

February 2015

Dear Parent / Carer

Chief Executive: Sir Michael Wilkins
Executive Principal: Robert D Tam
Principal: Andrew Wappat

Throughout the week commencing 23 February 2015, Redcar and Cleveland's Local Safeguarding Children Board have commissioned Applied Theatre specialists AlterEgo Creative Solutions to engage with Secondary Schools within Redcar and Cleveland with their highly innovative production 'Chelsea's Choice'.

The play - which has now been seen by over 100,000 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 35 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

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.

"The Government believes that local initiatives like 'Chelsea's Choice' have a key role to play in preventing grooming and exploitation and in helping keep children safe from this heinous crime." -
Rohini Krishnamurthy, Child Safeguarding Division, Department for Education.

With high profile cases around the country currently making the news on a regular basis, it is the duty of everyone 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 the school, Children and Families Social Care and Northumbria Police during the tour who will make sure that the appropriate support is in place should any of the young people wish to discuss the issues in the play afterwards.

Parents and carers are invited to a free performance of Chelsea's Choice which is will be held on Thursday 26 February, 5pm to 6pm in the Chambers at The Heart, Kirkleatham Street , Redcar TS10 1RT

Should you have any questions or concerns about the production please contact Deanne Taylor, Local Safeguarding Business Manager, 01642 304520, who will be happy to set your mind at rest.

Yours sincerely



Katharine Barlow
Assistant Headteacher