



**Safeguarding
is everybody's
business**



Sexual Abuse Factsheet

The Basics

- Sexual abuse is a serious crime. It includes a number of coerced sexual acts where the person does not consent or felt pressured into consenting.
- This form of abuse can include rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing/innuendo, sexual photography, subjected to pornography.
- Female genital mutilation (“FGM”) involves procedures that include the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Signs and Symptoms

- Cuts, bruises and marks – particularly to the thighs, buttocks, upper arms, and neck.
- Irritation, pain or bleeding in the genital area.
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing.
- Unprecedented difficulty walking or sitting.
- Infections, STDs, or unexplained genital discharges.
- Pregnancy (if the woman is unable to consent to sexual intercourse).
- Incontinence that’s not related to any medical diagnosis.
- Unexplained or unexpected change in behavior
- Starting to use explicit sexual language
- A girl or woman who's had female genital mutilation (FGM) may: have difficulty walking, standing or sitting; spend longer in the bathroom or toilet; appear withdrawn, anxious or depressed.

Reporting Concerns

- Sexual Abuse is a serious crime. If you think someone is in immediate danger, call the Police on **999** or for non-emergency **101**.
- If you’re worried about a situation or someone you know who might be a victim of sexual abuse in the East Riding of Yorkshire please call:

East Riding of Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Team on **01482 396940** (Mon-Thurs 9am – 5pm, Fri 9 am-4.30pm) or **(01377) 241273** (out of hours)
or email safeguardingadultsteam@eastriding.gov.uk

Legislation

- The Sexual Offences Act 2003 is an Act of Parliament in the United Kingdom.
- This Act created several new offences such as: - non-consensual voyeurism, causing a child to watch a sexual act. It defines and sets legal guidelines for rape in English Law.
- FGM has been a specific criminal offence in the UK since 1985 when the (UK wide) Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act was passed.

For further details about the work of the East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board visit www.ersab.org.