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**CABINET RESPONSE – FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**

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**Background**

1. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed as part of their work programme to undertake an inquiry into Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). As a result, the Committee agreed to set up Task and Finish Group Inquiry. The terms of reference were agreed as follows:
  - a) To identify the scale of the problem in Cardiff.
  - b) Identify options to improve awareness of FGM across professional and ethnic minority groups.
  - c) Improve the training of professionals who may come into contact with FGM.
  - d) Ascertain what work is being undertaken in the wider community and schools.
  - e) Identify ways to improve the operation of the FGM clinical pathway including proposals for an all Wales FGM clinic.
  - f) Improve the collection and robustness of FGM data across Cardiff.
2. The task group Inquiry was informed by evidence and advice from the following:
  - DI Cath Cooke (South Wales Police);
  - DS Tessa Gould (South Wales Police);
  - Leanne Jonathan (Crown Prosecution Service);
  - Emily Brace (FGM Clinical Lead, Maternity, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board);

- Natasha James (Cardiff Council, Safeguarding).
  - Jan Coles (CCC, CSE Lead Manager);
  - Mwenya Chimba (BAWSO);
  - Loyce Eades (BAWSO);
  - KimAnn Williamson (CPS).
  - Research Papers / Reports (via Literature Review).
3. The report was presented to Cabinet on 6 July 2017, copy attached at **Appendix A** and a full response was agreed by Cabinet on 12 October 2017, copy attached at **Appendix B**.

### **Cabinet Response to Recommendations**

4. The scrutiny report included two recommendation for the Cabinet to respond to. The Cabinet response stated that one recommendation was partially accepted and the second was fully accepted. The third recommendation was directed to the Crown Prosecution Services and BAWSO, was supported by the Council, the fourth recommendation was that the Committee wrote to the University Health Board to support for a FGM Clinic.
5. The Scrutiny Service was informed, in August 2017, that a pilot FGM clinic, for Cardiff & Vale patients, has been set up, which will hopefully move to an All Wales approach in the future. In addition Education Secretary Kirsty Williams wrote in July 2017, to all schools in Wales to raise awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

### **Way Forward**

6. The Director of Social Services, will introduce the response report and be available to answer any questions Members may have.
7. Members may also wish to consider the response contained in the attached **Appendix B** and the Director of Social Services, and provide any comments,

advice or recommendations to the Cabinet Member and Director to help in supporting further improvements in the work of the Department.

### **Legal Implications**

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

9. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to consider the Cabinet response report, attached at **Appendix B**, together with the information presented at the meeting, and provide the Cabinet Member and the Director of Social Service with any comments, concerns or recommendations.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**6 November 2017**