



**Black Country
Women's Aid**

we listen, we support, we care

Information for primary schools

April 2023-March 2024



**Working with schools in Wolverhampton to support
children and young people affected by domestic abuse**

Helping schools implement Operation Encompass



west midlands
office for policing
and crime

**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL**

About Our Future



Our Future is a project delivered by Black Country Women's Aid (BCWA). Our Future offers a range of support to schools to help them respond effectively to children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

Our Future is available for **primary schools in Wolverhampton** with funding from the West Midlands OPCC from April 2023—March 2024.

Our Future underpins **Operation Encompass**, in which police notify schools of domestic abuse call-outs to a child's home.

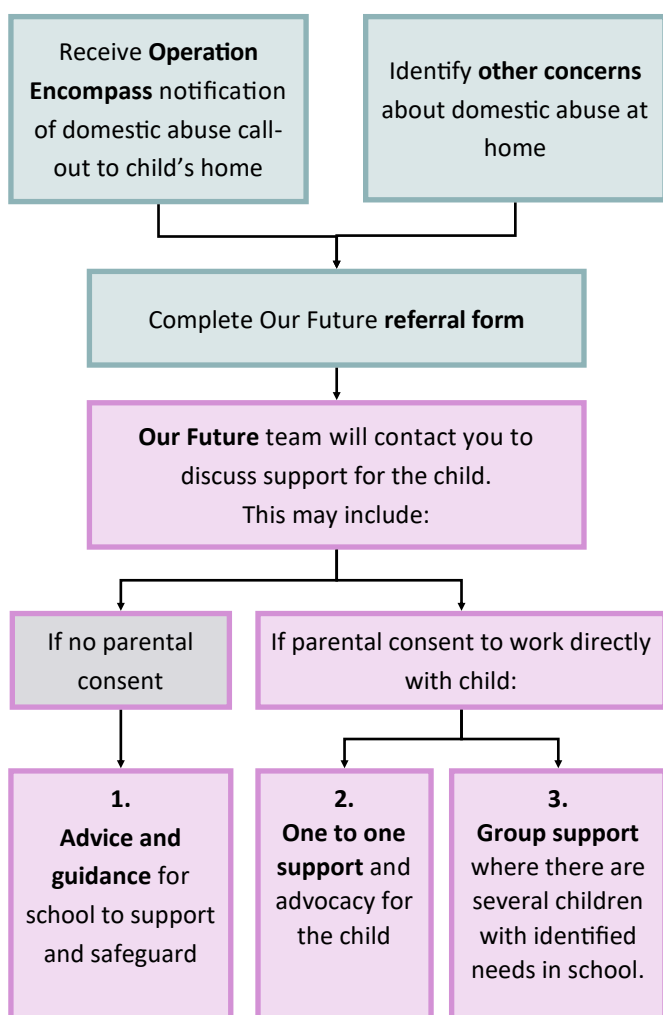
Our Future can help your school to build a response to domestic abuse, with support including:

- **Advice** for staff on supporting children ;
- **One to one** support for children;
- **Group** support programmes delivered in school;
- **Training** for staff.

Our Future can help schools meet **OFSTED** requirements by:

- Demonstrating effective safeguarding arrangements to identify and support vulnerable children
- Demonstrating a proactive response to indicators that children are suffering/at risk of abuse, neglect or harm
- Creating a whole-school ethos to PSHE.

REFERRING TO THE SERVICE



STAFF TRAINING

Black Country Women's Aid's Our Future team offer free training for Designated Safeguarding Leads, Key Adults and other school staff.

The training will provide participants with a solid foundational knowledge of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and the skills that they can utilise to support and safeguard families experiencing DVA.

To request training dates in your area or book training for your school please contact us.

To gain an understanding of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and the dynamics of DVA;

- To gain the knowledge of the impact that DVA can have on children and young people;
- To understand the barriers that prevent disclosures and to gain skills in order to respond to disclosures;
- To understand roles and responsibilities in relation to child protection and safeguarding in the context of DVA;
- To share practical tools for supporting children in school.

CONTACT US

For more information and to request referral forms:

Email: youngpeople@blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk

Call: 0121 553 0090

1. SUPPORTING IN-SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING

Our Future’s team can help you support children through your internal safeguarding processes. This is an option particularly where parental consent is not forthcoming for us to work with children directly.

We can advise and support on issues including:

- The impact of domestic abuse on children;
- Possible feelings and emotions they may display, this may include harmful coping strategies;
- Potential impact on behaviour in the classroom with advice on how to manage this;
- Building helpful coping strategies to manage stress, anxiety, anger, and other emotions;
- Creating a safe space in school, advising staff on handling disclosures;
- Tools and resources for young people including safety plans and support contacts.

2. ONE TO ONE SUPPORT AND CASEWORK

Our Future’s Advocate-Educator team can offer child-centred one to one support which provides a safe space to work through how domestic abuse in the home may be affecting them. This includes:

- Emotional support, with space and time to talk about how they feel;
- Working on healthy ways to express emotions, and healthy coping strategies;
- Discussing safety, danger signs, identifying healthy and unhealthy behaviours in a relationship, and identifying safe adults and support networks;
- Access to counselling services if needed;
- Working alongside school staff to help keep children engaged with education;
- Attend case reviews and multi-agency briefings;
- Helping to rebuild the relationship with the victim-parent, to help the family’s future resilience;
- Developing a whole-family approach through co-working with Black Country Women’s Aid’s adult community support team, or other domestic abuse support services in your area.

What children say

“Doing work around domestic abuse made me understand more about what my mum went through and why we had to leave”

“My confidence has improved and I have someone that I can talk to about anything. I am always smiling now. Every time I see my support worker at school she makes me smile.”

3. GROUP SUPPORT

Key Stage 1	Helping Hands Age: 5-8 Group size: up to 10 Mixed or single-sex 6-sessions	A programme aiming to help children cope with and recover from their experience of domestic abuse. The themes include developing children’s self-esteem; gender, stereotypes and assumptions; feelings and emotions; the right to feel safe; warning signs; safe adults; others have the right to feel safe with us; secrets and surprises.
Key Stage 2	Inside-Out Age: 8-11 Group size: up to 10 Mixed or single-sex 6-sessions	A BCWA programme focussing more in-depth on understanding, dealing with and expressing emotions helping children to understand how they can control their actions. Themes covered also include self-esteem, gender stereotypes, understanding safety/warning signs, secrets and surprises.

100% of staff would recommend Inside-Out to other schools and felt the programme had helped students improve their emotional health and increase their confidence.

Helping Hands and Inside-Out meet the requirements of SMSC and Ofsted regarding behaviour and conduct including management of feelings and behaviour, and how they relate to others; understanding of how to keep ourselves safe from risks. The programmes also support schools who are working towards being a UNICEF Rights Respecting School.



Black Country Women's Aid

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Black Country Women's Aid is a leading regional charity which supports victims of violence across the West Midlands. Our services include support for both adult and child victims of domestic abuse, stalking, sexual violence, exploitation and international human trafficking, and women in the criminal justice system.

We offer sensitive and holistic **support** services which each year help thousands of **victims of abuse** to **escape from violence**, cope with trauma and rebuild their lives. We place victims' voices at the heart of our work and we constantly develop our services in response to needs in our communities.

Services in Sandwell

- **Domestic abuse**
community support and refuge for adults and children
- **Stalking and harassment**
support
- **Rape and sexual violence**
support for adults and children 5+
- **Modern slavery** services
- **Women's Justice**
services for female offenders
- **Training**

Services in Dudley

- **Domestic abuse**
community support
- **Stalking and harassment**
support
- **Rape and sexual violence**
support for adults and children 5+
- **Modern slavery** services
- **Women's Justice**
services for female offenders
- **Training**

Services in Walsall

- **Domestic abuse**
community support
- **Stalking and harassment**
support
- **Rape and sexual violence**
support for adults and children 5+
- **Modern slavery** services
- **Training**

Services in W'ton

- **Our Future**
- **Stalking and harassment**
support
- **Rape and sexual violence**
support for adults and children 5+
- **Modern slavery** services
- **Training**

For more information about any of our services please contact us

info@blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk

www.blackcountrywomensaid.co.uk

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