

Police and Crime
Commissioner
North Yorkshire



Operation Encompass

Headteacher briefing

Supporting children through key adults



Recent serious case reviews have identified a failure by agencies in sharing information with schools, academies and colleges relating to domestic abuse

Operation Encompass has been implemented successfully in a number of areas throughout the United Kingdom, including Plymouth, Knowsley and Cleveland Police areas, and it is intended to launch this initiative in North Yorkshire throughout 2016.

The purpose of this initiative is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been present, witnessed or been involved in a domestic abuse incident.

How will it work?

All schools will have nominated key adults who, in most schools, are their existing safeguarding leads.

Each morning North Yorkshire Police will review all reported domestic abuse records. Where recorded incidents show children, between the ages of four and 18 years of age were present, or witnessed or were involved in such abuse, the key adult in the school, academy or college the child attends will be contacted and the information shared.

The staff working with and/or in contact with those pupils will then be in an informed position to support them in a way that is right for that

Following such an incident, children will often arrive at school distressed, upset and unprepared.

Operation Encompass aims to ensure that nominated staff (key adults) are made aware of the incident, early enough to support children and young people in a way that means they feel safe and included.

Further information about Operation Encompass can be found at www.operationencompass.org



particular child, if it is felt appropriate to do so.

However, cognisance must be taken of the fact that some incidents of domestic abuse involving children may have already been referred to social care as child protection concerns. Where this is the case the key adults must ensure they do not do anything that is likely to impinge upon the work of the social care services.

The key adult(s) within each school, academy or college will receive additional awareness training prior to the implementation of Operation Encompass, in order that they have clarity on how to fulfil their role.



What is expected of head teachers?

Head teachers are asked to:

- ensure that the school has a nominated key adult in place to receive the information from the police
- ensure that teachers with responsibility for safeguarding have a working knowledge of the initiative and attend the relevant awareness training
- write to the parents/carers of children attending their school, to inform them of the impending implementation of Operation Encompass (a draft letter will be made available)
- record details of any contact made by the police and ensure those records are stored in a secure place
- complete a summary sheet of contact for the purposes of auditing
- ensure that the details of Operation Encompass are included in the school website

Which schools will take part?

All education premises within the local area where children aged four to 18-years attend, will be approached and invited to take part.

Will parents be consulted with?

Operation Encompass has the full support of both North Yorkshire and the City of York Local Safeguarding Children Boards. In the interests of openness and transparency, it is expected that schools, academies and colleges will notify parents that this initiative is to take place and that it will be commencing soon.

A joint media campaign between North Yorkshire Police and the local authority is likely to take place on the day of its implementation, so parents and local communities will be made fully aware of this initiative.

Who is leading on this?

A multi-agency group has been set up to implement Operation Encompass.

What training will be available?

Awareness training will be offered to key adults prior to its launch. The dates and venue for this awareness training has yet to be determined but it is intended that it will take place soon. Information relating to this awareness training will be circulated shortly.

In conclusion, Operation Encompass is a new initiative that will provide early intervention support for children affected by domestic abuse.

Its success will be dependent upon close partnership working between the police and schools, academies and colleges and the sharing of accurate domestic abuse information where children have been present, witnessed or been involved in such abuse.

