

Community Engagement

The National FGM Centre



Developing excellence
in response to FGM and
other harmful practices



1

Community engagement means **different things to different people.**

2

At the National FGM Centre we use it to refer to the **process** and **practice** in which individuals of a particular community participate in an intervention programme in order to achieve a common goal.

By this definition, our community engagement approach is essentially our tool for facilitating the process of an intervention programme and for achieving specific intervention objectives.

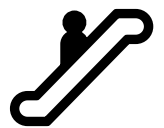
It provides a means through which the community members we work with are informed, consulted and involved in issues which affect them.

Discuss

3

At the National FGM Centre we recognise that communities have a wealth of **knowledge** and **resources** that can be harnessed to address issues that affect them such as FGM, breast flattening and child abuse linked to faith and religion.

Therefore our community engagement methods emphasise a bottom-up and community-led approach to tackling FGM and other harmful practices.



4

We aim to use the **REPLACE Cyclic Framework** for Social Norm Transformation which has been developed by the University of Coventry in partnership with other partners working on tackling the issue of FGM.



5

Community Engagement plays an important part in the **sustainability** of the Centre because as research has shown Community Engagement increases the likelihood of other projects or solutions to be widely accepted.



The community engagement work can be offered as a **standalone intervention** to Local Authorities and CCGs who may be interested in engaging communities but struggling to get that off the ground (primary findings show that remains an issue for some of these organisations)



All this will contribute to the sustainability of the Centre through the procurement of our services by the respective commissioners.

