

Operation Encompass Progress Report September 2016 – July 2017

Introduction

Operation Encompass was originally developed in Plymouth by David Carney-Haworth, a Police Sergeant following a conversation with his wife, Elizabeth Carney-Haworth a Headteacher at a local primary school, regarding children whose lives were impacted by domestic violence and the school not being aware. Following a successful roll out in Plymouth, Operation Encompass has been adopted by a number of Local authorities and Police forces across England.

A recent serious case review conducted by Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board¹ highlighted the need for a similar system within Norfolk to ensure that school staff receive relevant information about domestic abuse in order to provide appropriate support to children at the earliest opportunity. A Joint Agency Working Group was formed in March 2016, to plan the roll out of Operation Encompass within Norfolk including representatives from Children's Services, Norfolk Constabulary and Education. During this time we visited Leeds City Council and Nottingham County Council to understand how the process worked in practice. Following these visits we developed a system that was suited to the needs of Norfolk.

Operation Encompass in Norfolk

In Norfolk the decision was made to share all domestic incidents reported to Norfolk Police where children were listed as being witness, present or involved via a report that would be submitted by Norfolk Police to staff in Norfolk MASH each morning. A phone call would subsequently be made by Children's Services staff in MASH to the child's school before 9am the following day and information about the incident would be shared with nominated Key Adults at the school. In order to be a nominated Key Adult, individuals must be trained as Designated Safeguarding Leads and before a school was able to sign up to Operation Encompass, a representative had to attend a briefing session jointly run by staff from Children's Services and the Police.

We initially piloted Operation Encompass in the Great Yarmouth area between September and December 2016 with 19 Education Providers consisting of 1 Further Education provider, 1 Complex Needs School, 3 High Schools and 14 Primary Schools. During this period 105 notifications were made. Following the successful pilot, Operation Encompass was then made available to the rest of Norfolk's maintained, academy and free schools from January 2017. A number of briefing sessions were held during the Autumn Term 2016 and a large number of schools attended and signed up for a January start. Briefing sessions continued to be held between January and July 2017, with 93% of schools in Norfolk attending a briefing during the academic year. At the end of 16/17 academic year 341 (78%) schools have signed up to Operation Encompass. See graph below for full details.

¹ [Recommendation 9.3 - 'Case Child Q Serious Case Review', Norfolk LSCB \(November 2016\)](#)

Graph to show total % of schools signed up to Operation Encompass by the end of July 2017

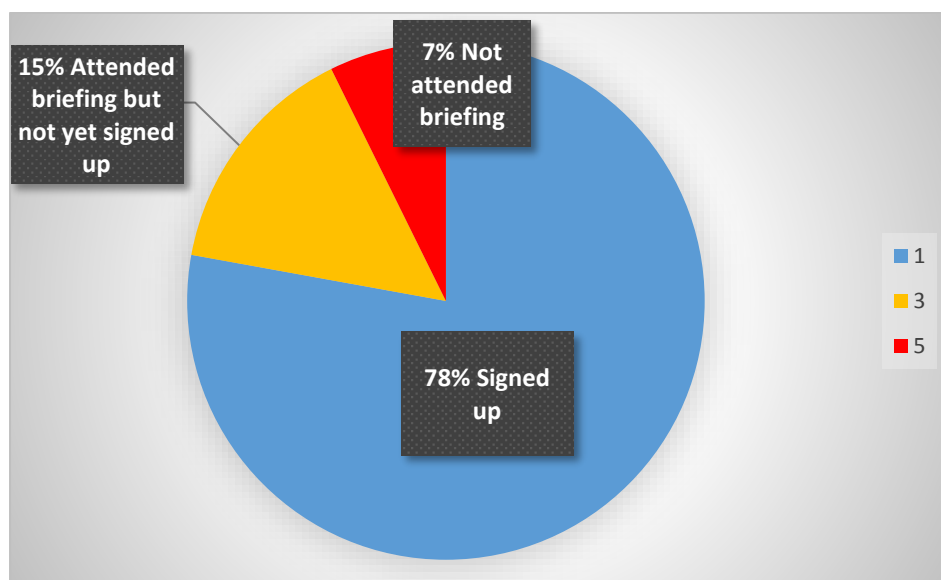


Table of school by area who have attended a briefing and/or signed up to Operation Encompass

Locality	Total Schools	Signed up	Attended a briefing (not signed up)	Remaining
Breckland	70	53	12	5
Broadland	59	50	4	5
City	50	45	5	0
Great Yarmouth	44	37	5	2
KL & West	82	66	15	1
North Norfolk	58	37	10	11
South Norfolk	75	53	14	8
Total	438	341	65	32

Since January 2017 Operation Encompass has made over 1000 notifications (See table below) following an incident of domestic abuse which has required police attention. The majority of these notifications would not have found their way into schools had it not have been for Operation Encompass.

Number of notifications by Locality

Localities								
Locality	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Total
Breckland	13	8	14	5	8	11	18	77
Broadland	10	12	35	17	39	31	17	161
City	41	39	73	32	57	76	52	370

Great Yarmouth	36	19	41	16	38	40	37	227
KL & West	5	4	23	7	15	18	13	85
North Norfolk	11	9	10	13	34	22	18	117
South Norfolk	3	4	11	6	16	9	6	55
Total	119	95	207	96	207	207	161	1092

Feedback from Schools

In June 2017, we requested all schools who were signed up to Operation Encompass to complete a short survey to evaluate the impact Operation Encompass was having on children and families in Norfolk whose lives were effected by Domestic Abuse. 122 schools responded to the questionnaire, the key findings are summarised as follows:

- 91 (74.59%) schools responding to the survey had received a notification.
- 88 % of notifications were made before 9am.
- 72% of schools felt that Operation Encompass has led to an increase in family engagement, especially around the issue of domestic abuse.
- 92% of schools felt that Operation Encompass was working well or very well.
- 73% of schools have provided further training to their staff on Domestic Abuse.
- 39% of schools have increased their links with external agencies as a result of participating in the scheme.
- 99% of schools would recommend Operation Encompass to another school.

How has the notification been helpful to the child involved?

"It enabled us to offer emotional support from the moment the child entered the school"

"Yes very helpful. Staff have either been able to monitor the child closely or we have been able to gain their wishes and feelings. This had led to more information being gained and in one instance a referral being made to MASH"

"...The children that have been affected have been really relieved that we know and are then able to talk to us about what is happening at home otherwise they tend not to let staff know and carry on in"

"One referral flagged a new child to the school. This brought her to our attention. Her behaviour started to decline after the incident and support offered..."

"Yes, this information allowed us to support the children and families on arrival at school."

"For all of the students involved we were not aware of the issues they were facing at home in relation to domestic abuse. It has enabled the students to have a support network in school, knowing that they have someone that they can speak to when an incident may happen."

“Yes - we are able to provide breakfast, support in lessons, and time out of class if needed. In other cases the DV incident has been a surprise and it has revealed other issues that we were unaware of.”

Next steps:

1. All eligible schools that have not yet attended a briefing have been contacted and offered the opportunity to attend a further briefing organised on 25 September 2017.
2. During the Summer Holiday period a system has been trialled within the City to alert schools to notifications that have occurred during this period. If successful, we aim to roll out a system of notifications across Norfolk for all school holiday periods in the academic year 2017-18.
3. Feedback received from the survey and via the safeguarding self-review process has indicated that some schools identified a need for further training about domestic abuse. In response, the [Norfolk Domestic Abuse Change Co-ordinators](#) will be offering Domestic Abuse Champion Training to schools/clusters of school in the forthcoming academic year.

Further Information:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/domestic-abuse/information-for-professionals>

<http://www.operationencompass.org/>