



Op Encompass – Introduction for Nurseries

Legislative background

Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Section 3, recognises children as victims of domestic abuse when they see, hear or experience domestic abuse perpetrated by a parent, those with parental responsibility, or a relative.

On the 24th of May 2024, Royal Assent was granted to the Victims and Prisoners Act. The new act placed Operation Encompass into law, and puts a statutory obligation upon police forces to share Op Encompass notifications with schools, when the police have attended domestic abuse incidents, concerning children.

What is Op Encompass

Operation Encompass is a charitable organisation created in 2010, which has since enabled effective interventions to many thousands of children who have experienced domestic abuse.

It is a police and education early information sharing partnership, enabling nurseries to recognise and where necessary offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse.

Principles

All police crime and non-crime DA incidents, irrespective of the risk assessment are shared with the child's setting.

Incidents are shared even when the child isn't present.

The aim is for Sussex Police to send the referral before the start of the next day, so that the setting can offer support.

Op Encompass is currently aimed at primary and secondary aged children up to 18yrs. Early years are not currently specified in statute

Sussex Police has decided to introduce it into Commercial settings for children aged 2 and above.

What the notification will include

- The location and time of the incident
- If the child was present at the incident or not and if they were, where they were in relation to the incident (e.g., if in the home, in the same room or elsewhere)
- The context of the incident
- The relationship of the child to the adult victim and perpetrator

Role of DSL once a referral is received

Once an Operation Encompass Notification has been received, the Key Adult (Safeguarding Lead within the establishment) should consider all the information that they currently have about the child and the family so that decisions around support can be made. . The purpose of the notification is so that you can support the child and be aware that the incident may have an effect on their behaviour ie they could be more emotional, be unsettled, be more tired etc. If the child makes any disclosures about the incident, you should then refer these to the Front door for families.

One of the questions that is sometimes asked is about contacting the adult victim.

This can be very high-risk for the adult and child victims.



The Police notification may have identified who the perpetrator and adult victim are but, after investigation, this may change. The notification may not clearly identify who the perpetrator and adult victim are and Key Adults must be wary about making assumptions about the roles played by the adults. Never make assumptions about who the adult victim or perpetrator are.

What you need to do now in readiness for receiving Op Encompass requests

If you are able, please set up a dedicated DSL email address, so that the notifications can go to a secure email and are picked up by the DSL for the nursery or pre-school setting. Please then share this with your central point of contact for your local authority so that they can create a list which we can then use.

Ensure that the Key Adult has undertaken the free National Operation Encompass online Training and has read the guides on the Operation Encompass website: www.operationencompass.org

Prepare your IT to ensure that you are ready to receive the referrals, see the attached document.