



OPCC RECORD OF DECISION

PROJECT NAME OR TITLE
DECISION TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO:
Operation Encompass for a Teachers Advice Hotline

DECISION RECORD PREPARED BY	
Name:	Wendy Rowden
Role:	Criminal Justice, Partnerships and Commissioning Officer
Date of Decision:	01/04/2020

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Operation Encompass fosters a partnership between police forces and schools to ensure that a trained member of a school’s staff is notified by a phone call when police have recently attended a child’s home where he/she has been involved in or experienced a domestic abuse incident.
- 1.2. During the Covid19 Crisis of 2020 Operation Encompass discussed options with the OPCC to provide an additional level of support to schools remaining open. The funding will support a hotline for teachers requiring advice on how to help children experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse within their homes for the duration of the partial school closures during the pandemic.
- 1.3. In a phone call to the PCC and in an email to the OPCC Operation Encompass explained:
 - Schools are still receiving all Operation Encompass calls as normal. This enables them to identify children who need support who may still be in school but also to see the need in children who are not currently attending. These children may be offered places if deemed vulnerable to calls to Social Care being made by the school.
 - Schools are running at low staffing levels and the staff are feeling isolated and may not have the confidence to consider the appropriate support for a child where they have received an Operation Encompass call, especially if this child is not usually be in their class, and they may have no colleague to discuss ways forward with .
 - The Hotline would utilise a professional group of Psychologists and therapists who know Operation Encompass and who fully understand how best to support the child victims of DA.



- A teacher would be able to call them for advice during school hours and thus be able to support the child and not burden Social Care unless necessary as they too are very stretched in the current situation.
- The group that we would suggest are Psychology Associates , who we have worked very closely with and who have just completed some research around Operation Encompass in Devon & Cornwall Police,

2.0 DECISION RECORD

- 2.1 The OPCC will provide funding of up to £10,000 to Operation Encompass to help fund a telephone advice line for teachers needing to support children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence for the duration of school closures during the pandemic and in any event by 31 March 2021.

3.0 CONSULTATION, ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 This funding has been approved in response to a request for funding from Operation Encompass with whom the OPCC has a pre-existing relationship to assist children and young people during a period of national and local emergency. Given the urgency of the situation it has not been possible to undertake formal consultation, engagement and communication outside of the OPCC.
- 3.2 The PCC and the OPCC are in email and telephone communication with Operation Encompass.

4.0 OPCC MONITORING OFFICER ADVICE

- 4.1 The Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the OPCC advises that the programme being delivered by Operation Encompass falls within the PCC's statutory obligation to ensure the provision of services to victims and hence the decision to partner with the Operation Encompass is consistent with the role of the PCC. The use of funds for emerging priorities is consistent with the overall intentions of the Police and Crime Plan and have emerged as requiring urgent funding in response to new circumstances arising during the Covid19 restrictions of spring 2020.

4.2 Financial and Commercial – Current and Future

Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer has advised that the expenditure incurred by this decision is consistent with the financial priorities and role of the PCC.



5.0 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

5.1 None

6.0 OFFICIAL APPROVAL

6.1 Following the appropriate approval, this decision sheet will be published, subject to FOIA classification, on the OPCC website.

FOR OPCC OFFICE USE:

If FOI Closed at the current date under Section 22, please provide details of the future date by which this decision can be reconsidered for publication:	N/A
Is there a publication schedule that lists the documents relating to this decision that will also be published at a later date in the future? If yes, please attach a copy with this decision.	NO

The Recommendation for Decision as outlined in this report is formally approved and subject to Freedom of Information Classification will be published on the OPCC website:

Police and Crime Commissioner
ALISON HERNANDEZ

SIGNED
PRINT: ALISON HERNANDEZ
DATE: 7 APRIL 2020

Governance Signature by
Monitoring Officer
FRANCES HUGHES

SIGNED
PRINT: FRANCES HUGHES
DATE: 7 APRIL 2020

Decision logged in register? *[Tick if completed]*

Decision published on OPCC website? *[Tick if completed]*