



Date: 14 December 2017

Dear Colleague

Second Year of the CSE Schools Project and Gaining the Views of Children and Young People: Year 6 and Year 8.

Following on from a very successful CSE project with schools across Essex in 2016 we are relaunching this project and at schools' request are rolling this out during February 2018. This project is all about gaining the views of children and young people about CSE and in 2016 over 2,300 young people contributed their views through this project within schools across Essex. We are now seeking your co-operation and support to rerun this valuable project which will enable us to gain further information to help us understand how aware children are of child sexual exploitation and on line safety, and to support conversations with young people about this important subject.

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board is undertaking this research project with the support of Essex County Council, Involvement Team, Children & Families, who will be collating information received to provide a detailed report on what children say in Essex. All participating schools will receive directly a copy of this report.

How you can help and get involved.

Questionnaires have been designed for completion by Year 6 and Year 8 pupils, a supporting lesson plan will accompany the Year 6 questionnaire and teaching guidelines are provided for a Year 8 lesson. Schools are asked to contribute on a voluntary basis; letters to inform parents about the project are provided alongside this letter (NB, there is a parent letter for Year 6 pupils and a separate parent letter for Year 8 pupils), if distributing this letter to parents via a paper copy then please ensure it is put into a sealed envelope addressed to the parent/s before sending home with the child. The data collected from completed questionnaires will be used by Essex Safeguarding Children Board to support their oversight, identifying areas of improvement in multi-agency working in supporting children and young people, and evaluation.

Using the results ensures the thoughts, feelings, views and experiences of our children and young people are at the heart of our work with them.

What it is that your school can gain?

- Through completing the questionnaires within your school, you will receive a copy of the report formulated from the returned surveys. This allows schools to consider and evaluate if any action/intervention in school is supporting the current understanding of Essex children and young people and how this can be developed (such as when preparing school development plans and self-evaluation forms), and provides good evidence for Ofsted.
- ESCB will provide all participating educational establishments who undertake this activity with a U Matter certificate for display to thank you for your contribution and participation.

- Following on from the questionnaires, schools are also encouraged to utilise the ESCB Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 learning resources for CSE available on the [ESCB website](#). Individual schools creating 'school pledges' as part of these learning resources will be supported by the ESCB through uploading them on to a "I Didn't Know Campaign" poster which incorporates the "I Didn't Know" branding and copies will be supplied to the school to display.

What would you need to do?

So we can understand how many schools would be interested in participating, I would be grateful if you could register your interest by the **26th January 2018**, by emailing me; clare.livens@essex.gov.uk. NB you do not need to register to participate but it helps us prepare.

The questionnaires should be undertaken during February 2018. Participating schools must use the appropriate attached 'parent letters' to inform parents of the activity (remember there are different letters for Year 6 and Year 8), this letter allows parents the option to remove consent for their child to take part, should they wish. It remains your responsibility to ensure that the letter is distributed sensitively and consent is managed appropriately. Please ensure that arrangements are made to distribute this letter to parents by February or as soon as possible. Schools should survey all pupils in Year 6 and Year 8 classes. Both Year 6 and Year 8 questionnaires and Year 6 lesson plan will be available via on the ESCB website using the following link (NB: the relevant documents will be available on this link from 2nd January 2018): <http://www.escb.co.uk/en-gb/safeguardingtopics/childsexualexploitation/supportcampaign.aspx>

It will include printable PDF versions and a direct link to the on-line questionnaire should pupils prefer to take part directly on-line.

Questionnaires will take 15 minutes on average to complete (the Year 6 lesson plan and questionnaire will require 1 hour) dependant on the needs of the pupils. They must be completed within a lesson however and could be completed in more than one sitting if needed.

Any paper copies of the completed questionnaires must be returned to Clare Livens (address details below) no later than **2nd MARCH 2018**.

All returned questionnaires will be evaluated and the report distributed by the end of April 2018.

Yours sincerely

Clare Livens
Child Exploitation Project Manager
Essex Safeguarding Children Board

Please reply to **Clare Livens**
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