

# Police handling children with care

The Bethlehem Gadfly Police October 29, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts about the Bethlehem Police* 

ref: **“Police department involved in a student trauma program”**

Gadfly attended an interesting meeting yesterday about a pilot “Handling with Care” program involving our police department in which law enforcement officers are encouraged to advise the schools of children who have been involved in any sort of trauma, so that the schools can be on the lookout for any problems and are ready to provide care. No details of the traumatic event are given to the schools. And nothing goes on a student’s record. And so the “Handle with Care” report is not about students who have committed crimes but, for instance, can be about students who have witnessed traumatic events that might have an effect on their behavior or progress in school work.

Here Bethlehem Officer Robert Nicholson explains the program (7 mins.)

**Audio Player not available in this archive**



**Handle With Care**

Handle With Care (HWC) programs support children exposed to trauma and violence through improved communication between law enforcement and schools. HWC promotes partnerships aimed at ensuring children who are exposed to trauma receive appropriate interventions to help them achieve academically and socially.

Funding provided by a state PCCD grant



## How does Handle With Care work?



Schools will receive Handle With Care referrals through the Safe 2 Say Something system. The referrals will show up as an event.

The child referenced was on the scene of police action in the last 24 hours and could exhibit academic, emotional and/or behavioral problems as a result of exposure to a traumatic event. Please handle him/her with care.

## Impact of Childhood Trauma on Schools & Community



- Traumatized kids often engage in self-harming behaviors;
- Have higher rates of school suspensions, academic failure, chronic absenteeism
- Likely to repeat cycle of abuse and trauma as adults



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## When should police send a Handle With Care notice?



- A child exposed to crime, violence, abuse or loss, overdose of a loved one
- If you have to ask, "Should I send a HWC notice?" then you need to send one
- Send one on every child, it's not our place to judge what is traumatizing



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## HWC Report Into Safe2Say



**SAFE2 SAY** Safe2Say Something PA  
 1-800-722-2729 | www.safe2say.org

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**Student Information**

School:

Type the name of the school in PA

Student First Name\*  Student Last Name\*  Birth\*

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**Reporting Party Information**

Agency\*  Badge #\*  Date of Occurrence\*



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Great idea!