

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Training for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers 26th November 2015

Report of Licensing Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval from members for the proposals set out in the report in relation to the delivery of CSE training to all members of the hackney carriage and private hire trade.

To approve an amendment to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing to include a condition making it a requirement for all holders of hackney carriage and private hire licences (drivers, operators and proprietors) to undergo the CSE training before a licence can be renewed.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **Members are requested to approve the proposals set out in the report in relation to the delivery of CSE training to all hackney carriage and private hire licence holders (drivers, operators and proprietors).**
- (2) **Members are requested to approve the following addition to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney carriage and Private Hire Licensing:**

All licence holders, including drivers, proprietors and operators, must undergo CSE training before the first renewal of their licence after the end of January 2016.

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 Hackney Carriages and Private Hire licence holders.
- 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 Members may recall that at a meeting of this committee held on 3rd September they resolved 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. A copy of the report considered is attached at appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.5 As a result of that resolution officers have been working closely with neighbouring authorities and police officers from the Lancashire Constabulary Public Protection Unit, and a package has now been developed. This will be in the form of a presentation followed by questions which are aimed at encouraging discussion and thought rather than being a pass/fail situation.
- 1.6 It is proposed that all existing licence holders, including operators, proprietors and drivers will be invited to attend one of 5 free training sessions which will be held on one day in January with the support of DCI Tony Baxter of the Lancashire Constabulary Public Protection Unit. Members of the Committee will also be invited to attend. It is further proposed that 2 more free training days are offered, one in February and one in March. Both days will offer 5 sessions for members of the trade to book on to. In total that will be 15 free training sessions that will be offered. The training sessions in February and March will be carried out by licensing officers who have completed training on delivering the sessions.
- 1.7 After the free training sessions have been delivered it is proposed that a cost should be associated with any further training sessions for those who have not taken advantage of the offer of free training. This should encourage a greater uptake of the free training than could ordinarily be the case. The cost will need to be calculated and will be included in the fees report due to be submitted in the New Year.
- 1.8 This offer is more generous than some other neighbouring authorities for example Blackpool, who only intend to deliver one five session day of free training and then charge after that.
- 1.9 It is proposed that new drivers will be given a booklet which is being produced by Lancashire County Council, as part of the application pack and CSE will form part of the knowledge test which is already carried out. This will not require a change of condition.

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve the proposals as set out in the report.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

Councils play a crucial, statutory role in safeguarding children. The introduction of Child Sexual Exploitation training for all hackney carriage and private hire licence holders 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. The initial training will be delivered free of charge by officers. A further report will be submitted in relation to any costs to those who have not taken up the offer of free training.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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