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## Quality Assurance Policies & Procedures

### SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT POLICY

#### CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

#### Appendix Q

#### Domestic violence & Abuse

#### Protecting children from domestic abuse

##### Introduction

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between people who are, or who have been in a relationship, regardless of gender or sexuality. It can include physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.

Each UK nation has its own definition of domestic abuse for professionals who are working to prevent domestic abuse and protect those who have experienced it (Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2016; Home Office, 2013)

Domestic abuse can include:

- sexual abuse and rape (including within a relationship)
- punching, kicking, cutting, hitting with an object
- withholding money or preventing someone from earning money
- taking control over aspects of someone's everyday life, which can include where they go and what they wear
- not letting someone leave the house
- reading emails, text messages or letters
- threatening to kill or harm them, a partner, another family member or pet

#### Witnessing and experiencing domestic abuse

Children never just 'witness' domestic abuse; it always has an impact on them. Exposure to domestic abuse or violence in childhood is child abuse.

Children may experience domestic abuse directly, but they can also experience it indirectly by:

- hearing the abuse from another room
- seeing a parent's injuries or distress afterwards
- finding disarray like broken furniture

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- being hurt from being nearby or trying to stop the abuse

### **How domestic violence impacts on children and young people**

- Poor concentration.
- Aggression, hyperactivity, disobedience.
- Disturbed sleep, nightmares.
- Withdrawal, low self-esteem.
- Showing no emotion ('spaced out')
- Guidance

### **Domestic abuse: recognise the signs**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1089015/Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Statutory Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1089015/Domestic_Abuse_Act_2021_Statutory_Guidance.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-recognise-the-signs/domestic-abuse-recognise-the-signs>

### **Victims of domestic violence GOV**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victims-of-domestic-violence>

### **Protecting children from domestic abuse NSPCC**

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/domestic-abuse>

**Operation Encompass is an initiative led by Cleveland Police**, launched on 1st October 2015. It is a process by which Key adults (Safeguard Leads) in colleges, schools, academies and nurseries are informed that a child/young person may have been affected by domestic abuse within 24 hours of the event taking place

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

### **College procedures following an operation encompass report**

The report will be recorded on ProMonitor in the confidential file area. Depending on individual circumstances the safeguarding team will meet with the student and provide the relevant level of support. The Head of School and course tutor will be informed and asked to report any concerns they have regarding signs of safeguarding to the safeguarding team.

If subsequent reports arrive for the same student, the safeguarding team will contact the Children's Safeguarding Hub for advice. An Early Help referral or Safer Referral will be made as deemed appropriate by both the College and the Children's Safeguarding Hub.

The Children's Safeguarding Hub has responsibility for informing the College of any safer referrals that have been submitted by the police.