



Central Bedfordshire
Safeguarding Children



Learning Today for a Better Tomorrow

19th March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

During March and April 2019 Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board has commissioned Applied Theatre specialists *Alter Ego Creative Solutions* to tour local schools in our area with their highly innovative production '*County Lines*'.

A performance of '*County Lines*' is taking place at Priory Academy on Thursday 21st March 2019 for students in Years 8 and 9.

The play – which was originally commissioned by Norfolk Constabulary was developed to raise awareness around Child Criminal Exploitation, in particular the strand of County Lines drug trafficking model that see's vulnerable adults and young people living in regional areas of the UK targeted by organised groups and gangs (that have travelled from more urban city locations) to groom, trick, trap and manipulate them into trafficking drugs and sometimes weapons.

The 40-minute production and post-show Q&A is aimed at raising awareness of:

- What is County Lines 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)
- Where to go for help and advice.

Child Criminal Exploitation is a highly sensitive subject 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.

With more and more cases occurring around the country, 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 keep themselves and their friends safe.

The production will have support from Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board partners and the individual schools during the tour that will make sure that the appropriate care is in place should any of the young people wish to discuss the issues in the play afterwards.

There will be two evening performances for parents/carers of children and young people living in Central Bedfordshire on Wednesday 20th March at Sandy Upper School (Sandy) at 6.30pm and on Wednesday 1st May at Vandyke Upper School (Leighton Buzzard) also at 6:30pm. If you would like to attend one of the performances, please contact Jemima Phillipa Scott at the Central Bedfordshire Safeguarding Children Board to reserve a place. Her contact details are LSCB@Centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or telephone number is 0300 300 6455.

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

Yours sincerely

Miss Lorraine Croft
Assistant Headteacher (Safeguarding)