

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) TRAINING FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

3rd September 2015

Report of Licensing Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval from members for the licensing manager in conjunction with other partners to look at developing a suitable training package in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) with a view to delivering the training to hackney carriage and private hire drivers at some time in the future.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to authorise the licensing manager in conjunction with the safeguarding officer and the Lancashire officers Group to develop a suitable CSE training package which can be delivered to hackney carriage and private hire drivers and to report back to this committee at a later date to seek approval of implementation of the training.

1.0 Report

- 1.1 The importance of the role of licensing in safeguarding vulnerable children and adults has been highlighted by recent events in Rotherham, Rochdale and Oxford. Many councils around England and Wales are now reviewing their policies and taking them back to first principles, so they can make best use of the powers they have to protect the public
- 1.2 An example of this work is the compulsory safeguarding training that is being delivered in many authorities for the drivers of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles.
- 1.3 CSE has a devastating impact on children, young people and their families. It should be a concern for everyone. CSE is largely a hidden crime, and raising awareness of this type of abuse is essential to preventing it and stopping it early when it does happen.

- 1.4 Councils play a crucial, statutory role in safeguarding children, including tackling child sexual exploitation. However, they cannot do it alone. It needs cooperation of the wider community and our partner agencies.
- 1.5 Taxi drivers can be the eyes and ears of the local community. They often carry vulnerable people in their vehicles and it is paramount that they are able to identify any signs of child exploitation and more importantly are aware of how to report their suspicions
- 1.6 For example a taxi driver may be sent to pick up a young girl or girls from a care home and asked to deliver them to a particular hotel. This may happen on a regular basis and may give rise to suspicion. Taxi drivers could notice that underage girls are under the influence of alcohol or drugs and are accompanied by older men. Taxi drivers may already in the past have had concerns about young vulnerable people but may not have known how to deal with the situation.
- 1.7 The statutory responsibilities of local agencies, including councils are set out in the 2009 supplementary guidance on CSE. The 2011 National Action Plan further clarifies these, and also brings together a range of commitments from national and local partners. Statutory requirements from these documents include;
- Mechanisms should be in place to collect prevalence and monitor cases of CSE
 - Training should include warning signs of CSE, how to report concerns, how to safeguard and how to prevent
- 1.8 Members are now asked to authorise the licensing manager in conjunction with other partners to develop a suitable training package for hackney carriage and private hire drivers which will enable the drivers to identify possible cases of CSE and to be aware of how and who to report any suspicions to.

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 Members are asked to authorise the licensing manager to develop a suitable training package in relation to CSE and to report back to this committee at a later date for authorisation to introduce the training.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

Council play a crucial, statutory role in safeguarding children. The introduction of Child Sexual Exploitation training for all hackney carriage and private hire drivers will help to ensure that the Council is complying with that statutory duty.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report at this time. If members authorise officers to look at developing a suitable training package the costs and how it is to be funded will need to be reported back to members at a later date.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Contact Officer: Wendy Peck

Telephone: 01524 582317

E-mail: wpeck@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: WP