



Seema Malhotra M.P and fellow guests at the at the Launch of the One Stop Shop Newham

FGM - WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

16TH MARCH 2015

Change has begun by Alimatu Dimonekene

The Launch of the Newham One Stop Shop:

Ms. Seema Malhotra MP, Shadow Minister for Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls joined partners including Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, Newham Asian Women Project, a Community Neighborhood Manager and residents from across the borough to launch the 'One Stop Shop' (OSS) in Upton Park, E6 on 9th March 2015.

Other delegates who attended the launch included Lynn Brown MP West Ham Shadow Minister (Communities and Local Government) and, Stephen Timms MP East Ham, Shadow Minister Work and Pensions.

Several Councillors, Unmesh Desai Cabinet for Crime and Anti Social Behaviors, Ellie Robinson Cabinet Member for OneSource and Deputy Cabinet Lead for Building Communities and Jo Corbett, Cabinet Member for Equalities.

Ms. Malhotra said: "I was struck by the commitment of all the staff and volunteers to provide the very best service to service users, focused on taking a holistic approach to making sure that victims and survivor's needs are met. The One Stop Shop is set to make a real difference to the lives of women affected by FGM, domestic and sexual violence, forced marriage and other forms of violence against women."

The service offers free advice and support for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Domestic violence or abuse is a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or cohabitation.

The Newham One Stop Shop has specially trained members of staff along with solicitors that are experienced in domestic and sexual violence and a range of related issues.

Cllr Ellie Robinson said of the event *"What a wonderful way to enjoy International Women's Day by celebrating the great achievements of the last year - setting up of the Newham 24 hour domestic and sexual violence helpline and one stop shop, and our first FGM prevention service."*

"Still lots to do this year but lots of enthusiasm to #makeithappen."

Working with other partners, the One Stop Shop provides a range of support to the victims of abuse, from something as simple as improving home security, to helping them through the complicated legal system.



Bringing Communities together:

The FGM Prevention Service has been invited to several community engagement events since moving into the borough in June 2014.

The Service recently held a stall at the Manor Park Library, Active Minds, and Healthy Community event on Wednesday 11th Feb 2015 at the Jack Cornwell Centre. The Event was very engaging and communities welcomed the idea of the Service and look forward to accessing the One Stop Shop. Other partners that were at the event were keen to work more closely with the FGM Service and to engage women to access the service for support and advice.

The FGM Service has also recently completed recruitment of our first team of volunteers. The five Community Champions are currently being trained by the service and a range of specialists to prepare them for their roles.

The FGM Service recently delivered a session with pregnant women at an Ante Natal Class at Edith Kerrison Children Centre, Sophia Road, E16 3PB. There are several sessions booked with other centres in the borough.

Should you wish to arrange an FGM awareness session for your community group or you are interested in becoming a community champion contact **Alima** on 0203 384 9413 or email alima@manorgardens.org

1st Empowerment
Session: Cake
Decorating starts 31st
March with Bimla.

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Engaging Professionals:

FGM is not a matter that can be left to be decided by personal preferences. Professionals in all agencies are well placed in identifying girls at risk of FGM and ensuring safeguarding procedures are followed to safeguard from FGM.

Professionals are in positions of trust and receive disclosures offering opportunities to providing information and support to women affected and intervening to preventing girls and women from being harmed.

Professionals are well placed to collaborate in support and referral as part of a multi-professional team.

The FGM Prevention and Support Service have been delivering tailored FGM trainings to professionals across Newham.

In partnership with maternity at Newham University Hospital, we have been able to speak to Midwives about FGM and the service were offer at the One Stop Shop as part of their mandatory safeguarding training. Our diary for this training is booked once a month for up to the end of 2015 and on average we reach out to 16 Midwives per training session.

Comments from a GP's about the training *"helpful information that medical school does not teach"*.

"Has made me more aware and confident about sporting signs and symptoms of those who may be at risk"

Do get in touch to book FGM training for your staff at email: **Rita** at rita@manorgardenscentre.org

Latest NEWS on FGM:

- **Serious Crime Act 2015** — UK FGM Law updates.

- Government announced new measures to end FGM on International Day of Zero Tolerance 6th February 2015. [Click here for more information](#)

New FGM data from the Health Social Care Information Centre:

From September to January 2015:

44 newly identified cases of FGM reported nationally were under the **age of 18**.

2603 newly identified cases of FGM reported nationally.

[Click here to find out more details](#)

Are you a GP, Practice Nurse, Midwife, Mental Health Practitioner, School Nurse and have attended introduction to FGM training? We are organizing an additional half day training on: *"Talking to patients about FGM and looking after yourself"*.

Date and venue to be confirmed. For bookings and information email **Rita** at rita@manorgardenscentre.org

Useful Information:

1. NSPCC FGM Helpline 0800 028 3550 or email fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk (free and anonymous)
2. Newham One Stop Shop – 0845 451 2547 (24 hours)
3. If you are concerned about someone under 18 years old at risk of FGM in Newham contact Children's Triage Team on 0203 373 4600

Next Newham FGM
Steering Group on 23rd
April 10 am-12pm East
Ham Library.