

# **SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN DISTRESS**

# A QUICK GUIDE FOR STAFF

#### IT'S OKAY TO ASK

You don't need to be an expert or deal with concerns on your own; reach out to Wellbeing Advice & Guidance. We're here to help you support students.

#### **LEVEL 1: SIGNPOST**

Applies to the majority of students.

#### **WHO**

Students experiencing:

- Mild emotional distress e.g. anxiety, stress, loneliness
- Low level engagement
- Minor academic struggles

# WHO CAN HELP?

- Wellbeing Advice and Guidance - encourage the student to complete a triage form and they will be contacted within 3 working days
- Signpost to Health Assured
- Provide crisis numbers if you have some concerns

#### **FOLLOW UP**

Document your actions

# Sharing information

- Where possible, collaborate with the student on next steps and agree who you will contact
- Only use the student's ID and initials if emailing and only cc others if relevant
- Obtain an up to date telephone number for students
- Follow the <u>Trusted Contacts</u> <u>Policy</u>. Only named staff may use trusted contacts without student consent.

## **LEVEL 2: REFER**

#### **WHO**

Students experiencing:

- Suicidal thoughts or depression with no intent or plan
- Increased or persistent emotional distress
- Sudden changes in behaviour or appearance
- · Unusual ideas
- Mild alcohol or substance misuse
- Declining engagement with studies or student life

#### WHO CAN HELP?

**In office hours** call or email Wellbeing Advice & Guidance for advice.

Out of office hours email
Wellbeing Advice & Guidance
- a Wellbeing Practitioner will
respond to you next working
day.

If you are concerned about delaying support:

- Book a call back for the student from a <u>Health</u> <u>Assured</u> counsellor (with their consent)
- · Provide crisis numbers

#### **FOLLOW UP**

- Document your actions
- If you require further information about a student, please contact Wellbeing Advice and Guidance

# **LEVEL 3: EMERGENCY**

### **WHO**

Students experiencing:

- Suicidal intent or plans
- Actual significant harm/injury to self or a plan to cause harm/injury to self
- Expressions of threat or risk to others
- A loss of sense of reality which places them at immediate risk of harm to self/others

These student are hard to assess, very distressed and their behaviour is unmanageable in the current context.

#### WHO CAN HELP?

#### Student is on campus

Call Campus Support on 2222
 They will liaise with Emergency
 Services, directing them to your
 location. Campus Support will
 contact Student Services who will
 follow-up with the student.

#### Student is off campus

- Call Emergency Services on 999
- Stay with/in contact with the student until help arrives unless your safety is compromised
- Pass on information to the Emergency Services

#### **FOLLOW UP**

- Document your actions
- Inform Wellbeing Advice & Guidance
- Look after your own wellbeing support is available through the <u>Employee Assistance</u> <u>Programme</u>, tel. 0800 358 4858

#### **ESSENTIAL CONTACTS**

Wellbeing Advice & Guidance

**Alsop Building** 

0151 795 1000 advice@liverpool.ac.uk

**Campus Support** 0151 794 2222

Health Assured 24/7 student helpline 0800 028 3766

#### **CRISIS NUMBERS**

Mersey Care 24hr urgent care line 0800 145 6570

NHS: 111

<u>Samaritans</u> a listening service

Tel: 116123

Papyrus HopelineUK crisis line

0800 068 41 41 9am-midnight SHOUT 24/7 crisis text service

TEXT Shout to 85258