

01 Background

Operation Encompass is an initiative that follows in the footsteps of a successful programme in Plymouth to safeguard and support children and young people following a domestic abuse incident. It directly connects the Police with a Key Adult in the child's school to ensure an efficient, confidential channel of communication. School will then be better able to support the child.

Why it matters

The psychological impact of living with domestic abuse is no smaller than the impact of being physically abused.

Children often develop anxiety, depression, aggression and even post-traumatic stress disorder as a consequence of living with domestic abuse.

Approximately two thirds of child witnesses show more emotional or behavioural problems than the average child. Although by no means inevitable, exposure to domestic abuse is one of the most powerful predictors of becoming a perpetrator and a victim as an adult.

What to do?

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Being aware of the trauma a child has experienced enables professionals to better understand and support the child. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware early enough to support children and young people in a way that means they feel safe and included.

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Information

Police system

Operation Encompass will ensure that schools are informed after Police have been called out to a domestic abuse incident **when the child is present in the house at the time of the incident.**

Police will send an email directly to the school via the encompass email notifying that they were called out and children were in the house at the time. Brief details of the incident will be provided. Key adults will have this information prior to 9 am



School response

Having a trusted adult helps mitigate the harm of this adverse childhood experience. Supporting resilience through better relationships with their parents and other trusted adults can lessen the harm of domestic abuse. Having people children can turn to in school for emotional support and understanding, is key.

Operation Encompass (What it won't do)

If children are not in the house at the time of the incident schools will not get the notification. Cross border notifications across the wider GM footprint are being developed.

Please contact your Early Help School Coordinator if you have any queries regarding OE.

If a child has had two prior notifications of abuse occurring in the household (and an early help assessment has not already been initiated) and you receive a third notification, the school need to initiate an early help assessment.

This guidance does not replace your professional judgment regarding safeguarding nor does Operation Encompass replace or supersede your safeguarding/child protection policy, rather, it seeks to support it. If you assess a child to be at risk of harm, refer to Bridge..

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Further Information:

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