

Enhancing the Implementation and Reach of Operation Encompass

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Operation Encompass is a long standing proven police and education information sharing safeguarding partnership enabling immediate support to be given to children experiencing domestic abuse.

 **OPERATION
ENCOMPASS**



Overall Winner of Inaugural World Class Policing Awards.



Children are legally recognised as victims of domestic abuse

This recognition must now lead to Operation Encompass becoming a statutory obligation for all police forces, schools, colleges and Health Visitors

*"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."*¹

We now do know better and this is why Operation Encompass must become a statutory obligation

Embedding Operation Encompass as a statutory obligation will ensure the cementing of Operation Encompass' impact upon national and international work:

- Operation Encompass supports aspects of the work of UNCR
- Operation Encompass supports aspects of each of the four pillars of the Istanbul Convention
- Operation Encompass supports aspects of many of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
- Operation Encompass supports aspects of the work of the WHO 13th General Programme of Work 2019-2023

*"The work of Operation Encompass is incredible. I know this because thirty or so years ago - had they existed - I would have been the type of child they could have helped, and that help would have had a profound impact on my life."*²

*"In time Operation Encompass should become a mandatory law within all schools and police services around the country in order to support every child who falls victim to domestic abuse."*³

*"We must learn from this crisis that any entry into a home or engagement with children present is an opportunity to identify children who may be vulnerable. Chief Constables must ensure Operation Encompass continues to run in their force, with officers sharing important information about domestic abuse incidents with school staff who can assess risk and need for support for these vulnerable children."*⁴

¹ Maya Angelou
² Tom Mitchelson Journalist, Author and Speaker, Patron of Operation Encompass
³ L Barclay: University Of Winchester Children and Domestic Abuse 2019
⁴ UK Prime Minister: Hidden Harm Summit



All police forces should already be fully implementing Operation Encompass using the key guiding principles:

- The sharing of information is between police and **all** schools in their force area ⁵
- **All** domestic abuse incidents will be shared where there is a child related to either adult involved, whether that be a **crime or non-crime** incident and irrespective of the risk assessment level
- Domestic abuse incidents in children's own relationships will also be shared, as will child to parent abuse
- The sharing of information must occur **prior** to the start of the next school day so that school staff have the opportunity to prepare for the child before they arrive on the school site and to ensure that from the very first interaction, the child experiences a **positive and understanding response** from school staff.
- The **context** of the incident is also shared so that professionals can appropriately support and safeguard the child and not retraumatise or place the child or adult victims at any additional risk. Including context is a crucial aspect of ensuring that the sharing is not merely an 'exchange of information'⁶ but rather that it is an effective communication with schools, colleges, Health Visitors and Early Years settings to ensure that the impact for the child can begin to be understood and from that appropriate support, nurture and compassion can emanate.

Early Years:

All 43 police forces in England and Wales are now working towards full engagement of the Health Visiting Services for notifications of Domestic Abuse from 28 weeks of pregnancy and through to children aged 0-5.

[Link »](#)

Where police forces have the capacity, all registered nurseries and early years settings should also become part of Operation Encompass and have notifications shared with them once the Key Adult (DSL) has undertaken the free National Operation Encompass Online Training and the police can assure themselves that there is a secure method by which they can share the notifications.

This information sharing means that all children, prebirth to 18 years of age who are experiencing domestic abuse can be safeguarded and supported through Operation Encompass.

"Wherever there is domestic abuse, wherever there are children there should be Operation Encompass"

"Operation Encompass inverts the common assumption that people need to get information to the police when in fact it needs to get to the people who can make a difference to young people's lives., their schools"
- Professor Gadd, Manchester University

⁵ community schools, academies, free schools, faith schools, special schools, state boarding schools, nurseries and all independent schools
⁶ Learning for the future: final analysis of serious case reviews 207-2019

To further enhance the implementation of Operation Encompass across police forces it is crucial that;

- All Police forces are mandated to embed Operation Encompass, faithfully adhering to the key principles as described earlier in this document.
- All police forces record numbers and ages of children in Operation Encompass notifications.
- Operation Encompass forms part of the Domestic Abuse strand of training for all new police recruits.
- Operation Encompass forms part of all Domestic Abuse update training through a police officer's career.
- A Police Chief's Council Portfolio Holder for the process of Operation Encompass is appointed.
- Each Police Force engage with the scheme creators who act as the conduit for latest information future initiatives and support.



Schools, Colleges ,Early Years Settings and Health Visitors

Schools, colleges and Early Years Settings in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, armed forces overseas schools and all schools in Gibraltar are part of Operation Encompass.

These schools have trained Key Adults (DSL and DDSL) who have registered their details with their local police force so that they can receive or access Operation Encompass notifications.

Following the Operation Encompass Notification, which is a crucial effective communication with schools, colleges, Health Visitors and Early Years settings allowing the impact for the child to begin to be understood, there must be appropriate support, nurture and compassion for that child.

The Key Adults and other staff in schools, colleges and Early Years Setting should be fully aware of the support offered by Operation Encompass, all of which is available free from the website: www.operationencompass.org

To further enhance the implementation of Operation Encompass across schools, colleges, Early Years settings and Health Visitors it is crucial that:

- All schools, colleges and early years settings and health Visitors are mandated to embed Operation Encompass, following the key principles.
- Appropriate support and nurture must emanate from the notifications
- Operation Encompass forms part of the Domestic Abuse strand of safeguarding training for all Health Visitors, school, college and early years staff.
- Operation Encompass forms part of all Domestic Abuse training and update training for Key Adults and those responsible for safeguarding within these organisations.
- All those responsible for safeguarding within these organisations should undertake the national free online.
- School, college and Early Years setting safeguarding leads should report on Operation Encompass to Governing/Trustee Body on at least annual basis.
- Each of these organisations should ensure that Operation Encompass is part of their Safeguarding Policy, practice and process.⁷



⁷ example statement available on Operation Encompass website

The Future:

Police Forces continue to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to Operation Encompass through their engagement and understanding of the incredibly important information that they hold about children experiencing domestic abuse.

Operation Encompass has enabled police forces to recognise the responsibility upon them to share this information with those who can make a difference to these children, the child's Health Visitor, nursery, school or college

From the creation of Operation Encompass, we asked police to share this information with schools, colleges, early years setting and health visitors in the knowledge that early intervention is key: it is quicker, it is cheaper and it leads to better outcomes.

But the reach of Operation Encompass must spread further, Operation Encompass should be:

In every force, for every child, no matter where in the world they live because it is simply every child's right.

Operation Encompass will continue to support other countries and their police forces to implement Operation Encompass

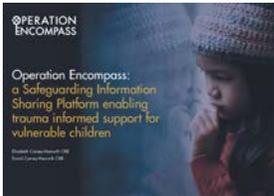
But police forces are also, building on the work they already undertake through Operation Encompass, considering how they support other vulnerable children and children experiencing a range of trauma and ACEs in their lives.

Operation Encompass is now working with a variety of Police Forces to send additional information about vulnerable children through to schools using the Operation Encompass Information Sharing Platform.



The information shared with schools through the Operation Encompass Information Sharing Platform:

- enables school staff to offer additional support and nurture,
- enables school staff to have some appreciation of what a child's living experience might be and
- enable school staff to react to this knowledge in a non- judgemental, nurturing and understanding manner.



Police forces must ensure that schools are prepared to receive this information. Specific guidance is already available from Operation Encompass for Domestic Abuse, Early Years and Missing from Home notifications on the Operation Encompass website and many of the ways to support children

explained through our work on domestic abuse, should also be helpful for schools supporting children experiencing ACEs and other trauma. [Link »](#)



For children who are or have been missing from home/care (MfHC) there is specific guidance from the Operation Encompass website and in a specific module in the National Operation Encompass Key Adult Training. [Link »](#)

'When a force has been inspected, they will sometimes take our offer of arranging "Learning Events" and missing is one area we discuss with them, these presentations tend to capture a number or senior leaders who can make positive changes. I will speak to them about the good work you are doing and hopefully this will encourage them to look at your model and join you to become one of the forces to deliver that change... I am positive we can build on this relationship so we can make sure children are supported and safeguarded' HMICFRS



Additional Vulnerabilities

The sharing of information about additional vulnerabilities with schools follows a similar process to the initial domestic abuse process:



Information will be shared with a school if the following criteria can be met:

Was the child aware of the incident?

Was the incident acute in nature (rather than generalised concern)?

Was the incident sufficiently recent to be relevant to current presentation?

Considering a child's perspective, is the incident likely to have had a tangible impact on the child's physical, emotional or mental wellbeing?



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