

# Operation Encompass Response - Police



## Responding to a Domestic Abuse incident and Operation Encompass

An officer attending a Domestic Abuse incident will try to establish if there are any children present or normally present in the home. This could include children who live in the home and any other children who might be visiting/staying at this address.

Officers will seek to conduct welfare checks on children at the scene ensuring they are safe; this may include speaking directly to the child. If the children are asleep it is unlikely the officer will wake them up, but they will ask to see them. The parents will be asked the child(ren's) name, date of birth and which school/early years setting they attend.

A crime or crime reports will be completed where necessary and a [DASH risk assessment](#) will be completed. There will be many occasions where the information the police are, initially, provided with, has only come from one of the parties involved. At the point of sharing the information with Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL's) the information's veracity may not have been established.

## Sending Operation Encompass Notifications

Where the adults provide the details of the school or early years setting, the officer will be able to select the relevant school and DSL and an email is automatically sent to the DSL. The accuracy in sharing the information is reliant on the accuracy of the information provided to the police by the adults. It is not uncommon for parents, during the summer holidays to

share the school the children were at, not the one they will attend in September, for instance.

Where information is not shared with the officer at the property, the officer will make attempts to find out education and early years details. This is done by asking the adults present. However, there is no legal power to require the parents/adults to tell the police. There are occasions when the details are refused, or incorrect ones are given.

If the details provided on the Operation Encompass notification you receive are incorrect the DSL should notify the Police Safeguarding Hub (PSH) via email that the child is not at your school. When replying, please include a copy of the notification. The PSH and Lincolnshire Social Care Operation Encompass staff will seek to identify the correct school and share the disclosure.

If the parents/adults refuse or cannot give the details required, the system automatically sends the notification to the PSH Operation Encompass inbox for the team to manage. The team will liaise with relevant staff and records they hold to identify the correct school and a referral will be sent to the correct DSL once this information is located.

When there is a domestic incident, the PSH receive a copy of the DASH and any safeguarding concerns. The Support and Research Team will carry out research. If they identify any children who's residential address is the same as the aggrieved or the perpetrator, and have not been included on the DASH, they will complete a manual Operation Encompass and share it with LCC Operation Encompass team, who will identify the relevant DSL and share the disclosure in line with their policies and procedures.

## Steps taken to safeguard a child present

If an officer responds to an incident and there are immediate safeguarding concerns for a child they will follow agreed safeguarding procedures. Where appropriate they may exercise their police protection powers or detain suspects and liaise with social care to ensure that appropriate safeguarding strategies are put in place to protect the child(ren) and notify children's safeguarding via the usual police process.

An Operation Encompass notification is separate to a safeguarding referral and therefore does not mean that a safeguarding referral has been made at the point of attendance at the

incident - this will only be done if there are immediate safeguarding concerns for the child, as with usual police process.

If a safeguarding referral is not necessary Children's services are still informed of any Domestic Abuse incidents where police attend by way of a Domestic Abuse notification, please read the Children's Services - Safeguarding process available within the eLearning to learn more about this.

## Steps taken to support the Adults present

There are several different options available to the police to help support/protect the person at risk. What and which ones are offered will depend on the circumstances and the person at risk's wishes and feelings.

The Police may, if appropriate:

Arrest the perpetrator.

Provide stay safe advice to the person at risk.

Consider the servicing of a Domestic Violence Protection Notice. Followed by an application to a court for a Domestic Violence Protection Order.

Provide the person at risk with contact details for support agencies.

Provide a mobile phone, on a temporary basis.

Submit a request for a disclosure to be provided to the person at risk, under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

Police will follow the process outlined in the DASH risk assessment and if the DASH risk assessment is high or there is high risk based on their professional judgement they will complete a referral to MARAC. If the DASH risk assessment is not High, they may also complete a referral to the IDVA service, if appropriate.