

Dear Parent

Between 9 September and 13 December 2019, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has commissioned Applied Theatre specialists AlterEgo Creative Solutions Ltd to tour secondary schools across Thames Valley with their highly innovative production 'County Lines'.

The play has been developed by the creative and experienced team behind the hugely successful 'Chelsea's Story' (formerly 'Chelsea's Choice'), 'In the Net', 'Crashing', 'Going to Extremes' and 'CLICK' and will be performed at **Wallingford school** on **Monday 23rd Sept** to **Year 8**.

The play has been seen by over 100,000 thousand young people and thousands of professionals around the UK and has proven effective in raising awareness around this important issue as part of a whole system approach to tackling Child Criminal Exploitation. With high profile cases around the country currently making the news on a regular basis, it is all of our duties to raise awareness of this subject. Councils, charities, support agencies, schools, parents and carers all need to engage with and acknowledge this issue in order to give young people the tools and knowledge they need to help keep themselves and their friends safe.

The County Lines play enacts how young people could be drawn into criminal activity, especially by people like the lead character, Dex...

Meet Dex. He's a nice guy. He'll offer you money. He'll offer you drugs. He'll be generous. He'll make you feel important. He'll make you feel part of something. He'll make your life exciting. He'll do whatever it takes to get you working for him and his mates... and when you do...

Meet Dex. He's a scary guy. He'll say you owe him money. He'll make you deal drugs and move packages. He'll blackmail you. He'll be violent. He'll make you feel terrified. He'll turn your life upside down. He'll do whatever it takes to keep you working for him and his mates... And he's good at it. He knows he'll get you because he knows you'll make bad decisions... bad choices. Dex runs the County Lines.

The 50-minute production and post-show talk have proven highly effective in raising awareness of:-

- What County Lines is, how it is linked to Criminal Exploitation and how can it affect young people
- The Grooming Process and how it can apply to County Lines
- The similarities and potential crossovers between Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- How young people can spot the indicators of CCE and CSE and where they can go for help & advice

CCE and CSE are highly sensitive subjects and every care has been taken to ensure that the production is hard-hitting and relevant without being graphic or offensive. The issues are raised and discussed in a manner entirely relevant and suitable for the target age group.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the production please contact me and I will be happy to set your mind at rest.

Kindest regards

Miss Hedges
Wallingford School
PSHE Co-ordinator
hedgese@wallingfordschool.com