The Beacon
Pupil Referral Unit

Operation Encompass
Supporting children and young people exposed to domestic abuse

17 September 2018

Dear parent/carer

Our school has been given the opportunity to take part in a national project, which is being run locally in partnership with Worcestershire County Council and West Mercia Police.

Operation Encompass is a process whereby the police and county council will inform a member of staff if a child or young person has experienced any domestic incident. This will be done prior to the start of the next school day. Information sharing between professional agencies allows school staff to provide emotional and practical support to their pupils experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse can broadly be defined as 'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behavior; violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who have been intimate partners or family members. This can include, but is not limited to the following types of abuse – psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.

Operation Encompass ensures that a member of the school staff, usually the Designated Safeguarding Lead, is given special training, to enable them to liaise with the police and county council in receiving and using the information that has been shared, in confidence.

The sharing of details under Operation Encompass is permitted under Statutory Safeguarding Legislation and in respect of local authority schools under the Crime and Disorder Act (for the prevention of crime) and doing so without the child's or parent's consent is permissible under both pieces of legislation and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We want to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe, that where necessary, this will be beneficial in helping us to achieve that goal. Please make contact with me or the school's Safeguarding Lead should you wish to discuss the content of this letter.

Attached is a list of local and national advice and support agencies who can help those who may be affected by domestic abuse.

Signed

Mrs L Hatton
Head Teacher
The Beacon Pupil Referral Unit

West Mercia POLICE

worcestershire countycouncil

Who to contact

West Mercia Police
101 (non-emergency) 999 (emergency)

Worcestershire Domestic Abuse Service (DAS) and 24 hour helpline
0800 980 333 www.westmerciawomensaid.org
The service delivers free, confidential advice and support to female and male survivors, young people and children. It is the single point of access to services. You can call if you need a listening ear, advice, access to refuge accommodation, support, advocacy, outreach support or someone to talk to.

National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV)
0800 970 2070
Provides a free, fast emergency injunction service to survivors of domestic violence regardless of their financial circumstances, race, gender or sexual orientation.

Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WRSASC)
01905 724514 www.wrsasc.org.uk isva@wmrsasc.org.uk
WRSASC is a free, confidential and non-judgemental service for men, women and children (aged 5 & over) who have experienced any form of sexual attack, whether physical, verbal or emotional. Our services include telephone support for survivors and their family or friends via our telephone helpline and face to face counselling support and ISVAs for clients aged 5 years and over.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (The Glade)
01886 833555 (18+) 0800 953 4133 (0-18) (West Midlands Paediatric Service) 0808 178 2058 (24hr self-referral number) www.theglade.org.uk
The Glade in Worcestershire offers a free and confidential service to men, women and children who have been victims of rape or sexual assault, accessed via a police or self-referral. Where appropriate clients will be offered a forensic medical examination to gather evidence, advice about pregnancy and sexual health, medication where appropriate, referrals for ongoing and long term support and/or to the client's GP and counselling.

Worcestershire Family Front Door
01905 822 666 (Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm) 01905 768020 (out of hours - emergency)
If you are worried that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm and needs immediate protection, call the Family Front Door on 01905 822 666 from Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm, or for out of office hours contact the Emergency Duty team on 01905 768020.

ChildLine
0800 555 111 www.childline.org.uk
ChildLine is the UK's free, confidential helpline dedicated to children and young people.

Who to contact (cont'd)

National Stalking Helpline
0808 802 030 www.stalkinghelpline.org
The helpline provides guidance and information to anybody who is currently or has previously been affected by harassment or stalking. The Helpline can provide guidance on the UK law, reporting offences to the police, evidence gathering, and your personal safety.

Karma Nirvana
0800 5999 24 www.karmanirvana.org.uk
Providing support and advice around Forced Marriage (FM), Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Cultural acceptance does not mean accepting the unacceptable. One of our key principles is that we never talk to or engage with your family. Our commitment and loyalty is to you and as we understand the fears when family members become involved.

Paladin (National Stalking Advocacy Service)
020 3866 4107 www.paladinservice.co.uk
Paladin assists high risk victims of stalking throughout England and Wales.

Victim Support (Local) Victim Assessment & Referral Centre
01905 726896 (local) 0808 168 9111 (national) www.victim support.org.uk
We are an independent charity offering free, confidential support to people affected by crime and traumatic incidents. Our services are confidential, free and available to everyone. Victims are usually put in touch with us by the police but you can also contact us directly.

Men's Advice Line
0808 801 0327 www.mensadviceline.org.uk
Confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic abuse.

National Rape Crisis Helpline
0808 802 9999 (Freephone)

National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline
0300 999 5428 help@galop.org.uk
Support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Claire's Law)
This scheme aims to provide a formal mechanism for you to make inquiries about your partner if you are worried that they may have been abusive in the past, or about someone else's partner on their behalf. If police checks show that the partner has a record of abusive behavior, or there is other information to indicate that you may be at risk from your partner, the police will consider sharing this information with you or the person you are worried about. The scheme aims to help you to make a more informed decision on whether to continue a relationship and provides further help and support to assist you when making that choice. If you wish to make an application under the Scheme phone 101 (the non-emergency number for the police) and request to complete a Claire's Law application.