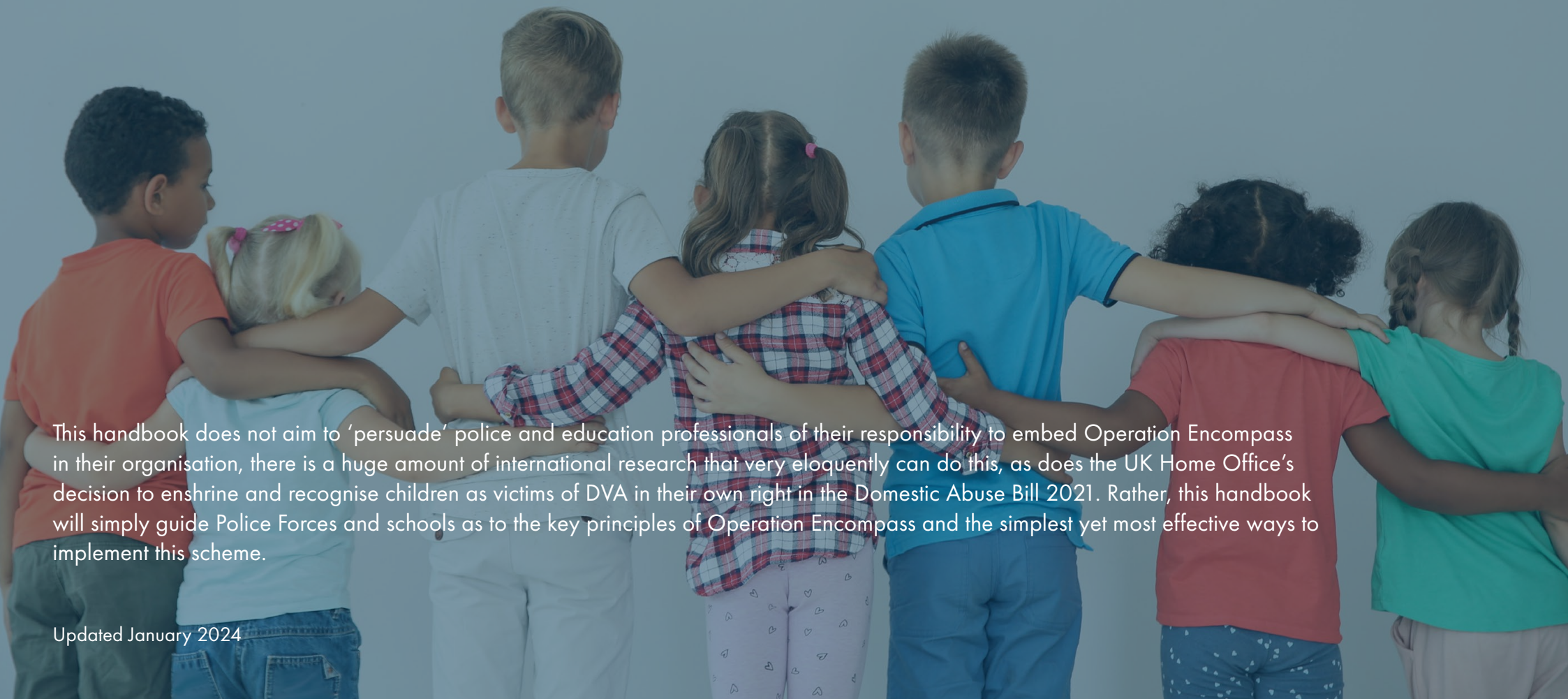




Guide to Implementing Operation Encompass

A group of seven diverse children standing in a line, seen from behind, with their arms around each other's shoulders in a supportive hug. They are wearing various casual clothes like t-shirts and jeans. The background is a plain, light blue wall.

This handbook does not aim to 'persuade' police and education professionals of their responsibility to embed Operation Encompass in their organisation, there is a huge amount of international research that very eloquently can do this, as does the UK Home Office's decision to enshrine and recognise children as victims of DVA in their own right in the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021. Rather, this handbook will simply guide Police Forces and schools as to the key principles of Operation Encompass and the simplest yet most effective ways to implement this scheme.

Updated January 2024

Operation Encompass is a police and school¹ early intervention safeguarding information sharing partnership which supports children² experiencing³ domestic violence and abuse.

Operation Encompass is based upon the national requirements to not only identify children in need of support but to also ensure that this support is put in place immediately:

‘Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified.’⁴

Police are a ‘local safeguarding partner’ required to ‘make arrangements to work together’ (with the other partners) ‘to safeguard and promote the welfare of local children including identifying and responding to their needs’

Working Together to Safeguard Children and all its requirements apply to **all schools**.



1 State funded schools, including state-maintained nurseries, independent schools, schools with 6th forms, academies, free schools, pupil referral units and alternative provision providers registered with the Government

2 Children refers to 0-18 years of age

3 Operation Encompass uses the word ‘experience’ rather than ‘witness’ or ‘exposed’ as we feel that this better reflects the impact upon a child

4 Working Together to Safeguard Children

Key Principles: Police

- **All police**⁵ attended incidents of domestic abuse, where there are children related to any of the involved adults, should be reported to the school's trained Key Adult⁶ (this must be the Level 3 trained DSL, DDSL/DSO).
- Information should be passed to schools about all school aged children, this can mean 2 to 18 years of age.
- This information is shared with the schools **prior**⁷ to the start of the next school day.
- DVA incidents from Friday through the weekend should be shared with the Key Adult on a Monday morning.
- DVA incidents during school holidays should also be shared.
- Incidents of child to parent abuse should be shared.
- Incidents of teenage relationship abuse should be shared.
- As all forces in England and Wales are now part of Operation Encompass cross border incidents should be passed wherever possible.
- All Incidents where children are from 28 weeks of pregnancy to 5 years of age should also be shared with Health Visitors.

The information shared should include:

- The context⁸ of the DVA incident is shared so that the child /ren can be appropriately supported without putting anyone at risk.
- The incident should be shared whether the child is present or not
- Information about whether or not the child was at the premises/ area where the incident occurred and if in the home, where the child was.
- Time of incident.
- The adults involved in the DVA incident.
- Whether the child was spoken to by officers or not, what was said by the child and whether other adults were present when the officer spoke to the child
- The voice of the child, including their demeanour.
- Police should collect data including numbers of children involved in notifications to schools.
- If electronic methods of delivery are used then this should be to a secure, generically named address/destination where only the trained Key Adults can access the information. A method by which it can be ascertained that the information has been read by the school and the time it was accessed is good practice.
- Forces should provide the schools with a direct email and telephone number so that they can contact the police if they need to change contact details or ask for further information about an incident.
- It would be helpful for all forces to share with Operation Encompass a direct contact email (rather than a generic email) and a telephone number for a member of police staff responsible for Operation Encompass.

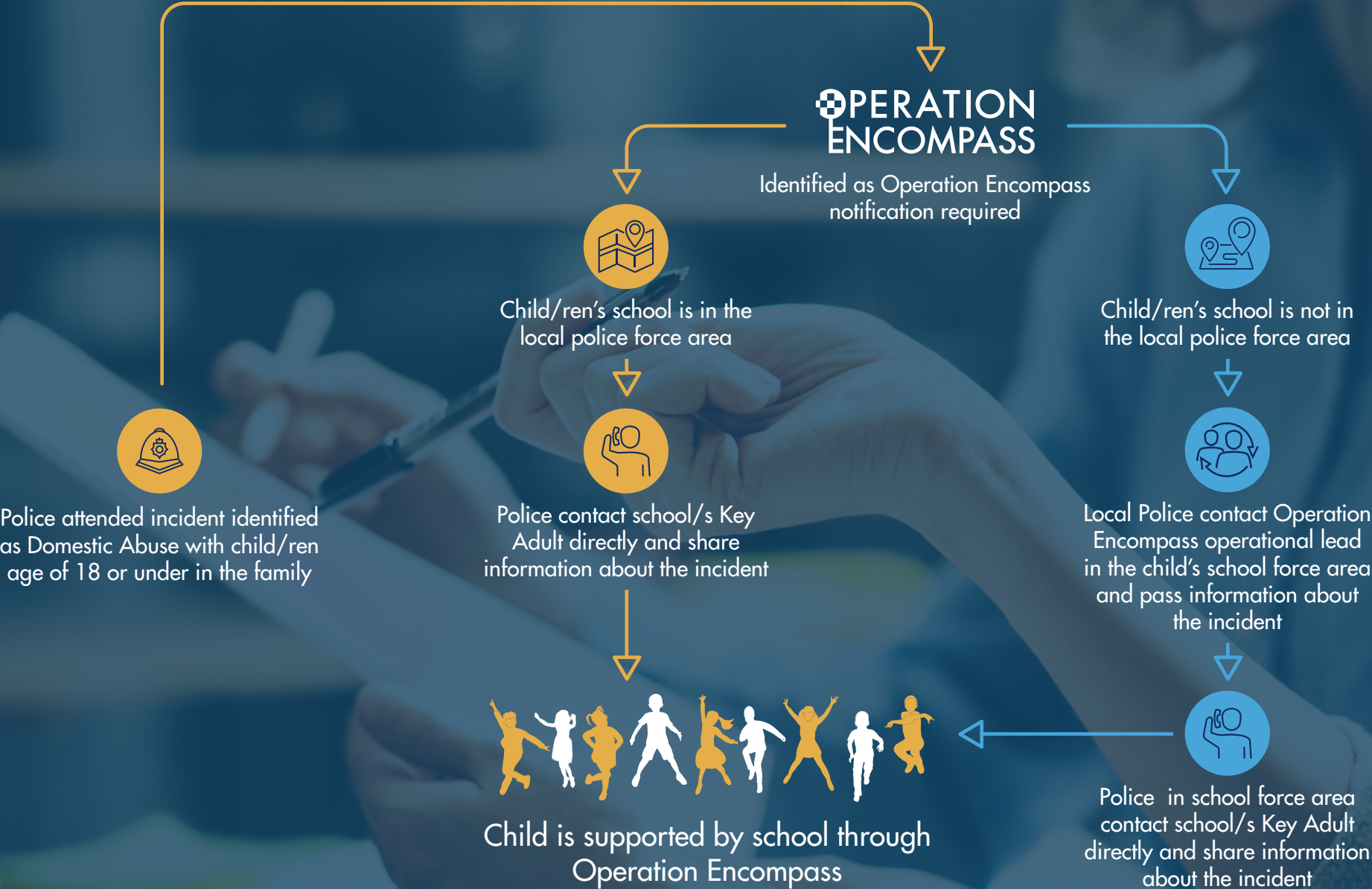
⁵ Crime and non-crime should be shared

⁶ Key Adult should undertake specific Operation Encompass training (free online training available from www.operationencompass.org)

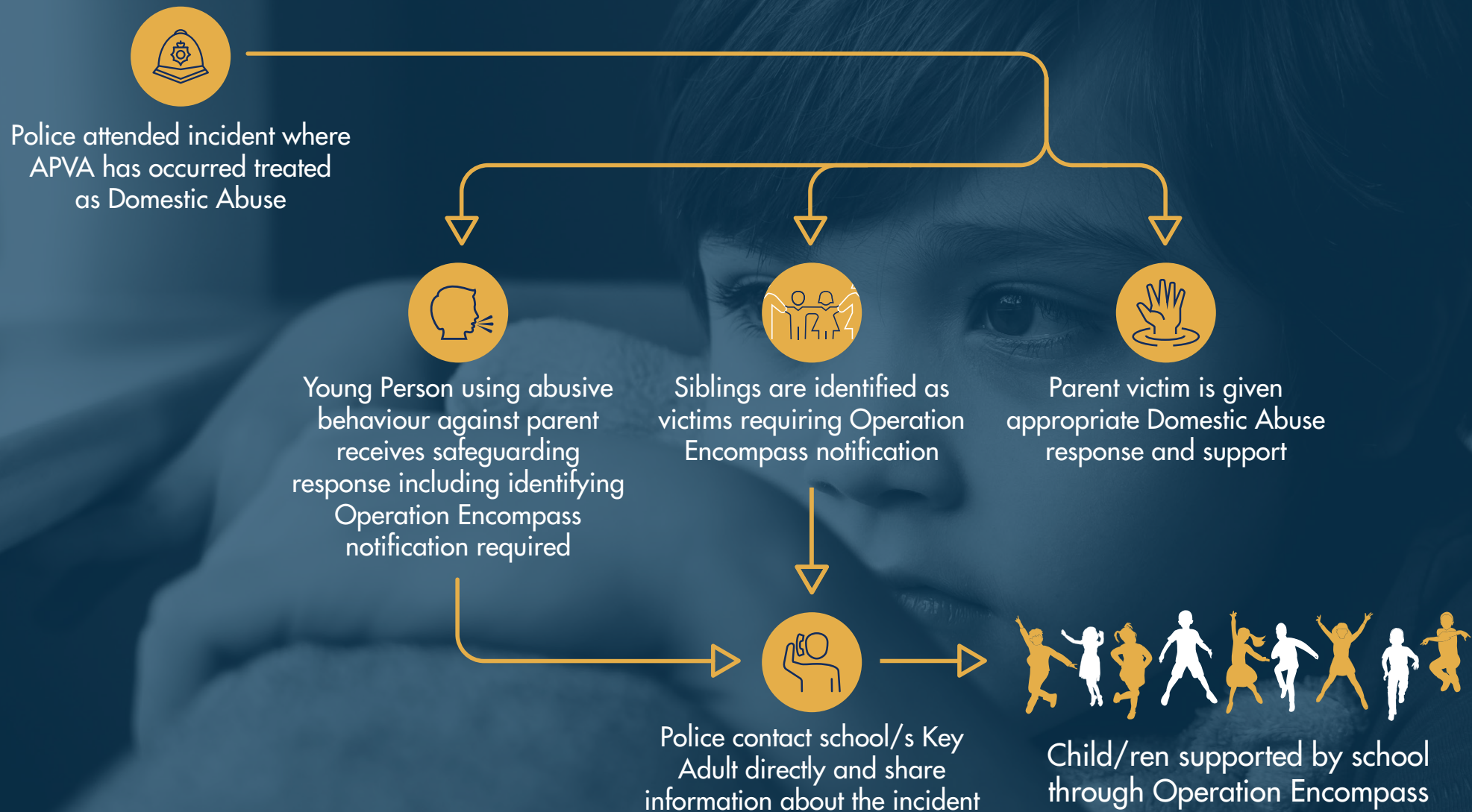
⁷ Information should be available to the Key Adult before the child arrives at school , preferably prior to 8.30am

⁸ It is not appropriate to merely inform the school that there has been a DVA incident, this can put the adult and child victims at greater risk

Police Information Sharing Pathways



Adolescent To Parent Violence & Abuse



Key Principles: Schools

- The Level 3 safeguarding trained staff and their deputy/ies must be the Key Adults in terms of Operation Encompass. We use the title Key Adult as the safeguarding role is variously described dependent upon the part of the UK and world in which the school is operating.
- All Key Adults should undertake the free online National Key Adult training which can be accessed directly from the Operation Encompass website www.operationencompass.org. All school staff and governors can undertake this free training.
- If the school is receiving telephone calls from the police, then Key Adults need to be available prior to the start of the school day to receive this information.
- If the notification is electronic then the Key Adults must ensure that this is checked and opened prior to the start of the school day.
- The school's participation in Operation Encompass should
 - be known and understood by all staff including school governors;
 - form part of the school's safeguarding policy⁹;
 - be part of the safeguarding information on the school website;
 - form part of the school's communication with new families;
 - be visible in school through the use of the Operation Encompass posters;
 - lead to training for all staff about domestic abuse, the impact on children and the simple ways in which schools can support these children;
 - support staff and children by using the resources available on the Operation Encompass website www.operationencompass.org.
- Key Adults can share examples of good practice with other schools and Key Adults via the [Operation Encompass website](http://www.operationencompass.org).

⁹ Suggested wording available from Operation Encompass website

Early Years

Operation Encompass should be used for all children from 28 weeks of pregnancy through to 5 years of age. This means that notifications should be sent to Health Visitors, the trained Key Adults in Early Years' settings and school nurseries. There is a booklet about Early Years' Notifications on the Operation Encompass website - www.operationencompass.org - and specific information about the harm caused to these young victims in the free National Online Operation Encompass Training.

Support from Operation Encompass

All materials and resources available on the website are free for police and schools to use - www.operationencompass.org

The Teachers' Helpline

The Helpline provides advice and guidance for educational professionals about Operation Encompass.

Access to Educational or Clinical Psychologists can enable staff in educational settings to discuss how best to support individual children who are experiencing domestic abuse, or to discuss whole school policies for supporting children.

Call the Operation Encompass Teachers' Helpline:

0204 513 9990

(Charged at local rate)

Monday to Friday 8am to 1pm.

Online Key Adult Training

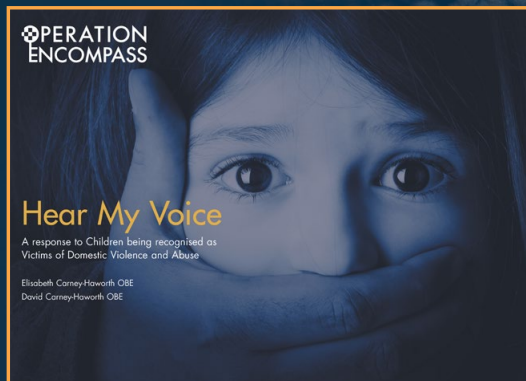
Our online Key Adult Training is available from our website: www.operationencompass.org. All new Key Adults should undertake this training but it is available for all DSL, DDSLs. We also encourage all school staff to undertake the training, especially the Safeguarding Governor. All participants can download a certificate once the training has been completed.

Sharing Additional Vulnerabilities

We are supporting a number of forces who are using the Operation Encompass Information Sharing Platform to share additional child vulnerabilities with schools, including children who are missing from home or from care.

Please contact info@operationencompass.org for advice and support.

Handbooks



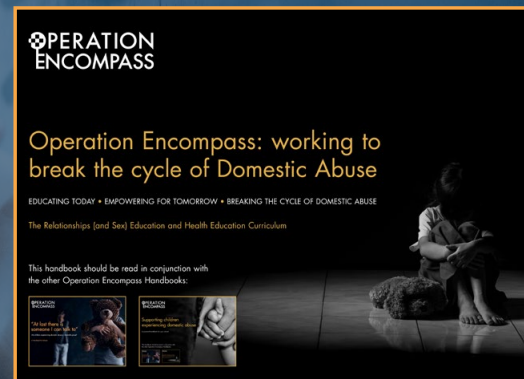
This handbook summarises the changes that we want to see in response to children being recognised as victims of DA. Many of the recommendations can be enacted by both schools, health and police, others require national action.



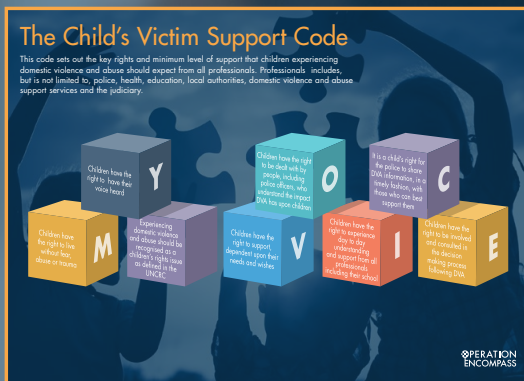
This Handbook summaries some of the very simple ways in which school staff can support children experiencing DA. The handbook stresses that we are not expecting teachers and staff to be therapists or counsellors whilst recognising the tremendously positive impact that schools can have for vulnerable children.



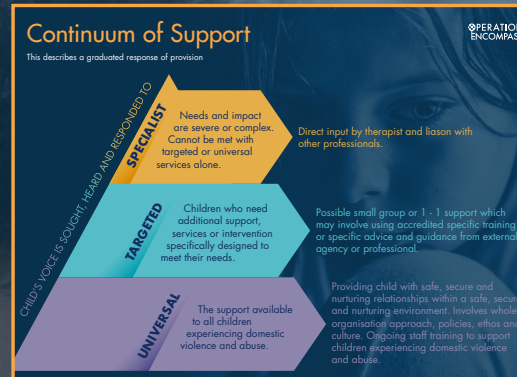
This Handbook, supported by the Home Office, the DfE and NASEN, explains why we should recognise children experiencing DA as one of the vulnerable groups within our schools and then what actions we should take to support these children.



This Handbook explores how schools can teach the DA aspect of the RE/RSE/HE curriculum form nursery through to KS5. Key themes are identified which schools can use to thread into their current work.



This Child's Victim Support Code can be adopted by all agencies that work with children, including police, schools, Education Leads, Social Care, Health, Child Safeguarding Partnerships, PCCs, the Home Office and the UK Government.



This Continuum of Support summaries what children should be able to expect from the professionals who care for them, including importantly that their voice is sought, heard and responded to, especially in terms of the support they may want and need.



There is also a handbook which contains book review for resources which may be helpful to use in the RE/RSE/HE Curriculum.

Psychology Associates
OPERATION ENCOMPASS
Teachers' Helpline: 0204 513 9990

Guidance and advice for staff working with young children:

Early Years

Ms Roisin Salt, Wellbeing Practitioner

Ofsted Outstanding Provider
hcpc registered
www.hcpc-uk.org

Psychology Associates: enquiries@psychologyassociates.org.uk | www.psychologyassociates.org.uk | 0844 026 260
Operation Encompass: info@operationencompass.org.uk | www.operationencompass.org.uk

There is a set of videos available in which Educational Psychologists discuss ways to support children experiencing DA.

A photograph of three children hugging each other from behind, with a dark blue overlay. The child in the middle is wearing a white t-shirt with black stars. The child on the left is wearing a dark shirt with colorful polka dots. The child on the right is wearing a purple top.

Please contact us directly for further information, advice or guidance: info@operationencompass.org

A person is seen from behind, standing in a field with their arms raised high in the air. The background is a soft, hazy sunset or sunrise sky with warm colors. The person is wearing a light-colored t-shirt.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

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www.operationencompass.org