

Throughout April and into May 2015 the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) has commissioned Applied Theatre specialists AlterEgo Creative Solutions to tour to schools and other suitable venues with their highly innovative production 'Chelsea's Choice'.

The play - which has now been seen by over 200,000 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 question and answer sessions have proven highly effective in raising awareness of:-

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

With high profile cases 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 has the full support of the government Departments of Education, Health, Justice, Social Development and Education and Learning.

SBNI is working with Parenting NI to provide a performance of the play for parents and carers within each Education and Library Board area. The performances for parents, professionals and people who work with children and young people are as follows:

- Tuesday 14th April - Craigavon Civic Centre, Craigavon, doors open from 6:30pm
- Tuesday 21st April – Belfast City Hall, doors open from 6:30pm
- Monday 27th April – Antrim Board Centre, Antrim, doors open from 6:30pm
- Thursday 30th April – Clooney Hall, Derry-Londonderry, doors open from 6:30pm
- Tuesday 5th May – Market House, Ballynahinch, doors open from 6:30pm

To book a place at one of the performances please contact Heather Canning from Parenting NI, forum@parentingni.org, 028 9031 0891.