

**Chelsea’s Story: Information for Schools**

**Target age**

The play is aimed at children and young people 12 years +. In order to utilise the production as a preventive educational resource we are hoping to target young people aged 12 to 15 years old.

It may also be appropriate to have a number of school prefects or young people who are part of your school buddy system to be present at your performances.

**Cast Size**

There will be four actors and occasionally the director or another AlterEgo employee who may accompany them. All company members will report to reception upon arrival and sign in. All will have photo ID on them if required. Home Office guidelines do not designate the performers as being ‘in regulated’ activity (as they are not left unattended with young people and are not working with them on a regular basis). So please be aware they are not AccessNI checked.

**Arrival time**

The cast will aim to arrive 1 hour prior to the performance time so that they can set up the equipment. Please ensure that the space is available and clear of people during the set-up period as the cast will need to set out wired and extension leads to make sure that it is all safe.

**Length of performance**

The performance is 40 minutes long and is followed by a 20 minute facilitated post show discussion with the actors on the issues raised.

**Space and equipment required**

The cast need a place to perform- ideally a space of 4 metres x 4 metres, 6 chairs, a small table and an electricity supply. Also bear in mind that the actors are not using microphones, so the room should be a suitable size to them to be heard at the back

**Layout**

The layout is End On. Please ensure that there are enough chairs in the room for the audience. The cast will rejig them into the appropriate format as the space made is slightly different from what an audience is used to as this helps to create a more effective theatrical experience.

**Introductions**

Once all of the audience are in it helps if somebody can settle them down and ensure that mobile phones are off, bags are under chairs etc. Can one person please let the actors know that they are good to start?

**Size of audience**

In order to reach as many young people as possible, whilst also ensuring that young people are able to effectively engage with the drama, it is recommended that the audience size is around 200-300. We are able to accommodate different audience sizes, however, so please contact us to discuss alternative options.

**Support and disclosures**

It is essential that appropriate staff are in the room should members of the audience need to talk to someone about the issues raised or to make a disclosure after the performance. You may wish to use your school counsellor provision or provide an alternative provision to provide support for the production at your school. You may also want to consider support for young people who are particularly vulnerable in the run up to this production.

Relevant services are also signposted during the production. The young people will be given a leaflet after the production which will provide them with advice and information of where to go if they have a concern.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Paul McNeill SBNI Business Support Manager, [paul.mcneill@hscni.net](mailto:paul.mcneill@hscni.net) and 028 9536 1796.