



27 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

We have commissioned Applied Theatre specialists AlterEgo Creative Solutions to perform their highly innovative production 'County Lines' to our Year 9 students.

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.

The production will take place on Tuesday 16th July and will have the support of School Nursing along with our Safeguarding Leads in School who 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 please contact Elaine King, Welfare Manager, who will be happy to set your mind at rest.

Kindest regards

Sylvia Thomas
Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus