



Chief Inspector Gerry Parker
Essex Police Headquarters,
PO Box 2, Springfield,
Chelmsford,
Essex. CM2 6DN
Tel.101
16th January 2019

4 February 2019

Dear Mr Wakefield, Parents and Carers

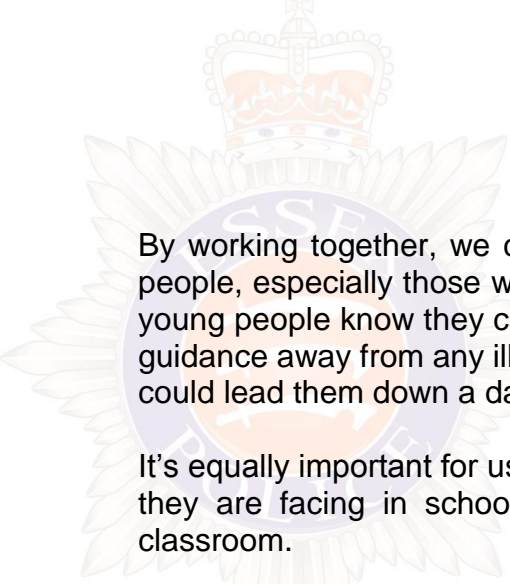
I write in my capacity as District Commander for Chelmsford and Maldon to express my thanks for your support in continuing to develop partnership working within your school and to agreeing to take part in 'Project Enlightenment'.

There has been widespread local and national media publicity in relation to the criminal exploitation of children and the harm posed to them by county lines, gangs and organised crime, and keeping our children safe is a high priority for all of us.

I believe action to tackle child criminal exploitation should be proactive, focussing on prevention, early identification and intervention, as well as on disrupting activity and prosecuting perpetrators.

The purpose of the project is to help us work even more closely with schools in our area to help children and young people who may be at risk of criminal exploitation, by identifying potential risk early and taking proportionate steps to reduce any harm to them.

Your willingness to work alongside us creates a unique opportunity where this can be delivered in a safe setting and I am proud to be able to work with representatives from your school and others across Chelmsford and Maldon. We will be supported in this project by the respective community safety partnerships for Chelmsford and Maldon who are already providing interventions to tackle violence and vulnerability in the form of education sessions for students and parents/carers. The commitment from the partnership is mirrored in our strategic priorities of reducing violent crime, tackling anti-social behaviour and supporting vulnerable persons.



By working together, we can explore the best ways to get our messages to young people, especially those we may not usually speak to. I feel it is vitally important that young people know they can come to us if they need help, to report crime, or to seek guidance away from any illegal activity their friends might be taking part in, and which could lead them down a dangerous path.

It's equally important for us to know what life is like for children in 2019 – what issues they are facing in school and how this could affect their behaviour outside the classroom.

Over the coming months, my officers will start to engage with your staff and children in a variety of ways, including attending school lunches, drop in sessions and chats with safeguarding staff. We will also be looking to improve how we provide information to schools and parents/carers whilst improving the flow of information between us to address any concerns and to safeguard children.

My position is that we all have an obligation to keeping children safe and I hope this project demonstrates my commitment to doing just that.

I thank you for your support and look forward to launching the project from 1 February 2019.

Yours faithfully

Gerry Parker (Essex Police)

Spencer Clarke (Public Protection Manager Community safety partnership)