

Social workers will:

- provide group and community work
- hold regular stakeholder events within local communities to enable community organisations to inform and support the delivery of the Centre's vision.
- support families to access local groups and networks.
- peer research and support for community champions.

### 3. Consultancy and Professional Development

The Centre provides professional development and training that will raise awareness about FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief, the law and statutory responsibilities and:

- support participants to improve their practice regarding FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief
- facilitate the development of best practice in organisations through a holistic multi-disciplinary approach to tackling FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief
- provide organisations with bespoke advice and support.

Consultancy is also available for professionals from a network of specialists within their own field.

### 4. Knowledge Hub

The interactive Knowledge Hub provides access to quality-assured national and international data, information and resources regarding FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief, as well as:

- resources tailored to the needs of frontline professionals to enable them to develop appropriate responses within their local communities
- quality assured materials developed based on real-time learning
- an interactive platform, giving professionals access to advice by leading consultants
- forums for professionals
- a regular newsletter with up-to-date information on policy developments, resources and learning in the field.

For more information about any aspect of the Centre's work, please contact the National FGM Centre:

✉ [info@nationalfgmcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@nationalfgmcentre.org.uk)

🌐 [www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk](http://www.nationalfgmcentre.org.uk)



Developing excellence  
in response to FGM and  
other harmful practices

# The National FGM Centre About Us



Funded by  
 Department  
for Education

Local  
Government  
Association

Believe in  
children  
Barnardo's

## Background

The National FGM Centre is a partnership between Barnardo's and the Local Government Association (LGA) to achieve a systems change in the provision of services for children and young people affected by female genital mutilation (FGM), breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief. Funded initially by the Department of Education as part of its Children's Social Care Innovation Programme, the Centre works closely with key partners from Local Authorities, Health, Education, Police, and the voluntary sector to achieve its vision and aims.

## The Centre's Vision

The National FGM Centre's Vision is to keep children and young people safe from FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief, including our aim to end new cases of FGM by 2030.

## The Centre's Aims

The Centre will develop a model of social work delivery which will result in a systems change in the way that services are provided to children and young people affected by FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief aiming to:

1. **Prevent** new cases, by building effective strategies for the identification and support of at risk children and creating changes in community attitudes.
2. **Protect** children, through proactive safeguarding and effective prosecutions.
3. **Support** those who have been affected by FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief by providing long-term holistic support for survivors.
4. **Partner** with stakeholders to deliver solutions, bring together experience and learning on what works for tackling FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief.

## The Centre Model

The Centre provides direct services to pilot local authorities in the first instance, combining social work services and community outreach, and share this learning nationally through a knowledge hub, consultancy, professional development and training, conferences and workshops. It is the link between these different activities which gives the Centre its transformative power:



## 1. Social Work Provision



The continuum of intervention shown above outlines the support available to local authorities. This will be delivered by qualified and experienced social workers employed, managed and supported by the Centre. The interventions will range from consultation for professionals on FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief through to full delegated authority on behalf of the local authority. The continuum includes both direct work with local authority social workers and joint working on cases.

## 2. Community Outreach

Community outreach is designed to change attitudes and behaviours in affected communities as it is difficult for families to stop the practice if social expectations and community attitudes which support FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith or belief remain unchanged.