

Give us register of girls at risk of FGM, says Tory candidate

Justin Davenport Crime Editor

MAYOR of London Tory candidate Shaun Bailey has called for a register of girls at risk of female genital mutilation as new figures show a rise in the number of cases in London.

The latest NHS figures show a 21 per cent increase in the number of people registered with FGM attending hospital or GP appointments in London.

There were 2,975 women or girls identified as having undergone some form of FGM who had attended an NHS trust or GP practice in London in the 12 months to September 2018, compared to 2,465 the previous year.

Mr Bailey, who is standing for mayor in 2020, said the rise was "shocking" and called for a register which could include girls who have had FGM or come from at-risk communities.

He said a national list would help co-ordinate resources to support at-risk children and aid the criminal justice system in gathering evidence to prosecute offenders.

It could also include the children of women who have undergone FGM with information being shared with medical

EX-ARMY captain-turned-MP Johnny Mercer has launched a campaign to involve fathers in the fight against female genital mutilation.

The 37-year-old said: "This is not a female thing, this is not an ethnic minority thing, this is an issue that is taking place in the UK that is clearly the abuse of children."

Fathers Against FGM is led by Mr Mercer as well as Invictus Games UK team captain David Wiseman, media accounts manager Mohammed Ali and Tom Chamberlin, editor of Rake magazine.

professionals. His call came after a London mother became the first person successfully prosecuted for FGM in Britain when she was convicted earlier this month of harming her three-year-old daughter.

The 37-year-old Ugandan woman from Walthamstow, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had denied guilt.

Mr Bailey is backing a call by FGM campaigner Nimco Ali for girls born to women who have undergone FGM to be put on a protection register.

Anyone convicted of an offence could also be added to the list.

Mr Bailey told the Standard: "The shocking increase in FGM cases demonstrates the current system is failing our women and girls. We must use the laws we already have to protect them. That means prosecuting those who commit this awful crime and introducing an FGM register to track offenders and protect those at risk."

"As Mayor I will use every tool at my disposal to push FGM rates down and send perpetrators to jail."

An estimated 170,000 women and girls are living with FGM in the UK. About half are located in the capital.



Week with Marilyn at her most candid

A SERIES of "candid" photographs of Marilyn Monroe go on show in a new exhibition. They were taken by US photographer Ed Feingersh who spent a week with the star in March 1955. Shot without a flash

using only natural light, they show the actress on the New York subway and at a dress fitting.

A Week with Marilyn is at Galerie Prints in Wimbledon until March 30.

APPRENTICE SCHEMES HAVE COME OF AGE, SAYS CHARITY

APPRENTICESHIP schemes have "come of age," according to a charity working in the sector.

Lady Penelope Cobham, director of the 5% Club, made the comments at the Exceptional Women Lunch in Mayfair, to celebrate those championing the charity's work.

She believes that apprenticeships are improving in the UK with the rise of diversity schemes and the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.

Members of the 350-strong club include the Ministry of Defence and Rolls-Royce.

Each member has to commit to having at least five per cent of their workforce in "earn and learn" training through apprenticeships, sponsored students, or graduate programmes within five years.

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