

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

What is Operation Encompass?

Operation Encompass is a process by which Key Adults in schools, academies, colleges and nurseries are informed that a child attending their premises may have been affected by domestic abuse. This will usually mean that a child has been in the household where an incident of domestic abuse has taken place, or has been exposed to domestic abuse. This initiative was initially piloted in Hartlepool but is now being rolled out to the other local authority areas covered by Cleveland Police.

Process

- When a police officer attends a domestic abuse (DA) incident, where a child or young person has been in the house or exposed to the abuse, the officer will obtain **full** details of the incident. This will include, if the child or young person is of school age, information relating to the schools, academies, colleges or nurseries they attend.
- All DA records will be reviewed to ascertain if a child or young person was present during the incident. If so, the police will share that information, in confidence, at the earliest opportunity with the Key Adult in the school in which the child attends.
- The Key Adult, who has been provided with awareness training in respect of Operation Encompass, **will** record and retain the information they receive from the police in a secure location.
- The sharing of information between the police and schools will allow early intervention support by the Key Adult. This support, which may be overt or silent, will **assist** the child to remain in school to continue learning in a safe and secure environment.



Benefits

- One phone call will share important information which could be vital to improve the child or young person's life chances by allowing professionals to appropriately respond to some of the warning signs that a child has been affected by a domestic abuse incident.
- Operation Encompass will improve multi-agency sharing of information and build upon the trust that already exists between them.

"The dread you feel on your way home from school, dawdling so you don't get home early, hoping he'll come home in a good mood."

Carl Eve

"It's every child's right....."

Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults



CLEVELAND
POLICE

Local Safeguarding
Children Board

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ROLE OF THE POLICE ATTENDING DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS

- Where the police are called to deal with a potential domestic abuse incident it is important that the officer establishes if a child is in the house and the extent to which that child has been exposed to the abuse.
- Accurate completion of domestic abuse forms will enable an informed decision to be made on whether that incident should be shared with schools and allow staff to provide appropriate support to the child.
- To enable Key Adults within schools and to provide timely and appropriate support, it is important that a child's name, age, date of birth, home address and school, if attending, are correctly identified.
- On sharing information with Key Adults in schools they will be informed of the time, date and location of the incident, the parties involved (including their relationship to the child) and the child's involvement.



We only have one chance to get it right, so lets get it right the first time.

ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

Each school will be responsible for identifying Key Adults, to whom domestic abuse information can be shared, and up to date contact details for that person. Where the nominated Key Adult is absent, for whatever reason, the school will ensure a deputy is identified and inform the police of that person and their contact details.

The Key Adult, on being contacted by the police, will record the information that has been shared with them on an Operation Encompass call log sheet (see page 11) and must retain and store this document utilising the current process used to store child protection paperwork. Schools do need to be aware that in the event of a Domestic Homicide or a Serious Case Review, the documents they have stored may be required for disclosure purposes.

The Key Adult will also be responsible for completing an Operation Encompass summary sheet (see page 10), which will be used for statistical and auditing purposes.

All schools are expected to participate in Operation Encompass. This includes state and independent schools, academies and alternative education providers.

