The 4th Community Led 'International Zero Tolerance to FGM day'
- FGM Network have collated a document of 'the FGM work in Bristol'
- Further engagement work with men from FGM affected communities around FGM and sexual health issues for men
- Public film presentation and discussion on the FGM Film 'Africa Rising' with national speakers leading the discussion.
- First whole day BSCB FGM training exploring the issues in more depth to develop practitioners. This training was supported by the FGM Community Health Advocates.
- A new provider (Platform 51) started working with Refugee Women of Bristol (RWOB). Developing a youth group looking at issues related to FGM and women's rights.
- Delivering FGM workshops at Migrant Health Afternoon for third year medical students from University of Bristol on 23.03.12.
- Delivering a FGM lecture at Bristol University for 5th Year Medical students on cultural and moral issues related to FGM.
- RWOB represent Bristol and their work on FGM at 'Cardiff's International women's day' and at 'Bristol's International Women's day'
- RWOB, Platform 51 and Public Health have meet with both male and female students in Further Education colleges to explore views and knowledge of FGM.
- Completion of the independent evaluation report of FORWARD's FGM work in Bristol on the FGM community development project.
- Integrate Bristol are organising a national FGM Conferences with 3 strands, looking at health, professionals and policy makers and young peoples work impacting on FGM
- Imbedding of the NBT FGM midwifery guidance
- Bristol Launched it's 4th Summer campaign in May 2012
- FORWARD and RWOB held a community event to celebrate the 'Day of the African Child' with Workshops and a theme on FGM, safeguarding children and improving communication across generations.
- Developing a multi-agency FGM strategy
- FGM is included in the East Central Partnership Plan for education

The International Zero Tolerance to FGM day was another great success this year. This event organised by the community called 'Ending FGM together', was supported by speakers from the police, social care and midwifery services. There were workshops for men, how can we share good practice and hearing the voice of young people. Layla Ismail the Advocacy Worker, RWoB and FGM Community Development Project Coordinator, FORWARD gave a moving account and case study on their work so far and views from women in the community. Over the last 4 events there have been an increasing number of men joining the movement to stop the practice of FGM, both as husbands and fathers.

In the 12 months between Sept 2010-Sept 2011 the RWoB delivered 30 outreach sessions and workshops to communities across Bristol many of these were with women's groups. Nearly 300 women from FGM affected communities have directly benefited from the FGM Community Development Project. The community health advocates have all been trained in basic safeguarding awareness and they all understand the clear message that safeguarding children is a priority.

At this years FGM summer campaign launch event the Independent Chair of the BSCB presented the young people involved in the 'silent scream' project with an award and certificate for their outstanding contribution to safeguarding children. The young people are challenging professionals and policies makers in how they deal with FGM in schools, health settings and through police and making positive arrests. The young people are organising their national FGM Conference and their hard work and dedication to stopping FGM act as an example to all professionals. The role of the BSCB FGM Safeguarding Group is to continue to raise the issue that professionals have a duty to prevent FGM and protect girls at risk of FGM.

Our aim for the coming year is to develop recommendation for a core standard of training for each professional group and to explore with the FGM delivery group how we can evidence prevalence data to see what risk still exist around FGM so work can be targeted appropriately.

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