



**GATEWAY:** The Gateway Program focuses on the non-abusive partner's approach to dealing with experiences of an abusive relationship. Group work enables individuals to share and link experiences, be respected, believed and find they are not alone. Gateway provides a safe space enabling individuals to talk about what is often felt to be an unspeakable experience and build coping strategies while considering their options and choices.

Fictional characters are used throughout the sessions as a safe learning vehicle to focus discussions and safeguard the privacy of individual personal experiences. Individuals may have been at a stage where they have/are trying to achieve a non-abusive relationship rather than leaving, which is a lengthy process sometimes involving a 'leaving and returning' cycle. People are active in their interactions with their abusive partners by developing their own strategies to stop or manage abuse.

At Amber Family, we have accepted referrals from placing Local Authorities where domestic abuse/violence is either the primary risk, or amongst several risks sited in the referral. We have previously contracted an outside professional to deliver the Gateway Program to those parents who we and the Local Authority feel would benefit from this intervention, either on a 1:1 or group basis.. Working closely with Linda Davies from Tools 4 Change, who devised the program, two members of the Amber Family team are training to be facilitators of this course, which will enable us to deliver the Gateway Program from within our existing resources and will allow parents the freedom to discuss their circumstances with staff who are already known to them. They will be qualified to offer parents 1:1 sessions or undertake their learning as a small group.

Please click on the links below for further information:

<http://www.tools4change.co.uk/domestic-abuse-awareness/>

<http://www.tools4change.co.uk/the-gateway-programme/>