



County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

Date: 20th January 2015
Direct Line: 01865 815849

Dear Parent or Guardian

Re: Alter Ego Theatre Company's performance of 'Chelsea's Choice'

The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (OSCB) is the statutory partnership of agencies within Oxfordshire, with oversight of child protection arrangements. The partners include Oxfordshire County Council, NHS organisations, Thames Valley Police and Probation. We work together to protect children and young people in Oxfordshire from abuse and neglect and we are currently co-ordinating work to combat child sexual exploitation. While the problem may only affect a minority of young people the impact can last the rest of their lives which is why it's so important for us to work together.

We are sponsoring the AlterEgo Theatre Company to perform a play called 'Chelsea's Choice' to year 8 and 9 students after the half term holiday. The production will be rolled out across the county between 2 March and 29 March and is coming to your child's school. 'Chelsea's Choice' is an innovative way of raising awareness about the issues relating to sexual exploitation. It attempts to reach young people, giving them some skills and knowledge to help protect them from this form of abuse.

The play was written by Sean McGrath (who acts in the play) and was originally commissioned by another Safeguarding Children Board. The theatre company is currently touring the UK and has performed to children in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Gloucestershire and Staffordshire amongst other counties.

The play is simple in its message and has proven to be an effective way of raising awareness without causing undue anxiety. The actors run a short 20 minute question and answer session after the play to talk about the issues raised and explain the key messages. Each school will ensure a teacher that provides pastoral care will participate in the event. Staff from the Kingfisher Team (a specialist team including social workers, police officers and health workers), Children's Social Care and the NHS will also be there to talk to students, answer questions about the issues raised and explain how they are working to tackle this issue in Oxfordshire.

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I enclose a leaflet that provides some more information about child sexual exploitation. If you would like to find out more about this subject or the work of the Kingfisher Team call 01865 335276. If you would rather that your child did not attend the performance please contact the school.

With kind regards

Maggie Blyth

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Independent Chair,
Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board