



London Borough
of Hounslow

Tackling Female Genital Mutilation in Schools

Harprit Sekhon

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Hounslow FGM Prevention Project

- This is a multiagency partnership project between Hounslow Council and FORWARD
- The project has been funded since October 2014 for 2 days a week.
- Forward FGM co-ordinator reports updates on activities and needs to Hounslow FGM steering Group and Community Safety Partnership Board

Project Strands

Focus on raising awareness about FGM through :

- Working with schools (Based on Learning to Respect Model)
- Community outreach, workshops and events
- Professional trainings
- Developing Resources
- Training and supporting community champions (men and women)

Schools

- 7 multiagency professionals recruited & trained to facilitate & deliver school FGM awareness in schools. The team are police officers, social workers, council youth workers and a Health visitor
- The team delivered FGM training to 20 schools (primary and Secondary schools)
- Training is delivered to teachers, teaching assistants, school governance, support staff
- On request FORWARD community team also offer workshops for parents

Professionals

- Project works closely with Hounslow Local Safeguarding Children Board to deliver FGM training to all professionals
- Monthly awareness sessions have been delivered to 260 midwives at West Middlesex Hospital
- Over 654 professionals in the Borough attended FGM workshops and training since 2015

Women in the Community

- 11 women recruited to become community champions and raise awareness and FGM in their own communities
- Women finished FORWARD (Women's Health and Leadership) and (FGM-Mental Wellbeing)
- Women work closely with project coordinator to reach more residents e.g. disseminating leaflets, signposting to FGM clinics, facilitate talks at local mosques...etc.
- In 2016 women were celebrated as community champions in their contribution to ending VAWG

Men in the Community

- 7 men from the FGM affected communities involved in the project
- In total they set up 4 community setting meetings to talk with other men about their roles as fathers and brother in protecting women and girls from FGM.
- They disseminate resources and FGM leaflets in their local community coffee shops, mosque and organisations
- In 2015 - celebrated as White Ribbon champions for being active in standing against VAWG

Events

- In July 2015 the project organised the first event to speak about FGM safeguarding risk during the summer holidays. Event had a panel of speakers from FORWARD, Police, Health and Social care. Community had opportunities to raise concerns and ask questions
- 2 more events held in February and July 2016

Contacts

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