



Domestic abuse protocol

Matlock & Dales Primary Partnership

Review: Annually

Version	Date	Narrative	Minute No.	Review Date
1	AS: 6.9.22 DCT: 5.10.22 STG: 13.9.22	Two minor changes : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one to reflect Head of School and one to clarify; that we print DA notifications as pdfs (which are then added to a child's secure record on MyConcerns). 	AS: FGB/2223/060922/15 DCT: GB/2223/051022/15 STG: GB/2223/130922/15	September 2023
1	29 th August 2023 Bakewell CE Infants: 12.2.24	Summer policy review. No amendments to LA policy . Partnership have added the DA Notifications flowchart for completeness.	RMC/2223/290823/1 <i>Bakewell:</i> FGB/2324/120224/13	August 2024





Theme	Protocol Domestic Abuse Notifications: Derbyshire Police Reporting onto Schools						
Version	2.0	Status	FINAL	Published	Feb 2020	Review	12 monthly
Written by	D. Peacock CPM Education			Approved by	Derbyshire Police & Starting Point		
Helpful supporting information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Guidance for Schools Jan 2020 a guide to support Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and other educational settings where a child/adult connected is a victim of domestic abuse in Derbyshire • Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures • Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Service • Derbyshire Domestic Abuse professional & Service User Helpline 0800 198608 • Safer Derbyshire 						
The Notification	<p>All Schools will receive a notification to every incident of domestic abuse if the police have responded to an incident in a household where there are children (up to 18 years) This is a police driven initiative supported by Derbyshire partners. This notification will concern any statutory school aged child residing in Derbyshire and attending a Derby City or Derbyshire school. This includes children who attend a local authority nursery school. Currently where there are children under school age the health visiting teams for the north and south of the county are notified and have processes in place to respond. Cross border police forces now have a similar protocol- e.g. Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire. The police will pass on a notification that an incident has taken place daily to Starting Point (contact and referrals Childrens Services). The school where it has been identified by the police where the child /children attend will receive directly from the police the notification that an incident has occurred.</p>						
The process	<p>At the point a school receives this information Starting Point are already aware of the incident :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cases that are open to localities are notified of the incident as soon as they are received and passed to the principal allocated worker; • Unknown and closed cases are screened by a Senior Practitioner/Social Worker in Starting Point using the Derby City and Derbyshire Threshold Document, and an outcome is decided on every DA Incident. <p><u>Level 1 Universal Open Access provision</u> All unborn babies, children and young people will receive Universal Services, however, some children, either because of their needs or circumstances will require extra support from these services to be healthy and safe and to achieve their potential. Universal and individual agencies will be able to take swift action within their services to address these low level needs.</p> <p><u>Level 2 Emerging Needs</u> Unborn babies, children and young people with Emerging Needs are likely to require coordinated support from more than one agency. These services should work together to agree what extra help may be needed to support an unborn baby, child or young person at an early stage. There is no need for intensive or specialist services to be involved. Practitioners may need to share information and engage with other services to do so. An Early Help Assessment is the most effective tool to use with the family, with their consent, to discuss and explore the emerging needs of the unborn baby/child/young person. It can be used to agree a coordinated plan of support with the family and agencies and to review the progress made. A Lead Practitioner from one of the agencies providing support will co-ordinate the actions.</p> <p><u>Level 3 Intensive</u> Unborn babies, children and young people whose needs are more complex, including vulnerable children and those who have a complex disability and /or special education needs may need more intensive support and a number of the threshold indicators would be present to indicate need at</p>						



level 3. Where the threshold is met for intensive support it will be offered by the Early Help Team or following a single assessment via Section 17, Child in Need. This can be done by a worker from a LA early help team or a Social Worker. Starting Point will pass the DA incident to the locality for assessment.

Level 4 Specialist

Unborn babies, children, young people and families whose needs are complex and enduring will need more specialist support. More than one service is normally involved, with all practitioners involved on a statutory basis and a qualified Social Worker as the professional lead. It is usually the local authority C Social Care service which acts as the lead agency. Child Protection is the responsibility of the Local Authority and the role is to determine whether a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm. Meeting a threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. Unborn babies/ babies and young children are particularly vulnerable and parental factors such as history of significant domestic abuse and/or substance misuse and/or mental ill-health. Significant harm could occur where there is a single event, such as a violent assault or sexual abuse. More often, significant harm is identified when there have been a number of events which have compromised the child's physical and psychological wellbeing. Increasingly extra familial risks such as child sexual exploitation or risks of other types of exploitation.

There will not be any notification received by a Head teacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead that will not have been screened and a decision made.

The Designated Lead has the task of retrieving the notification from the school's safeguarding@ e-mail account. This is now secure. The notification is for information only and to alert the school to the incident to help assist with managing the child/ren whilst in school.

The Role of the School

If on receipt of the notification and or you are concerned about the **immediate** presentation of the child/ren in the school, or the child/ren are currently missing from school, in these circumstances you should contact Call Derbyshire (Starting Point) 01629 533190 choosing option 1.

Response by the School

When managing the child/ren in school, the DSL must consider:

- the need to contact the principal allocated worker if known on an open case for further information, updates, advice;
- disclosure to relevant teachers and support staff if appropriate;
- the safety of the child whilst in school;
- the possible impact for siblings/other children;
- being mindful of the child's or young person's presentation;
- how relevant teachers and support staff respond sensitively;
- a strategy of day to day support in the school;
- a need to provide time and space for that child/ren and that of the parent/s described as the victim who may have contact with the school;

Support for the child/ren in school may mean:

- identifying positive play/nurture/time out of the classroom
- the engagement with a named person in school who can support the child/ren
- managing any contact with the parent/carer and restrictions on any parent/carer as a result of the incident/s
- ensuring where possible a positive transition and continuation of school/home work if the child or young person is moved to a refuge or safe alternative place e.g. to a family or friend.



<p>Further Support & Signposting</p>	<p>The Domestic Abuse Guidance written by the domestic abuse service/Derbyshire Community Safety provides information, helpful advice, and support & signposting services. This has been updated for 2020/2021</p> <p>The Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Help Line offers advice to professionals (including schools) and they can be contacted on 08000 198 668, and the number can be provided to parents.</p> <p>Derbyshire works with Safer Derbyshire to offer Domestic Abuse training.</p> <p>The Children’s Training Team offer domestic abuse training, contact 01629 531933 for details.</p> <p>Your locality partnership group connects with local projects, training and programmes. You can find out what’s happening in your area by contacting your locality head of service in the Locality.</p> <p>Additional guidance, signposting services, local support and training on domestic abuse and what to do to support the child and their family can be found within the Safeguarding policies, guidance and protocols pages on SchoolsNet.</p>
<p>Record Keeping & Retention</p>	<p>Head of School/SDL must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print the notification as a pdf and add to the child’s chronology on MyConcerns. • Create or update the child’s record held in the school with the information received and add any new information. • Record the work undertaken by using the recommended welfare/child protection report form. • Share any new information on a need to know basis in school and using the agreed safeguarding protocols. • Treat as a confidential child protection record. • Retain and store safely and securely on the child or young person records as per schools protocol. • Retain for purposes of transfer for when a child moves onto another school within DCC or when transferring onto another school in another LA. • Treat as any other child protection record when transferring. <p>For further advice on record keeping, retention and transfer there is a guidance for schools on the Child protection record keeping guidance on SchoolsNet.</p>



Domestic Abuse Notifications flowchart (published 30th January 2020)



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