

27 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Theatre Production 'County Lines' – Weds, 3 April

Lancashire County Council has commissioned Applied Theatre specialists, AlterEgo Creative Solutions, to tour schools and other suitable venues in Lancashire with their highly innovative production 'County Lines'. This production also fits in well with our PSHE programme and aims to address some of the issues youngsters may face and enables them to have strategies to deal with them.

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'. This free of charge production will take place in school on Weds, 3 April to Year 8 and 9 pupils from 2pm and will finish at 3.20pm

The play has now been seen by thousands of young people around the UK and received strong support in raising awareness of this important issue. 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.

"County Lines gangs pose a significant threat to vulnerable adults and children upon whom they rely to conduct and/or facilitate this criminality." - National Crime Agency, County Lines Gang Violence, Exploitation & Drug Supply briefing. 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 that they need to keep themselves and their friends safe.

The 60-minute production and post-show Q&A have proven highly effective in raising awareness of:

- What County Lines is
- How it is linked to criminal exploitation and how it can 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
- Where young people can go for help and advice

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 and the production team 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.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the production then please do not hesitate to contact myself or any member of the pastoral team in school.

Yours sincerely



Mrs D Crank
Assistant Headteacher

