

To: Parent/Carer

During 13th-24th November 2017 Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board has commissioned Applied Theatre specialists **AlterEgo Creative Solutions** to tour to schools and other suitable venues in our area with their highly innovative production 'Chelsea's Choice' and 'Crashing'.

A performance of 'Chelsea's Choice' is taking place at Biddenham School on Tuesday 14th November at 1.20pm (this is open to students only). Should you have any questions or concerns about the production at Biddenham School please contact Clare Warburton, Assistant Head, Biddenham International School.

The play - which has now been seen by over 800,000 young people around the UK - tells the story of a group of three students who discover the diary of a girl called Chelsea. Chelsea was a young girl who, having fallen out with her friends and family, was approached by a man called Gary. Gary was older, owned a car, had a flat and treated her like an adult. Unfortunately Gary was not what he seemed to be! Chelsea's story is played out and examined by the three students along with their teacher in an attempt to understand what happened to Chelsea and how it could have been prevented.

The 40 minute production and post-show Q&A have proven highly effective in raising awareness of:-

- Healthy Relationships
- Safe Internet Use
- Risky Behaviour
- The Grooming Process
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Where young people can go for help and advice

A performance of 'Crashing' is taking place at Biddenham Upper School on Tuesday 21st November at 9.30am (this is open to students only). Should you have any questions or concerns about the production at Biddenham School please contact Clare Warburton, Assistant Head, Biddenham International School.

It tells the story of Eddie. At 15 years old he lost his mum to cancer, lost his dad to depression and found himself out on the street. Whilst sleeping in a shop doorway Eddie was approached by Michael. Michael was kind, good fun and owned a shop with an empty flat above it. He offered Eddie the chance to stay there until he got back on his feet, but unfortunately Michael had another agenda.

The play, which is followed by an actor facilitated post-show talk exploring the issues raised, was developed out of a growing need to illustrate the narrative on how Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) can affect boys & young men.

The play has proven highly effective at covering:-

- How Child Sexual Exploitation can - and does - happen to boys and young men
- What makes a Healthy Relationship
- What makes an Unhealthy Relationship
- The Grooming process, Child Sexual Exploitation & the differing models & methods
- Where to go for help and advice

Child Sexual 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 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.

The production will have the full support of Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board 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.

We are also holding two evening performances for parents/carers of children and young people living in Bedford Borough, the performance of 'Chelsea's Choice' is on Monday 13th November at Bedford Girl's School at 6.30pm and the performance of 'Crashing' is on Wednesday 22nd November at Wootton Upper School. Please see posters attached. If you would like to attend one of the performances please contact Sue Huckle at the Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board to reserve a place. Her contact details are sue.huckle@bedford.gov.uk or telephone number is 01234 276512. You must book a place as places are limited and based on a first-come, first-serve basis.

More information on child sexual exploitation can be found on the Bedford Borough Safeguarding Children Board website http://www.bedford.gov.uk/health_and_social_care/children_young_people/safeguarding_children_board/parents_and_carers/child_sexual_exploitation.aspx