

8 November 2021

Dear Parent/carer

County lines performance

Between Monday 1 November 2021 and Friday 26 November 2021, the Local Authority have commissioned Applied Theatre specialist Alter Ego Creative Solutions to tour secondary schools and other suitable venues in East Sussex with their highly motivated 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 includes a free of charge production of 'County Lines' at Bexhill Academy on Friday 12 November to year 9.

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. 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.

"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.*

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 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 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 Miss Burdett & Miss Clayton who will be happy to set your mind at rest.

Kindest regards



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