

Rosalind Pearce
Executive Director
Healthwatch Oxfordshire
The Old Dairy, High Cogges Farm
High Cogges
Witney
Oxon OX29 6UN

Chief Executive's Office
Trust Headquarters
Warneford Hospital
Warneford Lane
Headington
Oxford
OX3 7JX

Tel: 01865 902769

www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

7 November 2016

Dear Rosalind

Thank you for your recent letter, and the opportunity to review the draft report relating to FGM. As a Trust we are able to demonstrate some excellent practice to support both survivors and professionals where FGM is an issue, or indeed a risk, though we are aware that we could be doing more, and your work prompts us to consider this further.

I would consider the report to be factually accurate.

My specific comments are as follows:

It would have been useful to send the survey to a wider group of professionals, such as school health nurses and not just health visitors.

1. Training for health care professionals by CCG

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust provides a range of FGM training for all staff working clinically. Information about FGM is circulated to clinical staff across all directorates via the monthly safeguarding children newsletter. FGM was a Hot Topic in the April 2016 newsletter. Information included a flowchart for staff on how to respond to a concern about FGM, in addition to the latest national guidance on mandatory reporting.

FGM is included in Level 3 safeguarding training. This is attended by all clinical staff that work with children and young people or their parents/carers, and has a role in assessing/planning care. Hence this includes clinical staff in adult mental health services. It is also covered in Level 2 safeguarding training, so all clinical staff will have an awareness of FGM. The Trust Board monitors closely the uptake of safeguarding training as a standard performance measure.

FGM is discussed at the Oxfordshire safeguarding meeting. This is attended by senior managers from adult mental health as well as children's services.

A named safeguarding nurse represents the trust at the Oxfordshire FGM forum. If a concern about a woman's mental health was raised that could not be dealt with by the psychologist at the Rose clinic, the Named Nurse would ensure that appropriate signposting to mental health services was made.

The MASH health team would contribute to multi agency information sharing for any FGM referrals that come through the MASH.

We are able to report on consultations made to the Safeguarding children consultation line in relation to FGM. We had just 1 call in relation to FGM in Q2.

I would like to make comment specifically about our Health visitor workforce, who are responsible for delivering a universal antenatal contact to pregnant women, and therefore likely to be the workforce with the highest potential contact with survivors of FGM, or women at potential risk of FGM.

- Level 3 safeguarding training is **mandatory** for health visitors and includes slides on FGM, the mandatory reporting duty, a case study, the Rose Clinic and local community activities.
 - Additional training and supervision is available for health visitors who are working with specific cases where FGM is an issue.
 - E learning is also available to all health visitors.
 - Supervision around offering support to women is always available through an embedded safeguarding supervision process, and safeguarding support line for staff which is available throughout all core working hours.
 - Health visitors have formed a special interest group around FGM, and have champion health visitors who disseminate information to all staff.
2. **Raise awareness of FGM amongst health professionals and support services available**
- Health visitors have been proactive in providing training not only for their own service, but also the whole primary care team. Pilot primary care team training was carried out in Donnington GP surgery by the lead HV for FGM and a community practice teacher. 5 GPs, 2 midwives and 2 practice nurses attended, this was very well received.
 - All health visitors and school health nurses have an ipad and can access the Lets Talk FGM App developed by Joanne McEwan. This is accessible nationally to any ipad user, and is being accessed by other healthcare professionals within Oxfordshire. Information about this app and how to gain access to it has been disseminated regularly throughout the lifetime of Joanne's project. Joanne recently manned an information stall at our Trust AGM.
3. **Raise awareness amongst survivors of support services available**
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust has been informed about the Rose Clinic via training, the app, and regular safeguarding updates. Staff are informed about how to make appropriate referrals to the Rose clinic, and can signpost women to the section on the app that details what to expect when attending the clinic.

In conclusion we are confident we have robust training relating to FGM available for clinical staff. We also continue to raise awareness as part of our on-going safeguarding updates. We are proud of the work completed to develop the Lets Talk FGM app and are currently considering how we can support this developing further now that the Mary Seacole award has completed.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Bell CBE
Chief Executive