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**Chair of Governors / Head of School
School Address**

Re: Operation Encompass

Dear Chair and Head of School,

I am writing to you as Chair of Governors and Head teacher of your school to advise you of the implementation of an initiative which will improve the safeguarding of children exposed to domestic incidents.

Following the success of the Operation Encompass pilot we are now rolling out the scheme county-wide. The initiative involves the sharing of information between Cheshire Police and schools throughout the local authority areas of Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester, with the sole purpose being to ensure that children and young people are better supported following their exposure to domestic incidents outside of school.

Your board of Governors and Senior Leadership Team should by now be fully aware of Operation Encompass – which is led by the Police, supported by the four Local Safeguarding Children Boards and each area's Director of Children's Services/Social Care and funded by the Complex Dependency Programme.

I have enclosed a briefing document that should answer any questions you may have. This information should also be shared with relevant staff including your Governors, school staff and Key Adults.

If you would like to know more about Operation Encompass please do not hesitate to contact me or PC Liz Stanton, Safer Schools & Young Persons Officer, on 01606 364565 or on email elizabeth.stanton@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Yours Faithfully,

Nigel Wenham

Nigel Wenham (Detective Superintendent)

Operation Encompass – Briefing Document

What is Operation Encompass?

Past serious case reviews, including the tragic case involving Daniel Pelka, have identified a failure in agencies sharing information with schools relating to domestic abuse. Operation Encompass has been used in a number of areas with success, including Plymouth and Knowsley.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.operationencompass.org/>

In the Pan-Cheshire sub-region, Operation Encompass is an initiative between the Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's), schools located across the local authority areas of Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire Police, with support from the Complex Dependency Programme.

Its purpose is to safeguard and support children and young people where a domestic incident has been reported from their home. Following such an incident, children will often arrive at school distressed, upset and unprepared. Operation Encompass will ensure that appropriate school staffs are made aware early enough to support children and young people in a way that means they feel safe supported and listened to.

How does it work?

Schools and colleges will all have an identified two key adults - in most schools this will be the existing safeguarding leads.

Each morning a locally-based Police Officer from the Integrated Referral Unit (IRU) will review all violent or abusive incidents that would indicate domestic abuse. In incidents where children are living at the home and aged between 4 and 18 years old, the school that the child or young person attends will be contacted by telephone and information will be passed to a designated 'Key Adult' in the school.

The staff in contact with those pupils will then be in an informed position to support them in a way that is right for that particular child or young person, either with silent or overt support.

All Key Adults within each school have received additional training so that they can fulfil their role.

Who is taking part?

All schools and colleges for children and young people between the ages of 4 and 18 years have been approached and are taking part.

Will parents be consulted with?

A standard letter advising them that the school will be involved in Operation Encompass has been prepared and accompanies this pack. We ask that you incorporate your school's details and logo before sending it to all parents.

Who is leading on this?

A multi-agency implementation group has been set up under the management of Cheshire Police Strategic Public Protection Unit, led by Detective Superintendent Nigel Wenham. The initiative has been funded through local authorities by the Complex Dependency Programme.

What are the time scales?

Operation Encompass will launch across the local authority areas of Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West in Jan 2016.

Where are we now?

Training is currently being undertaken with Key Adults, Headteachers, Safeguarding Governors, Partner agencies, and Police `Key workers` across the four local authority areas.

Any school staff related to the initiative are encouraged to book onto their own area`s training session being delivered by your Safeguarding Children In Education Officer and the Safer Schools Partnership

If this is not possible then please contact PC Liz Stanton to discuss on 01606 364565 or email elizabeth.stanton@cheshire.pnn.police.uk.

What is expected of schools and Governors?

Chairs of Governors/Heads are asked to:

- ensure that the school has a two Designated Key Adults in place
- build their role and responsibilities into the Section 175 audit of safeguarding and reflected in wider welfare policies of the school
- ensure that Governors with responsibility for Safeguarding have a working knowledge of the initiative and attend the training if time permits
- ensure that the details of Operation Encompass are included in the school website and any school literature.

This initiative received a very positive response from schools who took part in the pilot and will continue to increasingly support schools in safeguarding and supporting children and young people.

During Operation Encompass it is essential that we provide a service for effective monitoring of safeguarding, in order that we can demonstrate the benefits of service provided by schools to ensure ongoing safety of children and victims. To support this process Cheshire Police will send out a `E-Survey` to all schools a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the end of each term, the survey will be very simple to complete and simply take data from the Summary Sheet you complete after each call. It will also provide an opportunity to provide up to two `case studies` providing an anonymised views and journey of the child, this will give the data a `real life` feel and will ensure that we can support the service after the initial 12 months.

