

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a project that is running in various parts of the United Kingdom and Leicester is launching the scheme city wide from February 2018.

Overview

- Operation Encompass is an initiative to enhance communication between the police and ourselves where a young person is at risk from or has witnessed domestic abuse
- The purpose is to ensure that we have more information to support the safeguarding of our students. When police have attended any domestic violence incident at the home of a student, we have been advised that we will be informed before the next college day begins
- By knowing that a student has had this experience, we should be better positioned to understand and be supportive of their needs and possible behaviours
- Operation Encompass will complement existing safeguarding procedures

How Operation Encompass will work

Police will share information with Leicester City Council Social Care and Early Help. The duty officer within Early Help assigned to Operation Encompass will phone Gateway College between 8.00 and 8.30 am and ask to speak with the named Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). We will be informed simply that there was an incident and the name of the student. The student may or may not have been present and witnessed the incident and does not need to have been the victim. The caller will not be in a position to give more information at that point.

What Gateway College will do with this knowledge

By knowing that the student has had this experience, we are in a better position to be supportive and understanding of needs and possible behaviours. The DSL will share this information on a need to know basis and add this information to the safeguarding log.

The sharing of information should not, in itself, provoke a proactive response to individual students, but informs our response to any presenting behaviour.

The process if the DSL misses the call

Should the DSL be unavailable to take the Operation Encompass call, the caller will ask us to return the call swiftly. They will also ask for an email address for the DSL if they do not have one already, so an alert can be emailed with instructions for a return call. We have supplied our current safeguarding email address help@gateway.ac.uk No information about the student or incident will be supplied via this email and no information will be discussed with staff other than the DSL or other nominated deputy/ies. No further calls will be attempted.

The frequency with which we might expect to receive this type of call

Local data indicates that there are 13 calls to the police in Leicester regarding domestic violence and abuse each day, and around 70% of these have children or young people usually resident in the household. This is higher than the national average of 8 in other local authorities.

Making parents/carers aware of Operation Encompass

Gateway College has uploaded a letter onto the website explaining that when police attend an incident of domestic violence or abuse, the College will be informed the next morning. This communication also informs parents/carers of local and national specialist domestic violence and abuse services available to them and our own safeguarding email.

What we have in place to ensure effective participation

There are a number of activities which will support the process:

- The College Reception Team are aware of this scheme and will, wherever possible, pass the call to the DSL
- The DSLs will ensure that every effort is made to return Operation Encompass calls where an alert email is received if the initial call has not been taken
- Raise awareness amongst staff by sharing Operation Encompass website and this document. We will add Operation Encompass to our Safeguarding Policy which is available through the College website
- We have designed an information letter for parents/carers about the scheme and uploaded this to relevant pages of the College website
- The DSLs have undertaken training on domestic violence

The review and evaluation process

The scheme will be evaluated and reviewed as it evolves. We will be asked to participate in assessing whether the scheme has made any positive (or otherwise) impact on the experience of our students. In other areas of the country it has been found to be a very effective way of supporting children and young people at a most difficult time.

Finding out more about the background to Operation Encompass

<http://www.operationencompass.org/>