

Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults

“It’s every child’s right...”



Recommendation 1 from the overview report prepared by the Coventry Local Safeguarding Board, following the death of Daniel Pelka, aged 4. (See Page 12)

There must be a review of the systems which currently exist for the notification and sharing of information in respect of domestic abuse incidents within families to ensure that they generate effective outcomes in relation to the safeguarding of children. The review should particularly focus on:

- the timeliness of notifications;
- the agency to which they should be distributed, including schools;
- the importance of a focus on the needs and safety of the children;
- the efficiency and effectiveness of the joint screening processes and the responsibility for agreed outcomes; and
- how repeat domestic abuse incidents need to be responded to more holistically.



Jacqui Cheer, QPM - Chief Constable



In my previous role as National Policing Lead for Children and Young Persons I was acutely aware of the success following the launch of Operation Encompass in Devon and Cornwall.

This initiative is extremely important and schools will be able to identify the early signs of the effects of domestic abuse on children and ensure that the appropriate interventions are available.

Operation Encompass will initially be launched in Hartlepool and rolled out to the other three Local Policing areas of the force within the next 12 months.

I would encourage all schools and academies within the Cleveland area to join the scheme which I fully support.

Shane Sellers - Project Lead, Operation Encompass



Operation Encompass is a simple but effective way in which the police can share domestic abuse information with schools. Too often children are the silent victims of domestic abuse and are expected to turn up to school the next day and carry on as if nothing at all has happened. This early sharing of information will provide Key Adults in schools with an opportunity to offer support to the child.

Operation Encompass is every child's right and, as professionals working in the safeguarding arena, we must ensure that it is delivered.

Iain Spittal - Deputy Chief Constable



I know through experience that domestic abuse has a life long impact on children who are witness to it taking place. This project will enable those who interact with children in educational settings to be better informed and thereby identify those who are in need of improved care, support and education as a result of witnessing domestic abuse. The prevention of harm is of paramount importance to Cleveland Police and our partners who work together to safeguard the vulnerable from harm.

Gill Alexander - Director of Child and Adult Services Hartlepool



Statistics show that a very high number of children in Hartlepool come to school suffering from the impact of domestic abuse. However behind every statistic there is an individual story; and without access to timely information staff in schools can misinterpret behaviours and miss opportunities to play a key role in providing support. I'm therefore delighted that Hartlepool is to be one of the first authorities in the North East to roll out Operation Encompass. It is a central building block to working across partner agencies to strengthen the impact of early help and intervention.

Barry Coppinger - Police & Crime Commissioner



Children are often the hidden victims when it comes to domestic abuse in the home. The launch of Operation Encompass is a key milestone in supporting and protecting children who have witnessed or been in the home when an incident has occurred. Without such an initiative young people would become stuck in that devastating cycle that domestic abuse can create.

Helen Eustace - Detective Inspector – Strategic Development for PVP (Protecting Vulnerable People)



Imagine..... After a sleepless night worrying about your parents who have been screaming and shouting downstairs. The Police have been in your bedroom to check that you are ok, the house is all smashed up. One parent is crying and the other is nowhere to be seen. You have to go to school but can't find your uniform. You have had no breakfast and you are concerned about your siblings. You have been warned not to say anything about what happened at school...

This is unfortunately a common occurrence for many school age children.

Operation Encompass is a simple idea which will ensure that the Key Adult in school is aware of what has happened the night before and be in a position to offer the appropriate support to the child to ensure that they can continue their learning in a safe and secure environment.

Dave Pickard - Chair - Local Safeguarding Children's Board



The implementation of Operation Encompass is an exciting time for partnership working and will significantly enhance the relationship between all organisations involved in the safeguarding of children.

The Hartlepool Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) will continue working with all partners to ensure that children and young people in Hartlepool are able to grow up in an environment in which they are safe from harm and are given the best possible chance to reach their potential.

Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults



David Carney-Howarth - Retired Police Sergeant from Devon and Cornwall Police

Operation Encompass is an initiative I created as a result of a conversation with my wife, a Head Teacher.

I launched Operation Encompass in Devonport, Plymouth in February 2011 to address an identified shortcoming in the early sharing of information with schools to enable the provision of timely care and support for the innocent and often silent victims of domestic abuse - the children.

The concept was simple but yet unthought-of:

If a domestic incident occurred on the previous evening and a child was in the house, the police would contact the nominated Key Adult at the school the child attends prior to the start of the school day. Appropriate support would then be available for that child. This support could be overt or silent dependent upon the circumstances.

Operation Encompass was trialled in fourteen schools in the Devonport area of Plymouth and one in Torpoint. Each school identified a Key Adult (usually the Head Teacher) who undertook specific and bespoke training so that there could be an appropriate response to the information being given to them through the project.

Operation Encompass has gathered pace and has also gained support from far and wide. The Head of Children's Services in Plymouth, as well as the three local Parliamentary Members for Plymouth and South East Cornwall, have strongly recommended this work and they believe that this operation should be developed and rolled out nationwide. Indeed, Plymouth's Director of Children's Services committed funding for the provision of training for Key Adults in every school throughout Plymouth. All Plymouth schools are now part of Operation Encompass as are the Early Years' Settings. Awareness training for Key Adults was further developed and delivered together with Plymouth's Educational Psychologists.



Elisabeth Carney-Howarth, Head Teacher at Torpoint Nursery and Infant School, Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall.

"Operation Encompass is every child's right". These words should echo throughout the corridors of power and throughout every aspect of the safeguarding of our children.

The often silent victims of domestic abuse, the children, have a right to receive support when they need it most. Schools are often a safe haven for children who come from homes where there is domestic abuse and the information given to schools from Operation Encompass ensures that they can be helped immediately and in the most appropriate way.

It is heart-warming for both David and I to see just how many police forces are now implementing Operation Encompass and how valued this scheme is by everyone who understands the impact that domestic abuse has upon

children. We will continue to champion Operation Encompass until all children have this level of support no matter where they live in our country.

Definition of Domestic Abuse

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 abuse;**
- **Physical abuse;**
- **Sexual abuse;**
- **Financial abuse; and**
- **Emotional abuse.**

The new definition also includes issues such as:

- **'Honour' Based Violence and Abuse (HBV + A)**
- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM);**
- **Forced Marriage; and**
- **Stalking and Harassment**

It also recognises that victims of such abuse are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Controlling

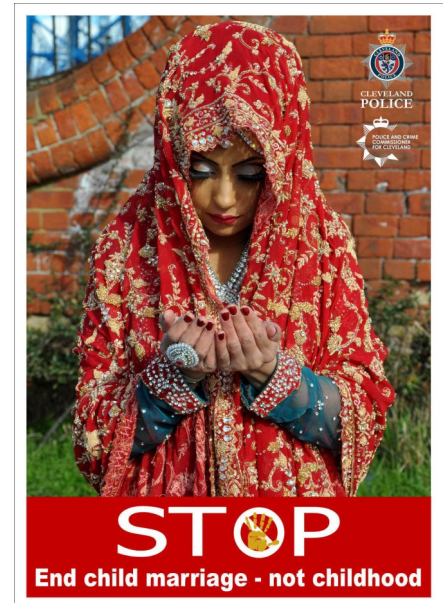
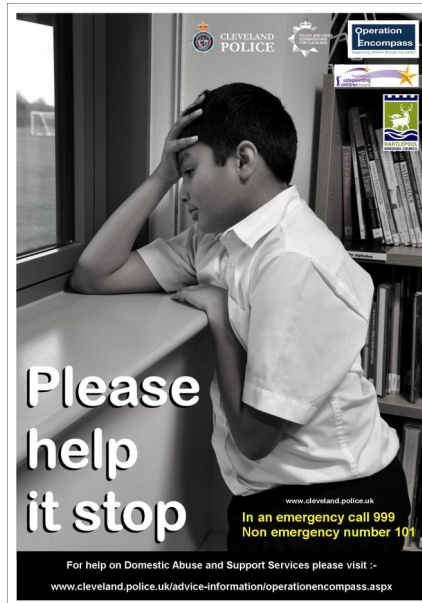
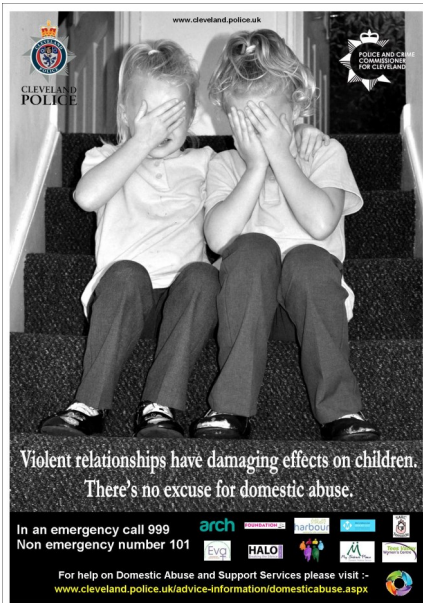
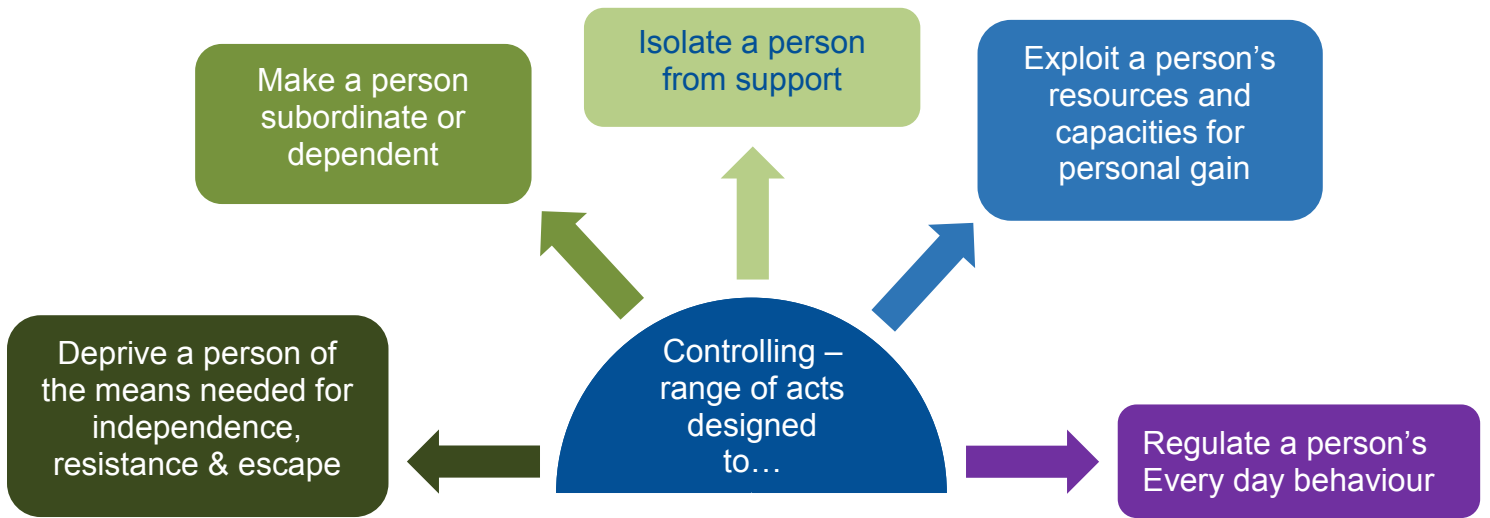
Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their every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

Coercive

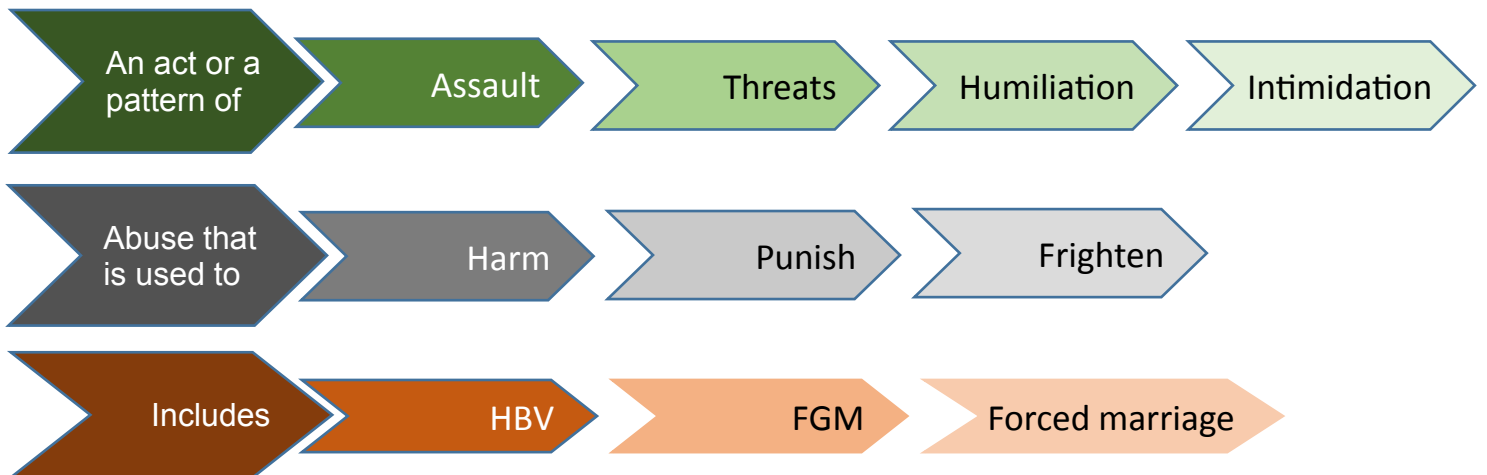
Coercive behaviour is an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

This is not a legal definition

Controlling behaviour



Coercive behaviours



OPERATION ENCOMPASS

What is Operation Encompass?

Operation Encompass is a process by which Key Adults in schools and academies are informed that a child attending school in Hartlepool may have been affected by domestic abuse. This will usually mean that a child has been in the household where an incident of domestic abuse has taken place, or has been exposed to domestic abuse. This initiative is to be piloted in Hartlepool but will be rolled out to the other Local Authority areas covered by Cleveland Police in the next twelve months.

Process

- When a police officer attends a domestic abuse (DA) incident where a child or young person has been in the house or exposed to the abuse, the officer will obtain **full** details of the incident. This will include, if the child or young person is of school age, information relating to the schools or academies they attend.
- All DA records will be reviewed to ascertain if a child or young person was present during the incident. If so, the police will share that information, in confidence, at the earliest opportunity with the Key Adult in the school in which the child attends.
- The Key Adult, who has been provided with awareness training in respect of Operation Encompass, **will** record and retain the information they receive from the police in a secure location.
- The sharing of information between the police and schools will allow early intervention support by the Key Adult. This support, which may be overt or silent, will **assist** the child to remain in school to continue learning in a safe and secure environment.



Benefits

- One phone call will share important information which could be vital to improve the child or young person's life chances by allowing professionals to appropriately respond to some of the warning signs that a child has been affected by a domestic abuse incident.
- Operation Encompass will improve multi-agency sharing of information and build upon the trust that already exists between them.

“The dread you feel on your way home from school, dawdling so you don't get home early, hoping he'll come home in a good mood.

Carl Eve

Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults



CLEVELAND
POLICE



ROLE OF THE POLICE ATTENDING DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS

- Where the police are called to deal with a potential domestic abuse incident it is important that the officer establishes if a child is in the house and the extent to which that child has been exposed to the abuse.
- Accurate completion of domestic abuse forms will enable an informed decision to be made on whether that incident should be shared with schools and allow staff to provide appropriate support to the child.
- To enable Key Adults within schools and to provide timely and appropriate support, it is important that a child's name, age, date of birth, home address and school, if attending, are correctly identified.
- On sharing information with Key Adults in schools they will be informed of the time, date and location of the incident, the parties involved (including their relationship to the child) and the child's involvement.

We only have one chance to get it right, so lets get it right the first time.



ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

Each school will be responsible for identifying Key Adults, to whom domestic abuse information can be shared, and up to date contact details for that person. Where the nominated Key Adult is absent, for whatever reason, the school will ensure a deputy is identified and inform the police of that person and their contact details.

The Key Adult, on being contacted by the police, will record the information that has been shared with them on an Operation Encompass call log sheet (see page 10) and must retain and store this document utilising the current process used to store child protection paperwork. Schools do need to be aware that in the event of a Domestic Homicide or a Serious Case Review, the documents they have stored may be required for disclosure purposes.

The Key Adult will also be responsible for completing an Operation Encompass summary sheet (see page 10), which will be used for statistical and auditing purposes.

All schools are expected to participate in Operation Encompass. This includes state and independent schools, academies and alternative education providers.

Carl Eve is a crime reporter for the Plymouth Herald. He was a child victim of domestic abuse.

Sgt David Carney-Haworth has created something quite remarkable in terms of joined-up, common-sense thinking. Operation Encompass is a ground-up scheme - it was built at the bottom, by an agreement by regular police officers and regular teachers, not imposed by senior managers who no longer deal with the daily issues that teachers, police officers and social workers face. That's one of the main reasons it works so well.

The other reason it works is because it keeps it simple. It does not promise to eradicate domestic abuse. It merely focuses on one area - the child's day at school. The vast majority of domestic abuse schemes and initiatives focus on the adults, particularly the women. This is understandable. But rarely do the children who often live slap-bang in the middle of this awful environment get noticed or helped. It is assumed they will "bounce" back, because that's what kids do.

They don't. The legacy of domestic abuse is traumatised children, who become traumatised teens, who become traumatised adults. Some will continue the cycle, repeating what they have seen all their young lives, either as potential perpetrators or as potential victims. They may have issues with authority, issues with their own relationships, issues with conflict and confrontation.

Op Encompass, by the simple act of contacting a school the following day after officers have been called to the home, ensures there will be some kind of attention on the child, some kind of support, some kind of understanding. To a child, believing they are left entirely on their own to deal with the issue of what happened at home, this is a wonderful safety net. Someone at the place where they spend a big part of their lives knows, understands and will try to help them. This is not to say schools have to sort the problem. The problem is 'at home' and beyond the school or children's control. But any fall-out, particularly emotional, such as depression, anger, confused feelings, fear, isolation - can be properly contextualised. A child who has witnessed or heard such events at home may manifest a number of emotional responses at school. As the scheme has found, some children will behave 'out of character' the following day. By knowing what's gone on at home, the school can be prepared and can act accordingly.

The other reason I liked this scheme is because the originator, Sgt Carney Haworth, continued his learning curve. He drew in academic information and up-to-the minute medical research from a number of sources, which bolstered the argument for the need for such a scheme and cemented its importance and aims. He looked to the Government's own investigations and recognised where Op Encompass could supply a need to protect children, allow vital sensitive information to be shared between organisations quickly and in accordance with current legislation.

Having been there, having come out the other side, I cannot stress how good this scheme is, how it should be in every school in the country. While some have highlighted that 'it could save lives', I will say that such grand statements are unnecessary. What it can do is make a child's day better. And when you are that child, believe me, that's all you really want.

Carl Eve.

Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults



There are no current procedures for the early reporting of domestic abuse incidents to local schools and academies. This means that our children, the often inaudible and invisible victims of domestic abuse, are left without the support and nurture that they need when they need it most. We aim to change this and the solution to this is the pioneering project, Operation Encompass, being introduced into Hartlepool.



Operation Encompass enables key agencies to gather, triage and identify appropriate

safeguarding pathways for children and their families to seek timely support. We hope, through this initiative, that the issue of domestic abuse, which has so often been hidden and not openly talked about by parents, will no longer be the taboo subject that it once was.

Not even my best friend knows!

In an emergency call 999
Non emergency number 101

For help on Domestic Abuse and Support Services please visit :-
www.cleveland.police.uk/advice-information/operationencompass.aspx

www.cleveland.police.uk

Operation Encompass - Call Log Sheet

| | | | |
|---|--|------|--|
| Police Reference Number | | Date | |
| Child's name and age & DOB | | | |
| Date and time of incident | | | |
| Address | | | |
| Circumstances of incident | | | |
| Additional school information including other Operation Encompass calls | | | |
| Actions taken and Impact | | | |

Operation Encompass - Disclosure Summary Sheet

To be completed by the Key Adult for evaluation purposes

| School Name | | Key Adult Name | | | | | |
|-------------|------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Date | Time | Number of children call relates to | Child Attended school that day Yes / No | Home visit undertaken Yes / No | Parent contacted Yes / No | Number of previous Operation Encompass calls | Type of support offered (silent, overt, etc.) |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults

Draft letter to parents

Dear Parent/Carer,

The school has been given the opportunity to take part in a new project that will run in partnership between Hartlepool Borough Council and Cleveland Police.

The project, Operation Encompass, has been designed to provide early reporting to schools of any domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of school hours and might have an impact on a child attending school the following day. This information will be shared on school days during the school term and, when incidents occur on a Friday, Saturday or a Sunday, the police will contact the relevant school the following Monday.

A nominated member of school staff, known as a Key Adult, will be trained to liaise with the police. They will be able to use information that has been shared with them, in confidence, to ensure that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children or their families. Information will be shared where it is identified that a child or young person was present, witnessed or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

Operation Encompass was introduced in Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall, in February 2011 and has proved very effective in providing appropriate support in a timely manner. This initiative is to be extended across Stockton, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland over the coming year and, if you would like some more information about it, you can view it online at www.operationencompass.org.

We are keen to offer the best support possible for our pupils and believe that Operation Encompass is going to be beneficial and supportive for all those involved.

Yours sincerely,

(This is an example of a letter schools could use to inform parents and carers about operation encompass)





Daniel Pelka was a 4 year old boy from the West Midlands who died in March 2012. In August 2013, Daniel's mother and stepfather were convicted of his murder.

For at least 6 months before his death, Daniel suffered from starvation, neglect and physical abuse. His mother and stepfather had a long history of domestic abuse and substance misuse, which was known to police and social care. However, the school Daniel attended did not have any knowledge of this as no such information had been shared with them.

For at least 6 months before his death, Daniel suffered from

In November 2011, school staff raised concerns to Daniel's mother about his obsession with food and the fact that he was taking food from other children's lunch boxes.

In December 2011, the Head Teacher and Learning Mentor sent a letter home to Daniel's parents regarding his poor attendance. Between December 2011 and February 2012, Daniel was seen at school with facial injuries. Unfortunately what injuries were seen, when they were seen and by whom were not accurately recorded. The concerns and injuries were not referred to the police or social care and an opportunity was missed to provide Daniel with timely support.

On 1st March 2012, Daniel was seen at school taking a half eaten piece of fruit from a bin. On the 2nd March 2012, Daniel was absent from school (unauthorised) and a phone call to his home was made. There was no reply to this call.

On Saturday 3rd March 2012 Daniel died.

Where a child dies from abuse or neglect, the local inter-agency group responsible for child protection conducts a review to identify how local professionals and organisations can improve the way they work together. Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) are undertaken by Local Safeguarding Childrens Boards for every case where abuse or neglect is known, or suspected, and either:

- a child dies; or
- a child is seriously harmed and there are concerns about how organisations or professionals worked together to protect the child.

Due to the tragic circumstances surrounding Daniel's death the Coventry Safeguarding Children's Board were commissioned to carry out an independent SCR.

The SCR recommended that there was a review of the notification and sharing of information in respect of domestic abuse incidents within families to ensure that they generate effective outcomes in relation to the safeguarding of children. In particular, the timeliness of notifications, the agency to which they should be distributed, including schools and how repeat domestic abuse incidents need to be responded to more holistically. Whether Operation Encompass would have made a difference in this case it is difficult to know. However, now that it is operating in Hartlepool we believe that this partnership working will go a long way to safeguarding our vulnerable children.

Conclusion

Operation Encompass has had a positive affect on the lives of children across different parts of the United Kingdom and, in those locations where this initiative is currently operating, it is limited to a small number of geographic areas. Cleveland Police, in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner and local authorities, intend taking Operation Encompass one step further. They intend, by April 2016, to have Operation Encompass embedded in all local authority areas and see this as an essential precursor to the setting up of a Multi-agency Safeguarding hub (MASH). Our future vision is to see this initiative extended to include midwives, health visitors and nurseries.

We have a member of staff with access to police systems co-located with the first contact team within Hartlepool Borough Council. Each morning there will be a joint decision between the police and social care ,utilising intelligence from their respective agencies, to effectively assess the needs of a child regarding safeguarding concerns. Where such safeguarding concerns arise an agreed pathway will be identified to ensure the needs of the child are met.

We have seen, all too often, the traumatic affect domestic abuse can have on families and, in particular, the children who are part of that family. As professionals we now have an opportunity to make a difference to the lives of children through the sharing of information and, by doing this, to make school a place where children feel safe and secure.



We are an Operation Encompass School

Operation Encompass

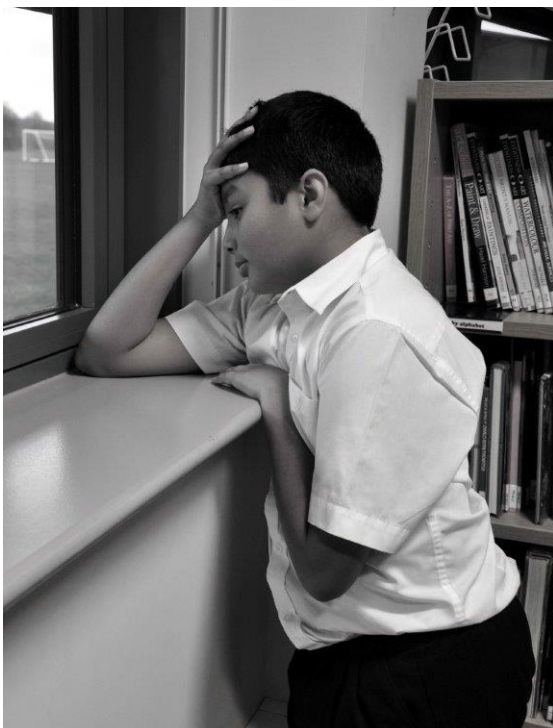
Supporting children through key adults



"It's every child's right....."

It is hoped that every Head Teacher in Hartlepool will display the attached sign in their reception area. Each poster has been framed and handed out to schools and academies at the public launch of Operation Encompass on Thursday 26th March 2015.

We believe that by visibly demonstrating support for Operation Encompass children and their families will understand that all agencies and organisations involved in the safeguarding of their children are there to help them.



For More Information

Please Contact:

Detective Inspector Helen Eustace

Email: Helen.eustace@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: 01642 302003

Web site: <http://www.cleveland.police.uk>

Operation
Encompass

Supporting children through key adults

www.cleveland.police.uk

Thank You Operation Encompass



In an emergency call 999
Non emergency number 101



CLEVELAND
POLICE

For help on Domestic Abuse and Support Services please visit :-

www.cleveland.police.uk/advice-information/operationencompass.aspx