



### Safeguarding Our Children Together

#### County Lines Special

#### County Lines Production

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September Year 8 had a visit from Alter Ego Creative Solutions, a travelling theatre company who deliver short plays on complex social issues; in this case County Lines.

The students were introduced to 'Dex', a charming young man who targeted young individuals to recruit them as part of his 'drug running' business. To find out more about the performance please click on the following link:

[http://www.alteregocreativesolutions.co.uk/coun](http://www.alteregocreativesolutions.co.uk/coun tylines/)

The performance was hard-hitting, relevant and quite intense at times, highlighting the dangers of County Lines.



#### What is County Lines?

'County Lines' is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns and villages, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. These dealers will use dedicated mobile phone lines, known as 'deal lines', to take orders from drug users. Heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine are the most common drugs being supplied and ordered. In most instances, the users or customers will live in a different area to where the dealers and networks are based, so drug runners are needed to transport the drugs and collect payment. County Lines is extremely prevalent in this area and is something that we at BHA are trying to educate our students about.

#### The National Picture

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, Channel 4 broadcast a programme about County Lines. The programme highlighted the issue at a National and unfortunately, more local level. The programme is available until 14<sup>th</sup> December, but is not suitable for children. Follow the link for more information.

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/britains-child-drug-runners>

#### Other Useful Resources

- National Crime Agency: <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>
- Chicken Shop Grooming: A short video clip that highlights the simplicity of how children can be 'groomed' into County Lines. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W\\_m4e5qpzvw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_m4e5qpzvw)