



**Oxfordshire
Clinical Commissioning Group**

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Dear Rosalind

Thank you for the report 'A pilot evaluation of health services for communities affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Oxfordshire' written by Oxford Against Cutting. Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) shares the concern for the wellbeing of women who have experienced cutting and looks forward to the time when this practice ceases.

I read the report and I have shared the draft with those closely involved in this work. They share the view of the report that raising awareness and training is an on-going process and we will continue through the safeguarding teams across the health system to do this.

Oxfordshire Children's Safeguarding Board recognised the challenge of FGM in 2014 and as a result OCCG worked in partnership with Police social care, clinicians and survivors and the Oxford Rose Clinic was commissioned. The service is now established. The lead clinician of the Oxford Rose Clinic has already identified that publicity materials and information leaflets need to be refreshed and re launched in order to raise the profile of the clinic and increase the understanding of its services. The service has worked in partnership with others on this work and the contributions of Oxford Against Cutting are welcomed. Aligned to the Oxford Rose Clinic there is community engagement with the Rose community.

The FGM Operational Group has representation from all health providers, social care and the police. The group meets on a regular basis providing a forum for continuing to ensure that the protection and support of women and children remains a focus for professionals in Oxfordshire. This group is chaired by the designated doctor for safeguarding. The operational group recently expanded to incorporate active community and voluntary groups to ensure that they can contribute to developing and expanding on the key messages about FGM that are regularly reviewed.

Whilst there is always more to do I have to acknowledge the good work done locally on FGM. The locally developed screening tool was adopted by Department of Health and is now, with some amendments, being recommended for use nationally.

Oxfordshire has hosted and facilitated locally a national conference showcasing local actions, activity and services. There has also been a nationally acclaimed app developed by leads at Oxford Health NHS FT to help practitioners develop assessment skills and this is being shared nationally.

It is disappointing that the involvement of members of Oxford Against Cutting in the partnership work on the strategy was not more apparent in the report.

Tackling FGM requires good partnership working and health services are a key part of this.

OCCG with partners is committed to improving and developing services in Oxfordshire for all its residents. The information in the report is welcomed as it confirms that the actions being undertaken are the right ones and it provides some useful information about the next stage of sharing the expertise, embedding the knowledge and enhancing practitioners' skills.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

David Smith
Chief Executive