To access the free service, seek advice or refer a girl or young women to The Guardian Project please contact us on:

**Email:** guardian.project@outlook.com  **Phone:** 07449 651 677  
**Twitter:** @guardianprojuk

The service is also available through self-referral and girls, young women and families can also contact us with any concerns they have regarding FGM. To do so they can send us an email to guardian.project@outlook.com or call us on 07449 651 677.

Services are free of charge and can be provided across Greater Manchester; the team will be able to travel to meet girls, young women and families in suitable and safe environments.

For more information about the project or if you would like us to come and discuss how we can support you or your agency please send us an email or give us a call.

“There has been a great need to establish a service which puts the child/young person at a focal point of its delivery. I am confident the Guardian project will make a valuable contribution in safeguarding, protecting, and supporting girls and young women affected by FGM across Greater Manchester.”

Jaria Hussain-Lala (Greater Manchester FGM forum Chair)

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**FGM is illegal in the UK and is a form of child abuse.**

670 cases of FGM were identified by health professionals in Greater Manchester in the last year.

FGM has serious physical and mental health consequences that girls may be silently living with.

115 FGM survivors (24 years old and under) were seen by health services in Greater Manchester in the last year.

Greater Manchester has been identified as 1 of 5 at risk areas in the UK.

2,000 girls living in Greater Manchester are believed to be at risk of FGM.
The Guardian Project is a new and innovative pilot across Greater Manchester to coordinate care and support for girls and young women (up to 21 years old) affected by or at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The project brings together the expertise and knowledge of two specialist FGM organisations – NESTAC and AFRUCA.

The project provides a bridge between professional services and potential victims (girls, young women and their families); addressing the gap in support and service provision for young girls around FGM.

The project provides free services across Greater Manchester and is available five days a week.

"I’m pleased to be able to support The Guardian Project. Women and girls can get help and support from people who understand what they are going through; and teachers, healthcare workers, and social care professionals now have access to expert advice. By bringing statutory agencies, local people, and voluntary organisations together, we can tackle this hidden, complex crime."

Greater Manchester Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd

The Guardian Project, is a FREE service, which aims to:

- Provide expert advice on FGM for all professionals across Greater Manchester.
- Support professionals, particularly Children/Adult social care, by working in partnership with other agencies to ensure girls and young women affected by or at risk of FGM are protected, safeguarded and supported.
- Work with girls and young women to access youth friendly and appropriate support for girls and young women; standardizing care provision across Greater Manchester.
- Improve outcomes of FGM case - working with girls, young women and families to ensure they understand FGM and are committed to protecting girls from the practice.

Who can access the project?

Advice, support and guidance is available for all professionals worried about FGM across Greater Manchester. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Children's Social Services  
- Police  
- Teachers, Education and Early Years Professionals  
- Health Professionals  
- Professionals with a safeguarding duty across any agency  
- Parent/carers

How can we help you?

The Guardian Project provides the following services across Greater Manchester:

- Supporting with FGM cases, including attending safeguarding strategy meetings and joint family visits.
- Meeting with girls, young women and families to discuss FGM and support with assessing risk and needs.
- Providing advice and guidance for professionals who have concerns about a girl or young woman.
- Coordinating care and support for girls and young women affected by or at risk of FGM; including linking them in with culturally and age appropriate counselling and emotional support services.
- Supporting girls and young women to understand FGM and the support services available to them; including accessing physical examinations.

"I like the fact that someone cares like that. I have someone to talk to about my past life, things I haven't spoken to anybody about, so it’s nice to have that. It helps the pain inside me, pushes the past away, relief and a weight lifted off my shoulders"

14-year- old girl who has experienced FGM