



## Child U – Seven Minute Briefing – A Child Exposed to Female Genital Mutilation

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Child U, aged 16 reported the fact that she had suffered FGM when she was three ;

### Brief History of Child U

- A girl of Somalian origin, whose mother's family moved to Kenya because of civil war
- U's mother ( when aged 17 ) left her family in Kenya, marrying her cousin in the UK in 2001.
- Mother became a UK citizen in 2005.
- U was the oldest of 7 siblings , born in 2003.
- Taken to Kenya by her mother in 2006 where she underwent type 1 FGM.
- U reported the FGM through her school in 2018.
- The police conducted an investigation
- U's mother was sentenced to seven years imprisonment in February 2024
- The Judge's sentencing remarks are here

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/R-v-Amina-Noor-Approved-Sentencing-Remarks.pdf>

### Other Safeguarding Concerns

- On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Child U reported to her school that ;
  - An older male cousin when she was about eight had sexually propositioned her and her similarly aged female cousin.
    - These allegations were partially supported by Child U providing a thread of Whatsapp messages between her and her cousin
    - These messages were never shared with the police
  - When she was five, she was threatened by her mother that she would be burned
  - When she was eight, she was threatened with a knife by her mother
- A sec 47 investigation took place
- Child U repeated her allegations to the police and CSC
- Child U went voluntarily into foster care on 15<sup>th</sup> November but returned home at her own request 8 days later.

### Good Practice

- The Metropolitan Police and the CPS conducted the prosecution without the support of the victim.
- Child U's school provided excellent support for child U throughout the investigation and subsequently
- Harrow Council moved quickly to obtain FGM prevention orders to protect Child U's two female siblings.

### Learning

- Once Child U made the allegation about her experiencing FGM the sexual assault matter involving the cousin got lost.
  - This situation was aggravated by the non-disclosure to the police of the Whatsapp messages.
- No assessment as to the risks posed by that cousin was ever undertaken.
  - His identity has never been confirmed and so this remains an unresolved issue.
- An FGM IS flag should have been placed on Child U's female siblings' health records but was not
- In February 2021, Child U's mother gave birth to another girl.
  - Midwifery services did not know of the FGM status of other females in the family
  - An FGM IS flag should have been applied to this child's NHS record but wasn't.

### Recommendation

- The Police make enquiries to establish the identity of the cousin and carry out a risk assessment.
- Harrow partnership carry out audits of
  - the management of CSA cases and
  - compliance with the NHS FGM prevention plan
- Harrow recommend to NHS England the application of the FGM IS flag to appropriate maternal records
- The Designated Nurse develops a refresher training programme on the use of FGM IS