

MCFADYEN, M.C.E., JOSEPH, S., HARVEY, A. and GRAY, M. 2016. *Using IPE to develop understanding of sensitive issues*. Presented at the 8th International conference on interprofessional practice and education (All Together Better Health VIII): values-based interprofessional practice, 6-9 September 2016, Oxford, UK, poster number TS-65/343.

# Using IPE to develop understanding of sensitive issues.

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2016

# USING IPE TO DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING OF SENSITIVE ISSUES

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**SITUATION:** Key to Scotland's health and social care policy, is its willingness to embrace and integrate collaborative practice even when addressing sensitive issues of public health and protection. Both the acting Chief Medical and Nursing Officers (July 2014) encouraged Health Care Professionals in NHS Scotland to raise awareness of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).



**THIRD SECTOR:** Exploiting interprofessional collaboration in a novel adult multiagency manner, this poster focuses on utilising third sector expertise and creative sculpture to provide an FGM narrative at Robert Gordon University (RGU) in June 2015. This innovative event delivered the UK perspective and raised awareness of FGM as part of a public protection staff event highlighting Protection Interprofessional Education (PIPE) at RGU.



**ACTIVITY:** This session was delivered to a mixed audience of staff at RGU, University of Aberdeen (UoA), NHS and Aberdeen City Council, UK Programme Action Committee (UKPAC) Lobbyist for Scotland Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) provided the UK perspective on FGM. During the event creative ceramic pieces "Thorn Women with an FGM narrative" were displayed to encourage discussion.



**EVALUATION:** NHS staff provided valuable insights into caring for women with Type 1 & 2 classification of FGM. Ways forward included, alerting the wider health and social care community to the need for building relationships with women and men from cultures that practice FGM and the 'normalisation' process of professionals to enquire about FGM with patients/clients.



**IMPACT:** Recommendations included dissemination of the event findings and subsequent report to the various networks, reaching staff in RGU; University of Aberdeen (UoA); Aberdeen City Council; Police Scotland and NHS Grampian. The take-home message from the session was the requirement for further IPE and IPW (interprofessional working) and the need for clear guidelines and protocols educating and signposting healthcare professionals and educators to the signs pre/post FGM.



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