



Operation Encompass is a Police and Education early intervention safeguarding partnership that supports children and young people exposed to domestic abuse. It aims to ensure that local Police services understand that they have important information that is needed by schools and to communicate that information; and also to ensure that schools understand the impact of domestic abuse and the role they can play in supporting children and young people.

Imagine arriving at school the morning after you have heard and/or seen your parents arguing and one of them being beaten. You have not slept and have had no breakfast. Your home is in disarray. You don't have all your school uniform or your PE kit and now you have to sit in class and learn about adverbs. You are worried about your parents and want to be with them, but you are also very worried about what will happen when you do go home at the end of the day.

You don't feel you can tell anyone what has happened or how you feel.

This happens in our schools every day and there are no current procedures for the early reporting of Domestic Abuse incidents to schools. This means that our children, the often inaudible and invisible victims of Domestic Abuse, are left without the support and nurture they need when they need it most.

The solution to this is Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass is a police-led, school-based early intervention safeguarding scheme which supports children and young people who are exposed to Domestic Abuse.

Operation Encompass was created to ensure that by 9.00am on the next day the school will be informed that a child or young person has been involved in a domestic abuse incident. This knowledge, given to the school's trained Key Adult, allows the provision of immediate early intervention through overt or silent support, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child.

Key Adults have been identified within schools and specific training is provided in how to deal with 'raw sensitive and dynamic information' given by Operation Encompass. This training refers to the identification of the signs and symptoms of a child or young person suffering from Domestic Abuse, the education implications and how best to support these children and young people. Parents and carers are notified that the school is part of Operation Encompass on each school's website.

"...Operation Encompass reaches in to the school community, enabling key school staff to receive information from the Police prior to the start of the school day, ensuring the child is supported in school. The scheme is based on a wealth of research which has identified the impact exposure to domestic abuse has upon children and seeks to mitigate against this. Schools are a safe place for young people, they trust their teachers and often have the confidence to speak to them on issues that they would be reluctant to discuss with other family members."

*– Dame Vera Baird QC, Police and Crime Commissioner – Northumbria*