

# Using the FGM Assessment Tool

## Why did we create this Tool?

When the Centre was first set up in 2015 it became apparent that many social workers still felt unsure around how to work with families where FGM was a concern. In particular, social workers wanted to know:

- What questions needed to be asked?
- How to analyse the information they had gathered with the families?
- What safety looked like in cases of FGM?

## What is the purpose of the Tool?

This Tool has been created to promote consistency in assessing the risk of FGM in a culturally competent manner with families.

The Tool has been tailored for social workers to guide them through reviewing the referral and working with the family, to developing a safety plan to keep girl(s) safe from FGM and/or support those who have undergone FGM.

The Tool should not be used to replace social workers professional judgement, but can be used to complement existing social work tools and practice to carry out a holistic assessment.

## How to use this Tool

The tool can be used throughout your intervention with a family.

1. 'Reviewing the Referral' will take you through what information to research and consider before visiting the family.
2. 'Gathering Information' will take you through the questions and activities you can go through with the family and we advise you familiarise your self with this before visiting the family.
3. The 'Online FGM Assessment' can be filled out after your visit, based on the information you have collected. The online Assessment will give you a risk level and guidance on what areas of risk/safety need to be improved or reduced to safeguard the girl.
4. 'Next Steps' covers further reflections, analyses and safety planning.