NEW Mandatory FGM Reporting Duty

The new FGM mandatory reporting duty came into force on 31st October 2015 for all regulated health and social care professionals (including education and social care). The Home Office published information for professionals and the police on the new duty on 20th October.

It gives professionals and their employers an understanding of the legal requirements it places on them, a suggested process to follow, and an overview of the action which may be taken if they fail to comply with the duty.

The duty requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report ‘known’ (visually identified or verbally disclosed) cases of FGM in under 18s to the police. The duty will not apply in relation to at risk or suspected cases, or in cases where the woman is over 18. In these cases, professionals should follow existing safeguarding procedures.

The Government will be also be publishing multi-agency statutory guidance on FGM later this year – this will apply to schools and children’s social care as well as health, police and other statutory services.

See page 5 for more details.
The Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board (RBSAB) meets every three months and each newsletter carries a summary of what was discussed. The last Board meeting was in October 2015.

The Board received a presentation from the Head Of Strategic Commissioning about the service it provides. The Commissioning Team has contracts with 182 providers within Rochdale Borough including day care service providers, residential care and respite care. The Commissioning Team sets practice standards on the quality of service required and then measures the impact of the service delivery. The team undertakes spot checks to ensure standards are maintained and supports continuous improvement.

A representative from Greater Manchester Police gave a presentation on Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). MAPPA deals with the management of registered sex offenders, violent and other types of sexual offenders, and offenders who pose a serious risk of harm to the public.

There are three MAPPA categories, category one deals with registered sexual offenders, category two deals with the violent and other sexual offenders who have been in custody for 12 months or more. Category three deals with dangerous offenders who have committed offences in the past and indicate their capacity to cause serious harm to others again. The Police manage the three MAPPA categories.

There is a Strategic Management Board across Greater Manchester that provides an insight into cases that are managed by MAPPA. This Board is seeking to improve links with Adult Safeguarding Boards.

A new Learning Review procedure has been drawn up to deal with Safeguarding Adult Reviews. Information from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has been used when designing the document. It now provides RBSAB the option to choose what type of Safeguarding Adult Review to undertake depending on the nature of the case. This will ensure that reviews are proportionate, cost effective and deliver the required learning for the agencies involved in the case.

The Board agreed to ratify the document, which can be found (along with lots of other information on adult safeguarding in Rochdale) on the Board’s website: www.rbsab.org
The Board heard a presentation from Greater Manchester Police about modern slavery and sham marriages. Details were given of the National Referring Mechanism, a Government initiative to process referrals of potential victims of trafficking.

The agency has a 45 day programme of support for victims, but this may be being extended the programme to 90 days. Some concern was expressed about the level of support offered to the victims when they are put through the legal system during this length of time.

The Board is thinking about recruiting lay members to help it in its work. Lay Members may help to engage with the wider community, and to support, scrutinise and challenge statutory partners to ensure they are carrying out their functions in a way that protects adults from harm and promotes their welfare. They would bring a unique perspective to the Board’s deliberations.

The Board decided to request more information before deciding how to proceed.

The RBSAB Annual Report 2014-2015 has now been published and is available from https://www.rbsab.org/the-board/annual-reports
Who’s who?

In each issue we introduce a member of the Board, to help people understand who is on the Board and the types of backgrounds and jobs they have.

This issue features Nigel Elliott from the Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company

Hello

I am the Board representative from Cheshire and Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company (CGMCRC). CGMCRC is one of the successor organisations to the Greater Manchester Probation Trust which were created by the Governments Transforming Rehabilitation reform programme in 2014.

CGMCRC’s work focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders who are assessed as presenting a low or medium risk of serious harm to the public. That said, the management of risk remains a significant element of the CRC’s work, with around 25% of it’s caseload being offenders with recognised domestic abuse issues.

The CRC remains strongly committed to meeting its safeguarding responsibilities in respect of both adults and children and I am keen that locally in Rochdale the CRC should engage effectively with the work of the Board. I think that the Care Act 2014 makes very clear the responsibilities of all partners to engage with the adult safeguarding agenda and we will be ensuring that this is taken forward locally by the CGMCRC team.

CGMCRC is in the process of developing an Adult Safeguarding policy and practice guidance. I am keen for CRC staff to fully understand the range of ways in which safeguarding responsibilities can impact on their work. I feel that two priority areas for us are around our work with offenders with a history of targeting vulnerable victims and work with offenders who themselves may be victims of abuse or vulnerable to abuse.

I have worked in Probation Services since 1979, having qualified as a Probation Officer in 1983, and have seen many changes over that time of which the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms are the latest. I have been a senior manager responsible for a footprint including Rochdale since 2011. I am really hopeful that the CRC will provide an opportunity to work innovatively around rehabilitation and recovery for our service users and in an increasingly integrated way with partners.
A duty on all teachers, doctors, nurses and social workers to report child cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) to the police came into force in October.

New legislation announced earlier this year make such disclosures mandatory and professionals who fail to report the illegal practice in under-18s could face the sack. Under the new law, health and social-care professionals and teachers in England and Wales will be obliged to report all cases of known FGM in under-18s, whether it is disclosed by the victim or seen by the professional.

The new rules say cases should be reported promptly - ideally by the end of the next working day after they are discovered.

Failure to report cases within a month, unless there are “exceptional” safeguarding issues, could result in the professionals facing internal disciplinary action or referral to regulators, which could ultimately lead to them being barred from working.

FGM has been illegal in the UK since 1985. The practice, also known as female circumcision, refers to any procedure that alters or injures the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

The government is committed to ending the "abusive and illegal practice" within a generation.

If YOU are worried about someone who is at risk of FGM or has had FGM, you must share this information with Rochdale Social Services or the police.

- If you are concerned about a child: please call 0845 226 5570
- If you are concerned about an adult: please call 0300 303 8886
- Out of office hours: please call 0300 303 8875
- If you feel the person is in immediate danger: please contact the police on 999
Female Genital Mutilation:

- Includes "the partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons"
- Practised in 29 countries in Africa and some countries in Asia and the Middle East
- An estimated three million girls and women worldwide are at risk each year
- About 125 million victims estimated to be living with the consequences
- It is commonly carried out on young girls, often between infancy and the age of 15
- Often motivated by beliefs about what is considered proper sexual behaviour, to prepare a girl or woman for adulthood and marriage and to ensure "pure femininity"
- Dangers include severe bleeding, problems urinating, infections, infertility and increased risk of new-born deaths in childbirth
- In December 2012, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution calling for all member states to ban the practice
The State of Health and Adult Social Care in England 2014/15

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) have published their annual report to Parliament on the quality of health and social care in England. This is the first time such a national assessment has been possible following CQC’s introduction of a tough, rigorous ratings system.

You can read the full report, the summary or an easy-read version on: www.rbsab.org
See the news section on the front page.

New NICE home care guideline

A new guideline has been published, promoting high-quality home care services for older people, at a time when demand for such services is set to grow. The focus of the guideline is on ensuring that home care services support the aspirations, goals and priorities of each person.

The guideline covers the planning and delivery of person-centred care for older people living in their own homes (known as home care or domiciliary care). It aims to promote older people’s independence and to ensure safe and consistently high quality home care services.

The guideline can be viewed at http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG21

Pressure Sores - App to support adults at risk and carers

A new app has been released to help prevent pressure ulcers (pressure sores).

This is designed for use by patients, carers and care workers (as well as all professional staff) and is available for free download.

To access the app go to your app store on your smart phone or tablet and search for PUinfo.

Please note as this is an app it will not open on laptop or desktop computers.
Actions speak louder than words…
Help support people in your community who are lonely and isolated by becoming a Safe and Well volunteer

Our Safe and Well volunteers will support the most vulnerable people at risk of or experiencing social isolation and loneliness by visiting them in their homes to discuss support needs, practical solutions and/or referring them to other agencies.

Interested? Go to our website to find out how to apply for this new and rewarding role with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue.

www.manchesterfire.gov.uk/jobs

• Closing date – Midnight on Wednesday 6th January 2016
• Interviews will take place on 21st, 22nd and 23rd January 2016 (you will need to be available on one of these dates)
• Induction training will take place mid-February

This role will require an enhanced DBS check.
The Modern Slavery Act 2015 received Royal Assent on Thursday 26 March 2015, and Section 52 came into effect on 1st November 2015.

The Act includes provisions such as:
- consolidate and simplify existing offences into a single act - the term ‘modern slavery’ encompasses: human trafficking, slavery, sexual and criminal exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude. (The current offences for which are spread across several pieces of legislation.)
- perpetrators can now receive life sentences. Currently the maximum sentence is up to 14 years imprisonment
- create an independent anti-slavery commissioner to improve and better coordinate the response to modern slavery
- make provision for independent child trafficking advocates require businesses over a certain size threshold to disclose each year what action they have taken to ensure there is no modern slavery in their business or supply chains

Section 52 - Statutory duty on public authorities to notify the National Crime Agency

Local authority involvement in addressing slavery and trafficking relates to spotting the signs or receiving intelligence; for instance when identifying and addressing rough sleeping or by disrupting the activities of those holding victims in servitude through licensing and inspection powers.

The new Act places a duty on specified public authorities (including Rochdale Council) to report details of suspected cases of modern slavery to the National Crime Agency.

Currently, victims of human trafficking who are identified by a ‘first responder’, including local authorities, can be referred to the National Crime Agency via the National Referral Mechanism. However this is on a voluntary basis and with the adult victim’s consent. Children do not need to give their consent to be referred to the National Crime Agency.

The new duty means that specified public authorities will be legally obliged to report suspected cases of human trafficking and slavery servitude and forced labour to the NCA. The public authority bears this obligation where it has ‘reasonable grounds to believe that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking’.

If the adult victim does not want to engage with the authorities, the public body will still be able to fulfil its new duty by making a notification to the NCA in such a way as the identification of the victim remains anonymous where the adult victim does not want to be referred.
Two safeguarding events have taken place in the Rochdale borough recently.

**Pressure Ulcers and Safeguarding**

110 health and care professionals attended an event in Whitworth to:

- To explore safeguarding issues in regards to pressure ulcers.
- Be able to recognise compromised skin integrity and implement correct management.
- Understand the importance of early identification of vulnerable adults.
- Understand and be able to document clear and achievable outcomes of managing those people with compromised skin integrity.

The event was organised jointly by Pennine Care, The Heywood Middleton and Rochdale CCG and the RBSAB, and speakers included Karen Ousey and Leanne Atkin from Huddersfield University, Joanne Taylor from Pennine Care, Jane Timson from Rochdale Council Adult Care and Karen McCormick from the CCG.

For further details of this event, or if you would like to receive copies of the presentations which were used, please contact rbsab@rochdale.gov.uk

**Faith Group Forum**

The second Faith Group Forum was held in November, and attracted 21 people from faith and other organisations across the borough. There were presentations about private fostering and the roles of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and the Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager (DASM). The next Forum meeting is in May and all faith group representatives are welcome. For more information please contact rbsab@rochdale.gov.uk

**FREE training on Forced Marriage**

Approximately 8,000 to 10,000 forced marriages of British citizens take place every year. Forced marriage is now illegal and the first prosecutions have taken place. A free online course has been developed by the Forced Marriage Unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office.

http://www.safeguardingchildrenea.co.uk/resources/awareness-of-forced-marriage-register-for-training/
Jargon Buster

Sometimes it can be difficult for people to understand the information they are given because they are not familiar with the terms being used or how the health and social care systems work. In this regular feature, we’ll be explaining some of the terms you might come across.

What are Contest and Prevent?

The Government’s Counter-terrorism strategy - CONTEST - is split into four work streams that are known as the ‘four P’s': Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Prevent.

Pursue
The purpose of Pursue is to stop terrorist attacks by detecting, prosecuting and otherwise disrupting those who plot to carry out attacks against the UK or its interests overseas.

Protect
The purpose of Protect is to strengthen protection against a terrorist attack in the UK or against its interests overseas and so reduce their vulnerability. The work focuses on border security, the transport system, national infrastructure and public places.

Prepare
The purpose of Prepare is to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack where that attack cannot be stopped. This includes work to bring a terrorist attack to an end and to increase the UK’s resilience so we can recover from its aftermath.

Prevent
The purpose of Prevent is to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. This includes:

- countering terrorist ideology and challenging those who promote it;
- supporting individuals who are especially vulnerable to becoming radicalised;
- working with sectors and institutions where the risk of radicalisation is assessed to be high.

It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk from radicalisation.

Prevent uses existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children’s and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism; assess the nature and extent of that risk; develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned.

While Prevent focuses on the significant threat posed by international terrorism and those in the UK who are inspired by it, work is also undertaken to reduce the threats, risks and vulnerabilities posed by domestic extremists such as the Far Right and Northern Irish related terrorism.
To Report a Safeguarding Concern

To report a Safeguarding concern
If you or an adult you know is in immediate danger contact 999 or call 101 if you think a crime has been committed.

Or contact:

Rochdale Borough Adult Care
Access and Intervention Team
0300 303 8886 [Office hours Monday - Friday 8.30am - 4.45pm]
Email: social.services@rochdale.gov.uk
Web: www.rochdale.gov.uk/mycare

Duty Team
0300 303 8875 [Out of hours]

Feedback
If you have any suggestions for topics or comments about this newsletter, please contact Carl Travis on 01706 922594 or email carl.travis@rochdale.gov.uk