**FGM affects:**
- Emotional wellbeing
- Social wellbeing
- Physical wellbeing

**Statistics**
Approximately 103,000 women aged 15-49 and approximately 24,000 women aged 50 and over who have migrated to England and Wales are living with the consequences of FGM. In addition, approximately 10,000 girls aged under 15 who have migrated to England and Wales are likely to have undergone FGM and approximately 20,000 girls are at risk of FGM.

Approximately 60,000 girls aged 0-14 were born in England and Wales to mothers who had undergone FGM.

**Multi agency working**
Public health nurses and midwives have a vital role in partnership working to safeguard and care for women and girls affected by FGM, working alongside:
- Nurseries and schools
- Social care
- Police
- Voluntary sector

**Reasons why families choose for their daughters to have FGM:**
- status and respect to the girl
- preserves a girl's virginity/chastity
- a rite of passage
- social acceptance, especially for marriage
- upholding family honour
- cleansing and purifying the girl
- providing a sense of belonging to the community for the girl and her family
- believed to be fulfilling religious requirements
- it perpetuates a custom/tradition
- mistakenly believed to make childbirth safer for the infant
- rids the family of bad luck or evil spirits

**FGM is child abuse and is illegal. It is a form of violence against women and girls and should be dealt with as part of existing child protection procedures.**

**Multi-agency statutory guidance on FGM**

**The child’s safety and welfare is paramount. All agencies have a duty to work together to safeguard girls at risk of FGM.**

**Information for midwives, health visitors, school nurses and practice nurses supporting women and girls at risk of or following FGM**

**Understanding Female Genital Mutilation**