



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
City Wide

Licensing Committee

25 August 2015

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Briefing for Taxi Drivers

Report of the Director for Local Services and Enforcement

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Licensing Committee's views on a proposal to introduce mandatory Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) awareness briefings for taxi drivers.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Licensing Committee is asked to give its views on the introduction of mandatory CSE awareness briefings for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle drivers. These will be reported to the Assistant Mayor with responsibility for taxi licensing, who will decide on the policy to be adopted.

3 Briefing Proposal

- 3.1 Following national concerns, the City Council is considering how it can take action to prevent CSE in Leicester. It is proposed that all licensed taxi drivers should be required to undertake a half day training course. This would focus on preventing CSE, but would also include information on other areas, such as disabled access to taxis and other licensing requirements.
- 3.2 There are approximately 1900 licensed drivers. The City Council's Passenger Transport Services has already briefed 240 drivers who work on the school transport contract. It is proposed that the remainder would be trained within 12 months. Drivers would be required to undertake the training within 3 months of the renewal of their licence. Training courses would run monthly, to give a choice of dates. If a driver does not undertake the training, then their licence would be suspended unless they could offer a reasonable explanation of why they had not taken up the training and had made arrangements to attend the course in the near future.
- 3.3 New drivers would also be required to undertake the training within 3 months of being granted their licence. Again, their licence would be suspended if they did not attend the training. There have been 160 new drivers licensed within the last 12 months.
- 3.4 The training course provided by Passenger Transport Services was developed and run by the Council's City Learning Team and delivered by an external training provider. City Learning have confirmed that they would help run and deliver the course for all taxi drivers.

4 Costs

- 4.1 It is proposed to pay for the training from taxi licensing income, and to add £20 to the application fee for new driver licences to cover the cost of this training.
- 4.2 It is likely that a number of drivers would book and fail to attend, or want to change dates at short notice. This would be likely to increase costs and it would therefore be necessary to levy a charge in these circumstances.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 All hackney carriage, private hire vehicle, drivers and operator licence holders have been consulted on the proposals. This consultation ended on the 16th August which is after the production of this report. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to the Assistant Mayor, when he decides on the policy.

6 FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

- 6.1.1 The on-going costs of training new drivers should be met from the additional application fee and hence not result in increased net costs to the City Council. The one-off costs of training existing drivers will need to be met from the Licensing account overall.

Colin Sharpe – Head of Finance, ext. 37 4081

6.2 Legal Implications

- 6.2.1 In **England and Wales**, outside London, taxis are licensed by district councils under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 or that Act as amended by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Katherine Jamieson – Solicitor, For City Barrister and Head of Standards

7 Report Author

Mike Broster - Head of Regulatory Services

Tel 454 3041

mike.broster@leicester.gov.uk