

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a project that is running in various parts of the United Kingdom. Leicestershire and Rutland rolled out the scheme in 2016/17. Leicester is launching the project city wide in February 2018.

Overview

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

Operation Encompass explained

A process used to inform educational organisations when the police have attended an incident of domestic violence or abuse, where domestic abuse incidents have occurred in the homes of their student(s) since the previous college day.

How Operation Encompass will work

Police will share information with Social Care and Early Help. The duty officer within Early Help assigned to Operation Encompass will phone WQE between 8.00 and 8.30 am and ask to speak with the 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 WQE 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 staff member 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. We have supplied our current safeguarding email address. The Safeguarding Team will then be emailed an alert with instructions for a return call. 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. 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

WQE has uploaded a letter onto the website explaining that when police attend an incident of domestic violence or abuse, WQE 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:

- RCS team are aware of this scheme and will wherever possible pass the call to a DSL.
- DSL 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.
- Increased awareness amongst staff and parents/carers by sharing the BBC video clip on Operation Encompass (bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03y9r5h) or other appropriate resource. We will add Operation Encompass to our Safeguarding Policy when renewed. This is available through the website.
- We have designed an information letter for parents/carers about the scheme and uploaded this to relevant pages of WQE website.
- WQE 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 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/>