

Operation Encompass

**Designated Safeguarding Leads – Judith Pitt / Aidan Yates (Swinton)
(Key Adults) - Matthew Lawrenson (Craig Hall)**

**Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads – Jacqui Wennington
- AnnMarie Walker (Swinton)
- Jeanette Woodward (Craig Hall)**

Operation Encompass operates in the majority of police forces across England. It helps police and schools work together to provide emotional and practical help to children. The system ensures that when police are called to an incident in which a child or young person has been involved in or been exposed to an incident of domestic violence or abuse. The police will inform the key adult (usually the Designated Safeguarding Lead) in school prior to 9.00 am, before the child or children arrive at school the following day. This ensures that the school has up to date relevant information about the child's circumstances and can enable silent or overt support to be given to the child according to their needs.

AIMS

Operation Encompass does not replace or supersede existing safeguarding processes or protocols, rather it seeks to support these operationally. The Protocol will be followed in conjunction with Salford's Safeguarding Children Board / Salford Safeguarding Partnership.

By sharing information under the Encompass model, children and young people who are experiencing domestic abuse will have access to responsive support after a domestic abuse incident. The school will receive information when:

- Police have been called out to a domestic abuse incident
- The child is present in the household at the time of the incident
- The child is of school age

Sharing this information in a timely manner via Operation Encompass enables the provision of immediate early intervention through silent or overt support, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

SILENT SUPPORT EXAMPLES	OVERT SUPPORT EXAMPLES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible application of school rules for example: uniform, homework, etc. • Understanding and flexibility in expectations in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behaviour - School Work • Opportunities for one-to-one time with teacher to provide opportunities to talk, for example 'helping with a job' • Review lesson plans to ensure appropriateness for the child on the day • Systems for spare uniform, lunch, etc. • Child knowing who they can talk to • Checking collection arrangements at the end of the school day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using tools to understand child experiences, for example: 3 Houses. More resources are available here. https://www.salford.gov.uk/children-and-families/safeguarding-children/advice-for-professionals/early-help-assessment-and-taf/voice-of-the-child/ • Talking to parents • Use the Early Help Assessment process to access additional support • Develop safety planning with the child • 'Healthy Relationships' class sessions • Consult with the School Coordinator

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS - INFORMATION SHARING AND STORAGE

Section 11(2) of the Children Act, 2004 requires Local Authorities and the Police to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. This enactment provides conditions under the Data Protection Act 2018 by which personal and sensitive personal data may be lawfully shared. Personal data sharing must be proportionate, necessary but not excessive, and must be balanced with the consideration of privacy rights under the Human Rights Act. It must take into account any duty of confidentiality owed. A public interest in disclosure must outweigh an individual's right to privacy.

The basis on which sharing of information of this type may be justified by police is in section 11(2) Children Act 2004 which requires that policing bodies (together with a number of other specified public bodies) discharge their functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This duty however, will be considered in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the right to private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

This protocol has been developed taking into account the duty to safeguard children and the requirements of the most recent [Information Sharing – Advice for providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers 2018](#)

It is recognised that the handling of such confidential and sensitive information needs to be dealt with in a way that is proportionate and appropriate to the needs of the child or young person. To address this, the school has identified Key Adults to handle the confidential and sensitive information.

The Encompass information is stored in accordance with the requirements for the storage of safeguarding / child protection files, ie on CPOMS. Where a child already has such a record, Encompass information will be included within the record.

The Key Adults will be the people available each day to receive the details of the incident and assess the type of support needed for the child.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

i. POLICE

Police officers will attend a domestic incident, manage the immediate risks, and complete the Domestic Abuse Stalking Harassment (DASH) risk assessment at the scene of the incident. The DASH risk assessment will not be shared with the school, rather a short summary will be provided by the police with respect to the child or young person and will include: -

- The name, age, date of birth, home address and school attended of the child.
- The time / date / location of the incident and details of those involved in the incident, their relationship to the child and the child's involvement in the incident.
- An overview of what happened during the incident and the outcome.

This information will be disseminated via email to the school by the officer attending the incident, prior to retiring from duty. The officer will then place a line on the Public Protection Incident journal acknowledging that the information has been sent.

Incidents occurring on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Bank Holiday will be reported to the school during these times and will be available on the next working morning for the Key Adult.

Notifications to the Key Adults will continue to be made during the school holiday periods, however, it is recognised that an immediate response cannot be made. This information will be used to understand any significant issues for the child on their return to school.

A disclosure will be made in respect of all children aged between 4 and 17 years who are in full-time education. Police will maintain a record of the log number, and the school to whom it has been disseminated and the date of dissemination.

i. SCHOOLS' RESPONSIBILITY

The School will identify the Key Adults responsible for the Operation Encompass information in the school. At Springwood, this is the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

The school's Key Adults will check the notifications each morning.

The School's Encompass mailbox will be checked every morning and reviewed as needed, as notifications of incidents can be made at any time, dependent on when a domestic abuse incident occurs.

The school will record the information received from the police using the same processes used to store child protection records within the school, ie CPOMS. The school will also record the outcomes and impact of any actions taken or put in place.

The school is aware that in the event of any domestic homicide or serious case review the documents may be required for disclosure purposes.

Child Absence Following an Incident

Where a notification is made and a child is not in school, the school will consider the following:

- The school will review the information within the police notification in the context of what is already known about the child, giving consideration to any safety or welfare concerns that have been recorded prior to receiving the police information.
 - The school's Key Adult will call home and follow up as per attendance protocols. Consideration should be given to undertaking a home visit with another member of staff.
 - Where the Key Adult in the school cannot contact the parents or carer and have not received notification why the child is absent, the next steps will be considered and actions may include:
 - **Home Visit** – the Key Adult may consider, at the discretion of the Head Teacher, to carry out a home visit to see the child. Subsequently, if concerns or risks to the child's safety are identified during the home visit, referrals to Children's Social Care and the Police may need to be made
 - **Referral to Children's Social Care** - dependent upon the circumstances of the incident and the parental response to contact, the Key Adult will make a referral to The Bridge.
- When the child returns back to school, the Key Adult will revisit the offer of parent / child support.

Working with Parents

The school is signed up to the protocol to raise parents' awareness of Encompass. (See Appendix letter to parents and carers)

Many victims who experience domestic abuse want to tell someone about their experiences and are looking for help. Being involved with Encompass may mean that more parents who are experiencing domestic abuse are likely to contact the Key Adult as a source of support. The majority of support to parents will take the form of a listening ear and signposting to local Domestic Abuse services. There may be occasions, however, when the information received by the Key Adult requires immediate direct action; either because the risk to the parent and child is immediate and high, or because the parent is asking for help to leave the violence.

Where there is an immediate risk of harm to the parent and / or the child, the police will be contacted and, **in an emergency, this will always be 999.**

Where a parent is seeking help and support to flee abuse or to take other measures to protect themselves, contact can be made with Victim Support or SIDASS using the following details:

Telephone number: 0300 303 0162 or 0161 200 1950

Email: northwest.vcu@victimsupport.cjism.net

SIDASS; <http://salfordwomensaid.org/sidass/>

If there is uncertainty around a referral to Victim Support / SIDASS, contact should be made with the Bridge Partnership - 0161 603 4500.

Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and Encompass

MARAC is a victim focused meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between criminal justice, health, children's services, education, housing practitioners, IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) as well as other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The aim of MARAC is to share information, understand the level of risk to the individual and relevant others (including children) and develop a risk management plan. MARAC meets every week in Salford.

There may be occasions where parents of children notified to schools via the Encompass process have been referred to MARAC. Where the school identifies that they may have additional and relevant information to share with MARAC, the school will contact The Bridge Partnership.

Will the Police refer to The Bridge Partnership every time they attend a DA callout where a child is present?

Police agreed referral criteria with Bridge Partnership:

A referral to Children's Services needs to be actioned by the attending Officer in respect of Domestic Abuse incidents (recorded as a DAB on IOPS - Integrated Operating Police Operating System) when:

A crime has been submitted and a child was present at / normally resides at the address

OR This incident is the 3rd reported incident in last 12 months

OR It is a child caller to Police / Emergency Services

OR When either the victim or perpetrator is known to be pregnant

OR When there is a child abuse marker (CA) on the address

OR The incident involves a perpetrator subject to licence or Community Order

OR If previous incidents were referred to The Bridge Partnership - even if the Police Officer did not consider that any of the above criteria were met.

The remaining DV incidents are DV incidents where no crime is alleged, i.e. verbal argument only and the other listed criteria are not realised. Therefore, once Encompass has become live, police will only be sending a notification through Encompass and not to The Bridge Partnership social care.

Operation Encompass will notify schools of all incidents and therefore schools will be able to build up a picture of the context a child is living in.