



## WORKING FOR MARCUS EVIDENCE REPORT

'Working for Marcus' is a theatre in education programme on prevention and awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation. The programme's key focus is on learning how to spot signs of abuse of power and control in relationships and where to go for support. The programme is a holistic education package of a performance and workshop that includes young people's sessions, training for staff, parents' sessions, and pre and post performance lesson plans. The programme enables young people to identify a range of strategies to maintain their own personal safety including on-line safety and is proven to have increased knowledge of and referrals to support services.

*"Clearly a well-researched and targeted production..... clear evidence that the programme works and is getting through."* Mark Sedwill, Permanent Secretary, Home Office

'Working for Marcus' was first developed in **1998** and has reached over **10,000** young people and professionals in hundreds of different venues across the UK including schools, colleges, PRUs, special schools and youth centres.

## CASE STUDY

- In one venue we worked with around **900** students over 3 days using the 'Working for Marcus' programme.
- As a result there were **12** disclosures from young people who had concerns or had experienced issues similar to those shown in the drama and workshops.
- **3** of these were referred to the local safeguarding team and all mentioned the 'Working for Marcus' drama and how the same issues were happening in their lives.
- Through interviews the young people identified the same names of perpetrators allowing the police to identify a new ring of perpetrators in the area.

*"Working for Marcus is a brilliantly well-scripted and outstandingly performed piece of theatre which creatively and courageously tackles the issues of grooming and child sexual exploitation in a powerful yet sensitive manner. It is without doubt an excellent vehicle through which to raise awareness of CSE with children, young people, parents/carers and professionals alike."* - **Safina Bi, Lead Practitioner for FCASE (Birmingham), Barnardo's**



As a result of the programme for young people

- **100%** would recommend for next year's students and thought that 'Working for Marcus' was useful to help them avoid exploitation. (Wigan, 2011)
- **94%** said that as a result of 'Working for Marcus' they felt 'confident' or 'very confident' in spotting signs of sexual exploitation / grooming. (Birmingham, 2014)
- **94%** said they could name 3 places to go for help and support with the top responses being ChildLine, Barnardo's and the Police. (Telford, 2014)
- **90%** of teachers rated the programme as excellent. (Walsall, 1998)
- **85%** of students said that the session had made them feel differently about CSE. (Walsall, 1998)
- **42%** said they would now make changes to their life as a result of the performance (Telford, 2014)

## TRAINING

Working for Marcus is also used as a training programme for professionals. This is usually delivered as a 2 hour awareness raising session for professionals including Health Visitors, Police, Teachers, Social Workers and GPs.

*"We use 'Working for Marcus' to support and further develop an awareness raising training course aimed at professionals and it has been consistently well-praised by participants with many citing how engaging the performance is and how it had brought the morning's training "to life" for them. The impact and significance of the performance is most obvious in the workshops which are skilfully facilitated by the actors after the performance allowing participants to further explore and develop their knowledge, ask questions and de-brief in a safe environment." - **Safina Bi, Lead Practitioner for FCASE (Birmingham), Barnardo's***

## CASE STUDY

GPs in Birmingham used 'Working for Marcus' as part of their CSE training and this helped doctors to be more aware of the techniques and control that some perpetrators may use to monitor victims via mobile phones when they visit clinics to ensure that they do not report the abuse. As a result of this training GPs have changed their practice asking all patients to turn off mobile phones when they come in and have seen an increase in CSE referrals as a result.