



Sunderland Partnership



**Safeguarding Children
Early Help**

**“None of us knows what all of us
know”**

Mill Hill Primary School is proud to be an 'Operation Encompass' school. Key staff have been trained to deal with the issues which arise when domestic violence takes place in our community.

Background

- 1.1 Operation Encompass was initially launched in Plymouth in February 2011 to address a shortcoming in the early sharing of information with schools. Since then several pilots have been set up across the UK (including Gateshead, South Tyneside, North Tyneside, Newcastle and Northumberland) with successful implementation and positive outcomes for many children and young people. The scheme will be rolled out across schools and academies in Sunderland in Spring 2017.
- 1.2 Prior to the implementation of Operation Encompass there was no procedure for reporting to schools the next day that a child or young person had been involved in a domestic incident the night before.
- 1.3 Each school will be responsible for identifying a named Key Adult as a point of contact for the Council's¹ Initial Contact and Referral Team to share domestic abuse information received from Northumbria Police. A named deputy Key Adult will also be nominated in case of absence.
- 1.4 The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support those children and young people who have witnessed and/or been present at the time of a domestic abuse incident. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware at the earliest possible stage in order to provide relevant and tailored support to children and young people.
- 1.5 Operation Encompass enables key agencies to gather, triage and identify appropriate safeguarding pathways for children and their families to seek timely support.

Key staff members: Mr Marshall & Mrs Middleton. Please contact us if you need support.

Help, Advice and Support services

- There are a range of civil remedies available to victims of domestic abuse. Victims can choose to go down a family law route which remains private and confidential (especially if the victim does not want to report the abuse to the police). Holmes Family Law specialise in domestic abuse and will provide a free initial consultation to victims to help them explore their options. They operate a 24/7 advice line on 0191 500 9338. Alternatively, you can visit www.resolution.org.uk to access contact details for other specialist family lawyers.
- Newcastle Law Centre, offers legal advice for victims of crime. Tel: 0191 230 4777
- Domestic Violence: A Guide to Civil Remedies and Criminal Sanctions (2007) sets out civil remedies and criminal sanctions available through the courts to victims of DV (aimed at statutory and voluntary service providers who deal with the impact of DV). [Link to PDF](#)
- Sunderland Counselling Services Tel: 0191 514 7007. www.sunderlandcounselling.org.uk
- Mental health (adults): Sunderland Psychological Wellbeing Service (IAPT) Tel: 0191 566 5450 (main reception) or 0191 566 5454 (self-referral)
- Sunderland Mind Tel 0191 5657218 or 07961064117 www.sunderlandmind.co.uk
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