

Dear parent/carer

We all want our children to grow up to have healthy relationships and to feel loved and respected. Unfortunately, some of our more vulnerable children can't always distinguish between what is healthy and what is potentially dangerous, so we want to support both the children and the parents to understand the warning signs and indicators and how and why exploitative relationships can happen.

As I am sure you are aware, the sexual exploitation of children across the UK has been in the news in recent years and continues to be a concern. Dangers can come from any area of their lives, through friendship groups and people known to them and from the internet and social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. We also know that the best protection we can give to young people is knowledge of the dangers so that they are aware and can protect themselves, as well as letting them know where they can go for help and support if they are worried.

In order to do this, Schools around the county will be presenting an interactive play to all Year 9 and 10 pupils which will tackle the difficult issue of Child Sexual Exploitation. The production will take place on Thursday 19th November at your children's school.

The play is performed by a theatre company, Alter Ego and is called Chelsea's Choice. It focuses on Chelsea's diary and provides an opportunity for interaction with the actors helping pupils to see the choices Chelsea has made and how she might have chosen differently. We will provide an information sheet which has been designed with input from young people to all pupils on where to go if they are worried about exploitation, feel forced into doing something they don't want to, or if they feel they are at risk, and school staff and other professionals will also be on hand to help with questions.

This activity in secondary schools across the county is part of a proactive programme of work around raising and tackling the complex nature of Child Exploitation and is being fully funded by Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

We hope that this will be a powerful and memorable way to enhance the PSHE curriculum and help our young people to stay safe.

We have also included an information sheet for parents, developed by the LSCB that lists organisations that offer support to young people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Hadley".

SUE HADLEY

INDEPENDENT CHAIR SUFFOLK LSCB