



10 Things that you should know about Operation Encompass



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Operation Encompass is a joint operation between NCC Children's Services, Northumbria Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

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Operation Encompass was initiated in February 2011 with the purpose to 'safeguard children and young people (4-16 years old) who are affected by domestic abuse by ensuring appropriate services are made aware of an incident at the earliest possible opportunity.'

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Behaviour of a person towards another person is 'domestic abuse' if -

- both are aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
- the behaviour is abusive

Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following:

- physical or sexual abuse
- violent or threatening behaviour
- controlling or coercive behaviour
- economic abuse
- psychological, emotional or other abuse

And it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or conduct over a period of time.

Children are now viewed as victims if they live in households with domestic abuse.

Reference: Domestic Abuse Act 2021 – Definition of 'domestic abuse'

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Operation Encompass Process

- Police attend a domestic abuse incident in a home where a young person lives
- Police record details of any child living at the address: name, age and school
- Child Concern Notification (CCN) created and sent to Children's Social Care
- Children's Social Care takes further action if appropriate
- Operation Encompass admin notify school key contacts via email
- School inform relevant staff
- Young person supported as appropriate

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Children and young people causing harm – in Northumberland this is known as Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA)

- All professionals need to be aware of the Home Office Guidance '[Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse](#)' (APVA).
- We have a [CPVA Pathway](#) in Northumberland to ensure families are receiving appropriate support
- We must ensure that the child/young person and the adult are being safeguarded and supported.
- Any concerns regarding Child to Parent Violence and Abuse should be discussed with Children's Social Care or Adult Safeguarding - 01670 536400.

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School Actions

- Inform parents that the school is part of Operation Encompass at the start of each academic year
- Consider school prospectus and website awareness
- Key adult to check their mailbox by 10am and again at lunch for any Operation Encompass emails
- Ensure that Operation Encompass information is secure to ensure that information remains confidential.

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Whole School Awareness

It is important all staff have a basic understanding about domestic abuse and the impact it can have on children:

- Children living in households where there is domestic abuse are victims of domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse can affect children in serious and long-lasting ways
- Where there is domestic abuse there is often child abuse
- Children will often blame themselves for domestic abuse
- Alcohol misuse is a common contributing factor when abuse occurs in families
- Pregnant women are more vulnerable to domestic abuse.

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The school's child protection and safeguarding policy must refer to the Operation Encompass duty, recognising that the school see this as a safeguarding issue.

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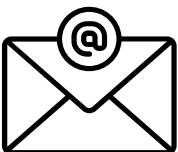
Support for Adults and Children

Northumberland Domestic Abuse Integrated Services provide support and guidance:
<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Protection/Violence.aspx>

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You can find further information for schools, good practice reports and more about Operation Encompass the Next Steps on the Operation Encompass website.

Contact Details



schoolssafeguarding@northumberland.gov.uk



<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Looked-after/Virtual.aspx>