

FGM National Clinical Group

Annual Report

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012

## Contents

		Page Number
	<b>Contents</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Group Membership</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Group Aims</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Group Activities</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	FGM National Clinical Group Website	6
3.2	Annual Conference	5
3.3	DVD Distribution	6
3.4	Research Fellowship	6
3.5	Meetings	7
3.6	Raising Awareness	7
<b>4</b>	<b>Future Direction</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>7</b>

## **1. Group Membership**

### Patrons:

**Baroness Ruth Rendell**

**Cathy Warwick CBE**

General Secretary of the Royal College of Midwives (RCM)

### Co-founders:

**Sarah Creighton**

Consultant Gynaecologist, University College Hospital London

**Yana Richens OBE (Treasurer)**

Consultant Midwife, University College Hospital, London

### Members:

**Dorcas Akeju OBE**

Specialist Midwife for FGM/Inherited Blood Disorders

**Alison Byrne**

Specialist Midwife, Heart of England NHS Trust

**Aderonke Gilbertson**

Qualified Midwife and member of the Liverpool FGM Group

**Tina Lavender DBE**

Professor of Midwifery, University of Manchester and St Mary's Hospital, Manchester

**Carol McCormick**

Consultant Midwife and Supervisor of Midwives at Nottingham University Hospitals

**Comfort Momoh MBE**

Midwife and FGM/Public Health Specialist, Guys and St Thomas' Hospital, London

**Joanne Topping**

Consultant Obstetrician, Liverpool Women's Hospital

**Dorothy Lee Zack-Williams**

Clinical Nurse Specialist Lead for Haemoglobinopathies, Liverpool PCT, Merseyside

**Tunde Zack-Williams**

Professor of Sociology, University of Central Lancashire

Support team:

**Linda Holmes**

Company Director, Parenthesis Design Consultancy  
(Creators of the FGM NCG brand identity)

**Becky Lavender**

FGM National Clinical Group Researcher

**Mahbir Thukral**

Brand Guardian & Online Brand Presence

## **2. Group Aims**

The aims of the FGM National Clinical Group remain the same as when the group was established:

- **Education and Training**

FGM should become part of core training for midwives, nurses, obstetricians and gynaecologists, mental health professionals and health visitors.

- **Revision of current literature to ensure it is relevant to UK health care professionals**

Excellent literature is already available but needs revision for UK training. Such material requires endorsement by relevant training bodies and wider distribution to health care professionals.

- **Develop an informed research strategy**

There is scanty evidence based research in FGM in the UK. Most work has focused on obstetric care with little on gynaecological and psychological needs. The majority of research has been based in Africa and may not apply to women resident within the UK. Our role would be to identify areas for research and provide a strategic approach.

- **National Clinical Information Centre for FGM**

Clinical information and support should be easily accessible across the UK for health professionals. This would be best provided as a web site.

- **Monitoring and Audit**

Work from the group must be audited, as should resultant changes within the NHS.

### **3. Group Activities**

#### **3.1 FGM National Clinical Group Website**

The group continues to maintain the FGM National Clinical Group website, ensuring that all information is up-to-date. The FGM research library displays updated relevant FGM literature, including: UK and international FGM resources, articles, reports, websites and multimedia references. The FGM National clinical group news page also displays current group activities.

#### **3.2 Annual Conference**

On Wednesday 21 September 2011 the FGM National Clinical group held a conference in Birmingham entitled, *FGM - Working in Partnership*. There were 61 attendees present. Attendees had various professional backgrounds, including: health professionals, lecturers, charity sector workers, members of the police force, and students. The conference had a number of presentations and talks, and topics included: *View from the House* by Valerie Vaz (MP Walsall South), police perspectives of FGM, and working partnerships in Dudley and Birmingham. During the conference, evaluation forms were distributed to assess how the conference was received. All attendees positively received the conference, with only minor suggestions (e.g. venue) being made.

#### **3.3 DVD Distribution**

Since the launch of the FGM National clinical group DVD in 2010, the DVD has been made available through a number of sources (conference/FGM NCG website/personal request). Industry professionals and practitioners are also able to apply for access to the unabridged version of the FGM Resource DVD, by contacting Yana Richens, whose details are available on the FGM NCG website. To date 100 DVD's have been distributed.

#### **3.4 Research Fellowship**

The FGM National Clinical Group also launched a new Research Fellowship. This was a competitive fellowship, advertised through the website, and judged against set criteria by an expert panel. The purpose of the fellowship was to investigate school teachers' understanding of female genital mutilation. A bursary of £6000 was awarded to assist the delivery of this important research. Lord Hunt awarded the fellowship to Rebecca Lavender

at the FGM National Clinical group conference in Birmingham.

### **3.5 Meetings**

The group have met 3 times between 2011-present. Minutes of each meeting are available on request.

### **3.6 Raising Awareness**

Alison Byrne was congratulated by Paula Harding (Vulnerability and Violence Against Women Strategic Lead, Birmingham Community Safety Partnership) and Lord Hunt for getting FGM onto the front page of the Sunday Times, leading to the uncovering of abuse.

## **4. Future Direction**

Due to the success of previous conferences, the group will continue to host annual conferences to educate and raise awareness of FGM. The group also aims to expand the distribution of the FGM resource DVD. Furthermore, the group will continue to revise current FGM literature to identify areas that could benefit from further research. The group aims to provide strategic approaches to contribute to gaps in current literature and empirical research, through initiatives such as the FGM NCG research fellowship.

## **5. References**

FGM National Clinical Group <http://fgmnationalgroup.org/> (Accessed 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012)