

Operation Encompass

Norfolk Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools

Version 3.0



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1. Introduction

This protocol sets out Norfolk's plans for a multi-agency operation to notify schools when a pupil has experienced domestic violence in their household, which will allow the school to provide appropriate early intervention and support in a timely manner.

2. Context

Government Definition of Domestic Abuse & Violence

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour

Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour

Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

1 in 5 children have been exposed to domestic abuse and it is present in 60% of all serious case reviews. In the 5 SCR's published by Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board between 2014 & 2016 domestic abuse was a factor in all of them.

3. Aims and Proposal (See Appendix 1 for process)

The aim for Norfolk is to notify schools of any domestic abuse/violence incidents involving children on role at their school by 9am. It is a multi-agency operation between Norfolk Children's Services, Norfolk Constabulary and the schools in Norfolk. The police will share with members of the MASH Children Service's team details of all domestic incidents (Crime/non-crime & Standard, Medium & High risk) where a child is present. This information will then be shared during a phone conversation with the nominated Key Adult from the school. The school will then provide that child with silent or overt support during what could potentially be a difficult day for that child.

Norfolk police will provide Children's Services staff (within the MASH) with a daily spread sheet of domestic incidents where a child was present. The staff will then search the CareFirst/PSS/Core+ systems to establish the education provider for the child and then make the phone call to the school before 9am.

The following information will be shared during the phone call;

- The fact that the police were called out in the last 24 hours or the next working day if it occurs on a Fri/Sat/Sun (during term time) to a domestic abuse incident where a child was present, witnesses or was involved
- The names and dates of birth of any child from that school who were present, witnessed or were involved when the incident occurred
- The police reference number
- The time and date of the event
- Brief circumstances surrounding the event
- Any other relevant safeguarding information that may assist the school to provide early intervention support to the child being referred.

The school will record this information on a contact sheet (see appendix 6) and file this in the school's child protection filing system in accordance with their safeguarding procedures.

MASH will record the notification on CareFirst. A separate spread sheet will be completed to keep a log of the call, although no details of the incident will be recorded on the spread sheet.

Schools must appoint a Key Adult (and a deputy) within the school. This must be someone who is a trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) with responsibility for safeguarding within the school and is part of the senior leadership team. The Key Adult must also attend a briefing session before their school can start receiving notifications.

Schools will have a duty to inform Daniel Halls within the MASH team when they have a change in Key Adult. (Daniel.Halls@norfolk.gov.uk)

The information shared does not duplicate or replace any safeguarding interventions that may occur following police involvement, but is to provide the schools with important information so they are able to better support the pupil appropriately, following what is likely to have been a traumatic experience.

By sharing this information it is hoped that children will receive quick and targeted emotional support at the earliest opportunity. The support provided can be either silent or overt. (See appendix 4)

Incidents which occur on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday will be reported to schools by 9am the following day. Incidents which occur on Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be reported by 9am on a Monday or the following working day. At the moment there is no plan to notify schools on any incidents which occur during school holidays.

Initially notification will only be made for children aged Year R - Year 13. If the school has a nursery attached and they receive a notification for a child who has a sibling at the nursery, the expectation will be on the school to inform the practitioners at the nursery.

For school's to be included in Operation Encompass they must agree to this protocol, read & sign the Information Sharing Agreement and sign the agreement document before notifications will be made.

4. Legal Requirements

Section 11(2) of the Children's Act, 2004 requires Local Authorities and the Police to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children. This enactment provides the conditions required under schedule

2 (5b) and schedule 3 (7(1b/c)) of the Data Protection Act 1998 by which personal and sensitive personal data may be lawfully shared.

Personal data shared 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.

It is recognised that the handling of confidential and sensitive information needs to be dealt with in a way that is proportionate and appropriate to the needs of the child/young person and family. To address this, staff receiving the information must have responsibility / oversight of safeguarding within the school and have attended the Key Adult briefing. A notification log must be completed with each phone call and stored securely in the school's child protection filing system, as per their safeguarding procedure. A trained Key Adult must be available each morning to receive the notification phone call.

5. Role and Responsibilities

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub's Role:

Police will collate and prepare a morning spreadsheet of all domestic incidents where a child was present. This will be emailed to Children's Services staff within the MASH. CareFirst/PSS/Core+ will be searched and education provider will be established. Children's Services staff will then ring schools before 9am to notify them of the incident.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Responsibility:

- To provide a spreadsheet of all domestic incidents where a child was present before 8am the following morning.
- To establish the correct educational provider.
- To provide schools with enough information before 9am so they are able to provide emotional support for children involved.
- To keep an accurate record of all calls made
- To keep an accurate record of named Key Adults for each education provider

School's role:

School's will make their designated Key Adult available to receive notifications before 9am. This information must be recorded (See Appendix 6), stored utilising the current process used to store child protection paperwork within the school and disseminated to the appropriate staff. School staff will then decide on the appropriate support the child requires, this could be silent or overt.

School's responsibility:

- To ensure there is a Key Adult and deputy within the school and that they have attended the appropriate briefing prior to receiving notifications. This must be someone who is a trained DSL with responsibility for safeguarding.
- Ensure the Key Adult is available to receive the notification from Children's Services staff each morning
- To ensure they keep an accurate record of each notification and store it utilising the current process used to store child protection paperwork within the school.
- To provide silent or overt support to child, following a notification.

- To provide MASH with an up-to-date list of the Key Adults within their school and contact numbers.

Norfolk County Council's role:

To provide a briefing session for all designated Key Adults nominated by their school, prior to the school receiving notifications.

Norfolk County Council's Responsibility:

- To ensure the briefing session is relevant and informative
- To ensure briefing sessions are regular and spread through the localities to maximise courage
- To regularly review Operation Encompass

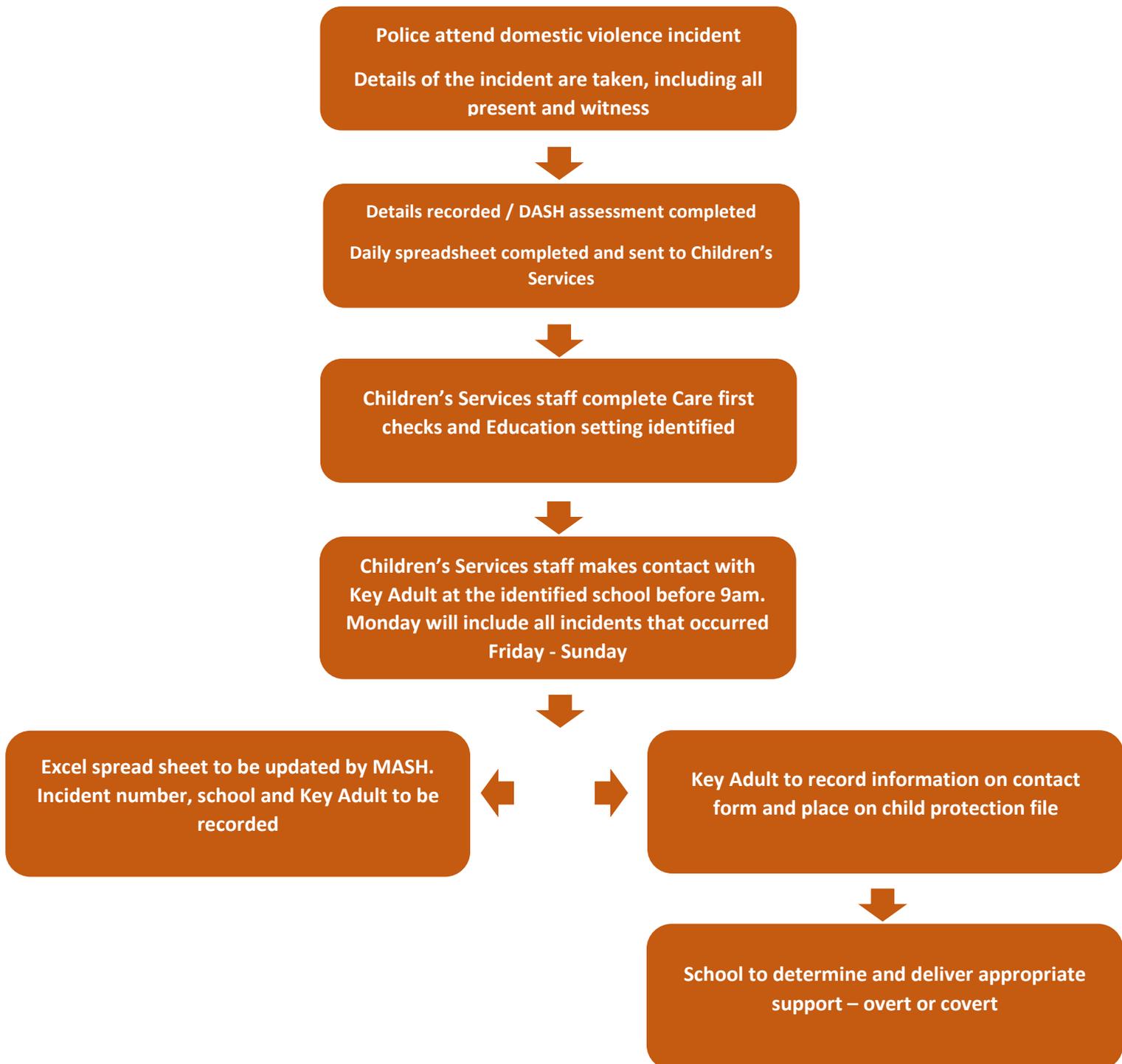
6. School's external to Norfolk

Where a report is received regarding a child who resides in Norfolk but attends an out of county school then this information will not be shared as they are not covered by this protocol.

Appendix 1 – Process map

Notification process for schools for Domestic Violence incidents

This process intends to notify schools before 9am where a child has been witness, present or involved in a domestic incident, where police have attended. This process does not replace existing child protection / safeguarding arrangements.



Appendix 2 - Officer Training: Preparing for the notification checklist

Key Adult Training: Preparing for notification checklist

The School Notification process aims to give your school a call before 09:00hrs on the first school morning after police have attended a domestic violence incident where children are present. The checklist and prompts allow the Key Adult in each school to prepare for a School Notification.

1. Information from MASH phone call and school intelligence

Who is the Key Adult that will receive the call?
 What is the contact number? A mobile can be better because it shows a missed notification call.
 Have you got your notification sheets to hand? Where will this information be stored?
 If the main school number is used, office staff should be briefed to understand the importance of a notification call.

Brief Class teacher on School notification call received and Designated Officers decision about type of support to provide.
 Initial Support ideas: breakfast, uniform, meet and greet, silent support, homework, scripts, quiet space, peer support, helping children talk, what to say if they disclose.
 Check child protection records, check with class teacher for recent concerns.

2. What support can you provide as a school?

Inform parents of school's participation in School Notification process (letter provided) "as part of the project, school will be notified by police if they attend..." "When this happens we will ..."
 "include the information in safeguarding policy, prospectus, and school web site.
 Staff training, role in signposting and parent self-referral,
 Tell pupils of the school's involvement, website, newsletters etc.

3. How does this fit in with your school's safeguarding policy?

4. Plan for child and family continued support

Consider referral to Early Help / Children's Services.
 Record for information only.
 File completed information sheet in CP records
 Following initial support consider school based pastoral support, signposting to other agencies

5. Review impact of actions, continue or change?

School's Internal monitoring arrangements
 Check on child and update incident log
 Consultation with pupils and parent

Appendix 3 - Operation Encompass School Responsibilities

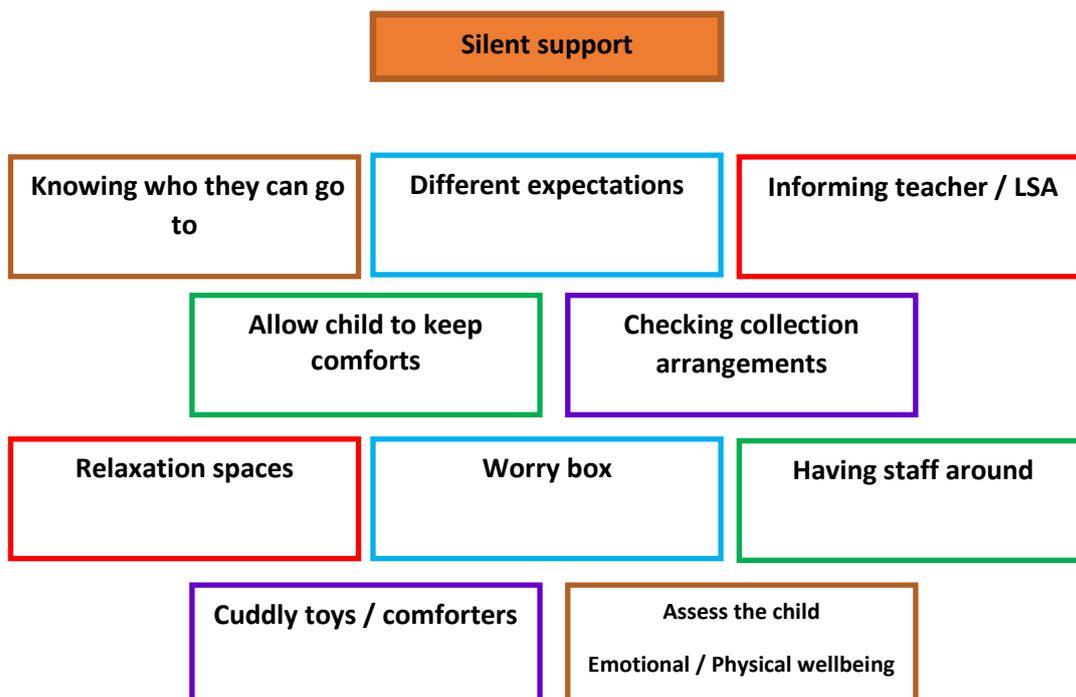
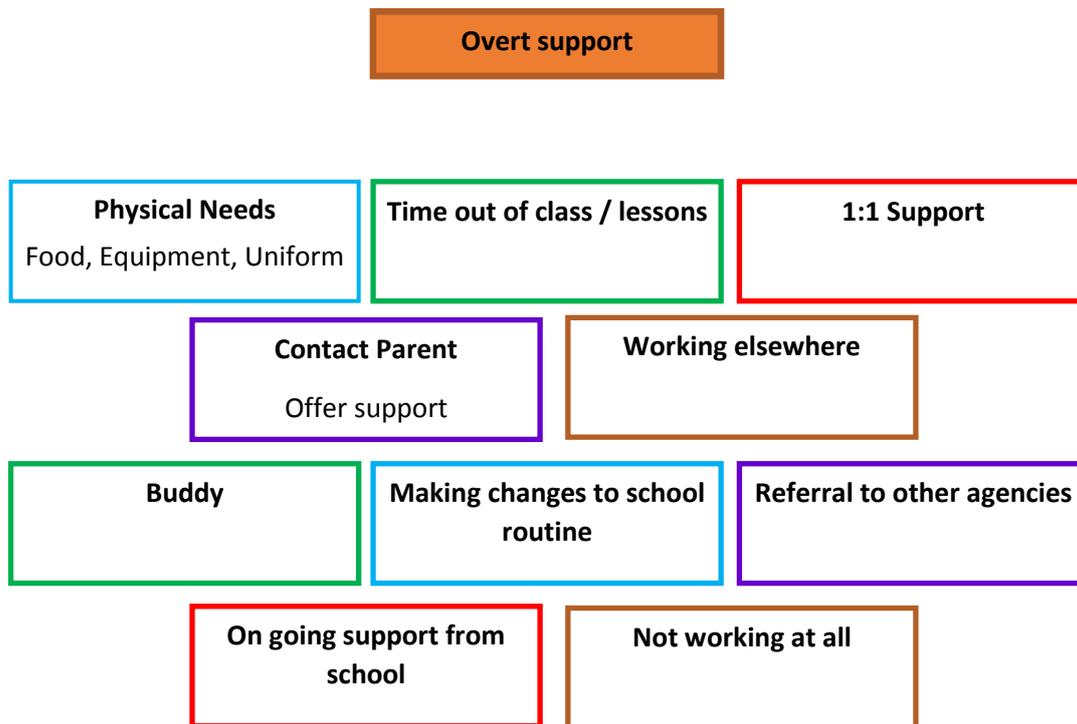
Name:

School:

Designation:

Responsibility	Achieved
<p>The Key Adult(s) must have attended the Operation Encompass briefing, be a trained DSL and be part of the SLT.</p> <p>Comments:</p>	
<p>The school must give up to date contact numbers to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Team and ensure there is someone available to receive notifications prior to 9am.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	
<p>Notifications must be recorded on the notification sheet and kept in the same way as other child protection paperwork, in a secure and locked cabinet/drawer.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	
<p>The school must ensure that all teaching staff understand the confidential nature of any information passed to them and that this information must be treated in the same way as any other child protection information given by other partners such as Social Care.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	
<p>Office staff must be informed that when an Operation Encompass call comes in then a Key Adult must be sought immediately.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	
<p>The school must inform parents that the school is part of Operation Encompass, using the basic template given to each school which can be amended to the school's individual requirements.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	
<p>The school must inform the Governing Body that the school is part of Operation Encompass and provide reports to the Governing Body on the impact of the scheme.</p> <p>Comment:</p>	
<p>Consideration / Good practise:</p> <p>The Key Adult should consider including information about Operation Encompass in the school's prospectus, thus ensuring that all new parents are informed of involvement.</p> <p>The Key Adult should consider whether the information about Operation Encompass should form part of the school website.</p>	

Appendix 4 - Types of Overt / Silent Support



Appendix 5 – Proposed Parent letter

INSERT SCHOOL LOGO

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to inform you that the school will be taking part in a jointly run operation between Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Police and our school, it is called Operation Encompass. Encompass has been set-up to help schools to provide support to children who have been present at incidents of domestic violence. We know that children can be significantly physically or emotionally harmed when they are involved in, present or witness to domestic violence.

The school will receive a confidential phone call from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub before 9am on the morning after any domestic incident where a child at their school has been involved in, present or witness to domestic violence.

The school have designated (INSERT NAMES OF ALL Key Adult) as Key Adults. They have received training from Norfolk County Council to allow them to use the information that has been shared, in confidence to make sure that the right support is available for children and their families, who have been involved in or witnessed a domestic violence incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to our pupils and we believe this is going to be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

If you have any concerns or questions then please contact one of the above Key Adults or myself and we will be happy to discuss this further. Further information about the project can be found on our school's website and is available from the school office on request

Yours sincerely,

(INSERT NAME)

(INSERT TITLE)

Appendix 6 – Record of notification form

Police reference number:		Date:	
Name of child/ren & Date of birth:			
Date and time of incident:			
Circumstances of incident:			
Addition school information:			
Actions taken by the school:			
Voice of the child:			
Name:			
Signature:			

Appendix 7 – Suggested wording for Whole School Safeguarding Policy

At [Insert Name of School] we are working in partnership with Norfolk Constabulary and Norfolk Children’s Services to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils who have experienced domestic violence in their household; this scheme is called Operation Encompass. In order to achieve this, Norfolk Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub will share police information of all domestic incidents where one of our pupils has been present with the Designated Safeguarding Lead(s). On receipt of any information, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide on the appropriate support the child requires, this could be silent or overt. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the ‘*Norfolk Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools*’. We will record this information and store this information in accordance with the record keeping procedures outlined in this policy.

Appendix 8 - Signatories to the Joint-Agency Domestic Violence School Notification

Signed: 
Name: Cathy Mouser
Title: Assistant Director, Social Work – Children’s Services, Norfolk County Council
Signed: 
Name: Julie Wvendth
Title: Detective Superintendent, head of Safeguarding, Norfolk Constabulary
Signed:
Name:
Title:
Signed:
Name:
Title: