

**24 February 2015****Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE****PROGRESS OF ENCOMPASS NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: INFORMING SCHOOLS  
OF DOMESTIC ABUSE INCIDENTS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform and update the Community Safety Committee on the progress of the Encompass Nottinghamshire initiative, which involves informing schools of medium and high risk domestic abuse incidents which a child has witnessed, been in the household at the time or been affected by. Encompass Nottinghamshire was being trialled in Newark and Sherwood and Rushcliffe schools from 29 September 2014. Following a successful pilot, it has been further rolled out to Ashfield and Mansfield Districts from January 2015.

**Information and Advice****Background**

2. A report was previously received by committee with background information.

**Update on Progress**

3. The Encompass implementation group has met bi-monthly since early 2014. It includes colleagues from social care, the MASH, early help, police, education, public health and wider health.
4. The group has taken early feedback from professionals and agreed to continue the roll out across the County in four phases. It is currently live in Newark and Sherwood, Rushcliffe, Mansfield and Ashfield. Bassetlaw will be included from 9 March 2015. It is planned to roll out to Gedling and Broxtowe in May 2015.
5. Early data collection indicated a high number of children aged under 5 are affected, who are not in full time school. Contact is made to Children's Centres and then to Health Visitors if families are not registered at the Children's Centre, in order to plan support for the youngest children. This is a more complex process and is still being developed.

**Process of Informing Professionals:**

6. School calls are made by the MASH Education Adviser after the daily meeting, as early in the morning as possible. Schools have nominated people who take the information and record it.

7. Information is passed to the Early Help Officer in the MASH team, who makes calls to the Children's Centre closest to the family home initially, then to the Health Visitor for the child if they are not registered to the Children's Centre. An entry is made onto the child's Systm One record recording the basic information shared.

### **Briefings and Support Pathways:**

8. One hour briefings for school designated teachers/appropriate school staff took place in each district. Briefings have been set up for Bassetlaw district for February 2015. Take up has been good. Information has been circulated by email to those who did not attend,
9. Meetings have taken place at Children's Centres and at Health Visitor meetings across the districts, to inform staff of the process and to answer questions. A clear pathway to support Health Visitors is being developed, in order to make clear what action is expected when information is received. Children's Centres have a flowchart already agreed and in place.

### **Developments and Early Feedback:**

10. Some professionals have asked for some promotional materials to use with parents. This is being considered.
11. Further feedback is being collected currently, through telephone interviews to professionals who have received calls, and by completion of an online Survey Monkey tool. This will be considered at the next Implementation Group meeting and used to make any necessary developments to the process.
12. Women's Aid services in the County are offering support to schools and to children and families. They will receive simple data from the Encompass initiative, indicating the number of calls to individual schools over the medium term, in order to plan service provision.
13. Feedback via the post briefing questionnaire was highly positive about the project: "This has plugged a growing gap in our information sharing strategy in Notts" "Will support schools in having a clear part to play and help focus on the children involved" "Thank goodness this is happening. We are all too aware of the impact of DV on children"
14. There are some good early examples of effective support to Children and Families.
  - a. In a school setting, the information explained a child's change in behaviour, support was put in place in school and for the child's mother via the local Children's Centre.
  - b. In another case, following a call to a Children's Centre for a younger child, his mother was contacted and invited along to an event that was coming up. Whilst there, she disclosed the wider issues in the home and a Family Support Worker was put in place.
15. A webpage has been set up on the Nottinghamshire County Council website to provide more information to schools, parents and other professionals:

## **Other Options Considered**

16. It would be an option to not continue the roll out, but as the pilot has been successful, this would miss an opportunity to build upon the early success of the project.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

17. To inform and update the Community Safety Committee on the progress of the Encompass Nottinghamshire initiative.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

19. The costs are being met by service areas. The MASH Education Advisor, employed in the MASH (previously a head teacher) since April 2014 will make the phone calls to school as part of the daily role, with support from MASH Officers.

## **Implications for Service Users**

20. This initiative is likely to result in an improved response to children and young people experiencing domestic abuse, as a result of schools and professionals working with children under 5 being made aware of incidents and a more joined-up approach being in place. This recommendation delivers a multi-agency approach to children experiencing domestic abuse and supports the development of the life chances of these children and young people.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the progress of the Encompass Nottinghamshire initiative be noted.

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**Constitutional Comments**

21. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

**Financial Comments (KAS 31/01/15)**

22. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 19 of the report.

**Background Papers and Published Documents**

1) Report to Community Safety Committee – 30 September 2014 and minutes of that meeting (published)

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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