

Information Circular June 2017

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1. Barnardo's children's charity is advising professionals, including teachers, of the signs a girl may be at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation (FGM) as 'cutting season' approaches. The so-called season arrives at the start of the summer holidays, when potentially thousands of UK girls could be flown abroad to unwittingly undergo the procedure. Any teacher who suspects a pupil is going overseas for this purpose should follow normal safeguarding procedures. For more information see http://www.barnardos.org.uk/news/Professionals-must-be-aware-of-FGM-8216cutting-season-signs/press_releases.htm?ref=124727 . You can also find information at the National FGM Centre <http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/>

2. The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse – Short key messages from research on Child Sexual Exploitation bring together current research on CSE with the aim to increase professionals' confidence in taking appropriate action. The 'key messages' include four tailored for specific professional groups: schools, staff working in health settings, Police, and Social workers, and one for the multi-agency team. Three are paired – with one for frontline practitioners and one for commissioners <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/research-publications/key-messages/>

3. Safeguarding children and young people: app for healthcare professionals. NHS England has developed an app for healthcare professionals working with children and young people. The app includes information on: statutory responsibilities; consent in children and young people; child sexual exploitation; female genital mutilation (FGM); domestic abuse; unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; and safeguarding looked after children. Source [MyGuide apps](#) Date: 26 June Further information: [Safeguarding children and young people](#) (link to app)

4. The Independent Inquiry into CSA launches a consultation on the impact of CSA and support services. The consultation marks the start of an ongoing engagement with victims and survivors and their families to gather views about support service provision. The consultation will be open for three months, from now until early September. The consultation is open to anyone who is a victim and survivor of child sexual abuse (or those who wish to complete the survey on behalf of a victim or survivor). The consultation is seeking information regarding experiences of the different types of support and the differences in the way they are experienced by children and adults. Closing date: 12th September 2017. For more information and how to respond visit <https://www.iicsa.org.uk/news/inquiry-launches-consultation-impact-csa-and-support-services>

5. Helping parents to safeguard their children from sexual exploitation. The University of Bedfordshire's International Centre and Parents against child sexual exploitation (Pace) have published an evaluation of the Parents as partners in safeguarding children and young people in Lancashire project, which was delivered from June 2014 – May 2017. This centred around the work of a Parent Liaison Officer who provided flexible one-to-one support to parents and families whose child was at risk, or a victim, of child sexual exploitation (CSE). Key findings include: the PLO helped parents to understand the dynamics of CSE and grooming and respond with more empathy to their child; parents were able to play a more active part in safeguarding their child; the PLO's support was identified as a key contributor to maintaining a strong record of child/family attendance at court; parents described themselves as more emotionally resilient and able to cope with the impact of CSE because of the PLO's support.

Source: [The International Centre Blog](#) **Date:** 13 June 2017

Further information: [Empowering parents: evaluation of Parents as partners in safeguarding children and young people in Lancashire project 2014 – 2017 \(PDF\)](#)

6. Joint inspections of the response to children living with domestic abuse: September 2016 to March 2017. Guidance for inspectors and inspection reports for joint targeted are inspections of local area services. This was updated on June 13th 2017 with the published letter outlining the findings of a joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to abuse and neglect in Hounslow. Key strengths include: The One stop shop which provides a wide range of support to parents, enabling them to better meet their children's needs and keep them safe; the [Learning to respect](#) education programme in schools to raise awareness of domestic abuse; creative work which enables children to understand their experiences of living with domestic abuse; the voice of the child is gathered and recorded in almost all of the incidents attended by frontline police officers. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-inspections-of-the-response-to-children-living-with-domestic-abuse-september-2016-to-march-2017>

7. Protecting children on the move from violence, abuse and exploitation – A report (UNICEF, May 2017). This report looks at the lack of safe and legal pathways for refugee and migrant children which puts them at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation. UNICEF’s six-point agenda for action to keep refugee and migrants safe includes: increasing safe and legal channels for children to migrate and to seek refuge including: practical alternatives to detention for all children; policies to prevent children from being separated from their parents and other family members in transit; and faster procedures to reunite children with their families. View the report here [https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/UNICEF A child is a child May 2017 EN.pdf](https://data.unicef.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/UNICEF_A_child_is_a_child_May_2017_EN.pdf)

8. Me first – Me first is an education and training resource that helps health and social care professionals to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence in communicating with children and young people. It does this by encouraging a child-centric mentality in staff, and by providing tools and advice to support this. <http://www.mefirst.org.uk/about/>

9. Child Cruelty: Consultation (The Sentencing Council). The Sentencing Council has produced this consultation paper in order to seek views from people interested in the sentencing of child cruelty. The [BBC](#) highlighted that ‘the new sentencing guidelines ... say blaming others should be considered an ‘aggravating factor’ when deciding a sentence’. The new child cruelty guideline will contain guidance for: - Cruelty to a child; Causing or allowing a child to die or suffer serious physical harm; and failing to protect a girl from the risk of FGM. It is important to clarify that the Council is consulting on sentencing these offences and not the legislation upon which such offences are based. Consultation ends 13 September 2017. For details on how to respond click here <https://www.sentencingcouncil.org.uk/publications/item/child-cruelty-consultation/>

10. Young People and Resettlement: Participatory Approaches – A practitioner’s Guide. The practice guide is one of an on-going series produced as part of the Beyond Youth Custody (BYC) programme, funded under the Big Lottery Fund’s Youth in Focus initiative. BYC has been designed to challenge, advance, and promote better thinking in policy and practice for the effective resettlement of young people. <http://www.beyondyouthcustody.net/wp-content/uploads/Young-people-and-resettlement-participatory-approaches-a-practitioners-guide.pdf>

11. Coram Children’s Legal Centre has launched a new website providing Information, resources and factsheets on Legal Issues affecting young refugees and migrants. Included is the 5th edition of the guide ‘Seeking Support – a guide to the rights and entitlements of separated children <http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/>

12. This is my home: securing permanent status for long-term resident children and young

people in the UK. (Coram Children’s Legal Centre). This report examines what is happening to thousands of undocumented children who will have grown up in the UK without realising that immigration is even an issue, their lack of regular status only becoming evident when they wish to work or access further or higher education. The report explores the means by which children and young people are able to regularise their immigration status, and some of the barriers they face. It shows that the current system is not fair, not accessible and pushes more people into undocumented status. To access the report see <http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/this-is-my-home/>.

13. Care to Independence Report (National Children’s Bureau, May 2017). This report presents key findings of the final phase of From Care to Independence (FC2I), a five year project focusing on support for care leavers participating in the Fairbridge programme, delivered by The Prince’s Trust. The aim of the Programme is to empower disengaged and marginalised young people by helping them to gain the skills needed to stabilise their life circumstances. The research draws on survey and interview data from young people and practitioners. For further information see the [Prince’s Trust](#).

14. The National Deaf Service has launched free specialist advice to professionals on the factors that should be taken into account in any social care assessment of a child with any level of hearing loss and in planning and providing support. For further information see the [NDCS website](#).

15. Welsh Government – A new national online safety action plan for children and young people was announced by Education Secretary Kirsty Williams (17th May). The plan will provide a strategic overview of how the Welsh Government will work with partners to continue to improve online safety support in Wales. The plan will build on the extensive programme already underway in schools to support young people to stay safe online. To view the article click [here](#).

Tools for Children and Families, Parents and Carers

16. Online Sexual Coercion and Extortion of Children is a crime (Europol) – is a form of online blackmail where sexual information or images are used to extort sexual material, sexual favours or money from children. Europol has published a ‘how-to guide’ to raise public awareness and prevention of online sexual coercion and extortion of children and how to get help. To view the Europol website <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/public-awareness-and-prevention-guides/online-sexual-coercion-and-extortion-crime>. Also included is an accompanying report: [Online Sexual Coercion and Extortion As A Form Of Crime Affecting Children – Law Enforcement Perspective](#).

17. Supporting children worried about terrorism – NSPCC advice page ‘Talking about terrorism: tips for parents’ can help parents talk to their children worried about recent events. You can also call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000. For more information visit the NSPCC website <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/supporting-children-worried-about-terrorism/>.

18. How do I know if I’m being groomed? – Voice box, Childline’s weekly video chat gives advice on how to spot the signs of grooming and how young people can get support if they are worried that they or a friend are being groomed. Click to view [You Tube](#).

19. An update to Snapchat that shows publicly posted images on a searchable map – Snap Map lets people search for places such as schools and see videos and pictures posted by children inside. It also lets people locate their “friends” on a map that is accurate enough to determining where people live. Snap, the company behind Snapchat, says that the location sharing is an opt-in feature. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-40382876>

How to switch of Snap Map location sharing

- When in photo-taking mode, pinch the screen to open Snap Map
- Touch the settings cog in the top right corner of the screen
- Tap “Ghost Mode” to switch off location sharing
- Photos and videos posted to Snapchat’s public ‘Our Story’ will still be discoverable on the map

20. Parent Tips – Keeping babies and young children safe around dogs in the home (Institute of Health Visiting). Includes a fact sheet http://ihv.org.uk/news-and-views/news/new-parent-tips-keeping-babies-young-children-safe-around-dogs-home/#163961_20170419105512.