

A contraceptive service at an African Well Women clinic

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A special clinic for African women in north-west London started in 1993 following a large influx of refugees from Somalia. The clinic provided antenatal care and aimed to reverse infibulation prior to labour. A feature of these women were their high parity and strict adherence to Islamic tenets. They tended not to use local contraceptive services. In July 2001, a weekly 'family planning' service was started alongside the antenatal clinic. The aim of the service was to explore their attitudes, knowledge and practice regarding conception and contraception. Between July and December 2001, every woman attending the antenatal clinic was persuaded to have a session with the 'family planners'. The uptake has been poor and the responses elusive.