



**OPERATION  
ENCOMPASS**



## Operation Encompass and Covid-19

During these unsettling times the safeguarding and support of children through Operation Encompass remains a high priority for Devon and Cornwall Police.

What does this mean in practice in the current situation of closed schools?

- **Operation Encompass remains in place**
- The Central Safeguarding Team (CST) will endeavour to find out which school base a child is attending if this is different from the usual school they attend
- If a child is not attending school as they do not fall into any of the government identified groups, CST will still share information with the school as normal as this will assist a school in evaluating a child's vulnerability.

The police are working with education leads to understand lists of schools remaining open across the five Local Authorities and 'Hub' schools within the Devon and Cornwall Police Force area. With over 1,000 schools across the force this is a work in progress, and will serve to quicken the time staff spend making calls to schools which may be closed. In the meantime, CST still make those attempts to call the schools and share information.

**CST are only phoning school landline numbers at this time.** This means, as most schools are only answering the phone calls close to the start of the school day, that not all calls can currently be made prior to the start of the school day. The team will continue to make calls until they have passed information on about all children.

Where there has been a police attended domestic abuse incident but the child /ren is not attending school due to Covid-19 restrictions and the attending officers are concerned about the child/ren's vulnerability (but not at the level where Social Services should be informed), they will record this concern which will in turn be passed on to the school by CST so that consideration can be given as to whether a school place should be offered as part of the vulnerable groups allocation. This decision should be taken by the Headteacher in consultation with the DSL.

To further support teachers, Operation Encompass has set up

### **Operation Encompass Teachers' Helpline**

The helpline will operate from 8.30 am - 10.00 am, Monday to Friday and will be staffed by a Child and Educational Psychologist or Clinical Psychologist from Psychology Associates.

This Helpline will open on WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2020 AND RUN UNTIL THE END OF THE SUMMER TERM OR WHEN SCHOOLS RETURN TO NORMALITY, WHICHEVER IS THE LATEST

HELPLINE NUMBER 07562 250050

(standard mobile call rates apply)

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE ADVICE OFFERED BY THE PSYCHOLOGIST.

Calls will be confidential and are provided to enable school teachers to seek advice and support following an Operation Encompass call. Children's names must not be shared.

All normal safeguarding protocols must still be followed by school staff.

Psychologist Associates are engaged in many local schools throughout Devon and Cornwall. They have also recently completed Home Office funded research about child interventions in school after receiving an Operation Encompass call. Further details about the Helpline are included at the end of this message

**\*\*Devon and Cornwall's Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez has agreed to fund the helpline\*\*\***

### **The following message has been sent to all Devon and Cornwall police officers by Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer**

*When attending a domestic abuse incident, and children are involved/present, please think Operation Encompass. In these troubling times children can be more vulnerable than ever, particularly without the sanctuary that attending school can provide. If you attend an incident and are concerned about a child or children (not to extent where social care involvement is necessary) could you please record relevant details in your VIST, including that you recommend that their school consider offering the child/ children a place under the 'vulnerable children' group, currently still able to attend school. This will then be picked up by the Central Safeguarding Team and relayed to the school. All schools are being encouraged to adopt a proactive stance on this issue, and to reach out to children and families who might need their help and support, regardless of the fact that children are not attending as they would normally.*

### **Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez adds**

Victims of crime in Devon and Cornwall can chat to someone online who can offer emotional and practical support and advice. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the service is anonymous, confidential and free to use. The channel can be accessed via Victim Support's website at

<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/live-chat>

## **Who are Psychology Associates?**

We are a multidisciplinary practice of Clinical Psychologists, Educational Psychologists, Counsellors, Creative Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists.

We strive to **make a meaningful difference** through evidence based and effective interventions including therapy, consultation, assessment, supervision, training and research.

For nearly 20 years, Psychology Associates have provided support services to a wide range of organisations including schools, colleges, early years' settings, residential homes, local authorities (including CAMHS), youth offending services, legal organisations and national charities.

As an Ofsted rated 'outstanding' Adoption Support Agency, we work extensively with children, families, schools and social care to support the impact of complex childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences.

We have been a keen supporter of Operation Encompass and the vital work they do to enable clear communication and collaboration between the police and schools. This ensures children, young people and families receive essential support, at the earliest opportunity, that we know has a direct impact on children's social, emotional, mental and physical health and their wellbeing, learning and achievement.

During these uncertain and challenging times, it is more important than ever to ensure schools provide safety, security and stability for our vulnerable children and young people and that school staff themselves (many of whom may be working in an unfamiliar position) have the support they need to fulfil this vital role during periods of heightened stress and anxiety.

## **The Service: Operation Encompass Teachers' Helpline**

There will be dedicated time available, Monday-Friday, 8.30am-10.00am throughout term-time and school holidays to provide school staff with **consultation, guidance, information and support**. This will be led by Dr Emma Corrigan, Educational Psychologist, and supported by the wider team at Psychology Associates who all have extensive experience of providing consultation and support to staff working in schools and education settings.

This provides school staff with the opportunity to have immediate, in the moment, consultation that is confidential and easily accessible. This ensures a reflective space to seek guidance and discuss any worries, concerns or queries they may have following an Operation Encompass call, and in preparation for a child coming into school following a reported incident of Domestic Abuse. This aims to build ongoing capacity within school systems and to ensure staff members are confident and supported in how they respond and support children in what may often be unusual and unfamiliar circumstances.

## **What this service will not provide**

It is essential that all consultation and guidance is provided at a generic and non-specific level and that no identifiable information about any child or family member is shared.

This service will in no way replace the existing safeguarding processes and procedures that schools follow and it will not provide specific safeguarding advice.

## Meet the team



Dr Emma Corrigan  
Educational Psychologist



Dr Adam Lewis-Cole  
Educational Psychologist



Dr Matt Baker  
Educational Psychologist



*Making a meaningful difference*

*"Therapists provide organisations with bespoke, high quality training and consultation" Ofsted 2019*



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