

Agenda motion - Protecting women and girls in Bath and North East Somerset from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

To be moved by Cllr Martin Veal on behalf of the Conservative Group

Council notes:

- That performing FGM in the UK and taking a child abroad to undergo FGM are both illegal: Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 and The Serious Crime Act 2015, (which has significant provisions to tackle FGM).
- The World Health Organisation has condemned FGM for many years. In 2016 the United Nations defined FGM as child abuse.
- It is estimated that 103,000 women aged 15-49 with FGM born in countries in which it is practised were living in England and Wales in 2011. In addition there were an estimated 24,000 women aged 50 and over with FGM born in FGM practising countries and nearly 10,000 girls aged 0-14 born in FGM practising countries who have undergone or are likely to undergo FGM.
- Experts, including professionals and the third sector, believe that FGM will only be eradicated in the longer term by changing practice and custom in communities where it happens. This requires working with and empowering members of these communities to change their views towards FGM.
- That FGM can cause a range of serious health problems including severe pain and emotional /psychological trauma, in some cases, death.

This Council resolves to:

- Commit to raising general awareness of FGM throughout the B&NES area;
- Encourage all schools in the area to teach sex and relationship education and raise awareness of violence against women and girls, including FGM;
- Encourage health establishments, youth groups and the wider community to raise awareness of FGM;
- Ensure the multi-agency approach to this serious issue, along with the comprehensive integrated violence against women and girls strategy, is supported and prioritised within existing resources;
- Ensure mandatory reporting by professionals if FGM is suspected or disclosed.