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**Date:** 21st June 2019

Headteachers of all schools in Camden

Dear Colleague

### ***Preventing FGM Summer Support Pack***

In Camden we continue to highlight the risks and dangers of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and to work with communities and partners to end this pernicious practice. Schools play a vital role in protecting girls and young women from FGM as well as identifying and supporting those who are at risk or have undergone the procedure.

In the UK, it is estimated that 137,000 girls and women are living with the consequences of FGM and 60,000 girls under 15 are at risk of FGM. It is a form of child abuse and violence against girls and women as well as a violation of their human rights. It is illegal in the UK and cannot be justified as a cultural or religious practice and leaders of all the main faiths have spoken out against it.

This term is a particularly good opportunity to raise the issue of FGM with staff, pupils and parents before the summer holidays begin.

It is important that we all know what to do if a child is at risk of or has experienced FGM, and are clear about how this fits with the schools safeguarding procedures. Staff may need support in order to feel able to raise awareness to parents and carers and provide appropriate advice and information on FGM, which makes it clear that the practice is illegal.

To support schools in this important work, we have produced a "Preventing FGM Summer Support Pack" with the Camden Safeguarding Children Board, which brings together key information and resources that provide advice, information and support:

1. Preventing FGM-support and resources for schools- *this includes key information about organisations and resources that provide information on FGM, guidance on preventing FGM, staff training, lesson plans for secondary, support for involving parents and the community and guidance on fulfilling safeguarding and statutory requirements*
2. End FGM poster *produced by the Home Office in partnership with NSPCC*
3. FGM the Facts-*leaflet with general information produced by the Home Office*

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4. FGM FAQs for young people- *produced by Forward UK*
5. FGM School Guidance from Project Azure, Metropolitan Police
6. Lesson plans for teaching about FGM – Year 7
7. Lesson plans for teaching about FGM – Year 8
8. FGM Teachers Pack – teaching about FGM
9. CSCB training course on FGM details (5<sup>th</sup> July 2019)

The resources are also available on the CSCB website [https://cscb-new.co.uk/?page\\_id=8247](https://cscb-new.co.uk/?page_id=8247). I hope the Support Pack will enable you to raise awareness of this unacceptable practice. Thank you for all the work you do to safeguard Camden's children and young people and for your ongoing support in addressing this serious risk to girls and young women.

Please note that the Camden Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) will be replaced with the Camden Safeguarding Children Partnership (CSCP) from 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Pratt', is placed above the typed name.

**Martin Pratt**  
Executive Director  
Supporting People