



06.8 Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation

Openwoodgate Preschool have a responsibility to take appropriate safeguarding action in relation to any identified or suspected cases of CRE/CSE including FGM, in line with wider safeguarding frameworks. More information is available in Working Together to Safeguard Children.

All suspected or actual cases of FGM are a safeguarding concern in which Safeguarding procedures will be followed. This will include a referral to the police made by the early years or childcare setting. If any staff are concerned about a child they will refer to the Designated safeguarding lead. The DSL will then refer to children's services. This will also apply to suspicions of a child being subject to threats of or honour based violence.

The Crown Prosecution Service describes Honour Based Violence (HBV) as 'a crime or incident which has or may have, been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community' (www.cps.gov.uk) Honour can be the motivation, excuse or justification behind a range of violent acts against women and girls.

It is illegal in the UK to subject a girl or woman to female genital mutilation (FGM), to take a child abroad to undergo FGM or for any person to advise, help or force a girl to inflict FGM on herself.

It is an offence to fail to protect a girl from the risk of FGM. All suspected or actual cases of FGM are a safeguarding concern and the safeguarding procedures must be followed; this will include a referral to the police. HBV is no specific offence but covers a range of violent acts against women that are covered by other legislation.

All staff must be aware, that reporting this is a legal duty and further information and resources can be sought from the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (formerly DSCB) website Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (ddscp.org.uk)

If the setting is worried that a child (or adult) is at risk of FGM or has had FGM, or HBV the safeguarding policy and procedures must be followed, and the child will be supported in a sensitive manner.



However, in these circumstances, the child's family, or those with influence within the community, will not be approached in advance of any enquiries by the police, adult or children's social care. As in cases where a child is at immediate risk of harm it is necessary to speak to Starting Point immediately. Signs may include:

- Days absent from school
- Not participating in Physical Education
- In pain/has restricted movement/frequent and long visits to the toilet/broken limbs
- Confides that she is having a special procedure, cut or celebration
- Unauthorised and or extended leave, vague explanations or plans for removal of a female in a high-risk category* especially over the summer period
- Plans to take a holiday which may be unauthorised, unexplained or extended in a country known to practice FGM *parents from a country who are known to practice FGM

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>

<https://www.ddscp.org.uk/staff-and-volunteers/info-and-resources/fgm/>

<https://www.ddscp.org.uk/staff-and-volunteers/info-and-resources/forced-marriage/>

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/crime-info/domestic-abuse>