

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

11 NOVEMBER 2021

SAFEGUARDING ISSUES AND TAXI DRIVERS

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide an update for Members on the steps taken to increase safeguarding controls for taxi drivers within Newark & Sherwood.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Back in June 2015 a report was presented to General Purposes Committee setting out the implication for taxi licensing arising from the Jay report into Child Exploitation in Rotherham. The report proposed a number of changes to enhance the current application procedure to ensure that robust safeguarding measures were in place.

2.2 These included:

- Reviewing the current knowledge test so that it includes safeguarding questions within it. As a result, a driver will be required to know what to do if they have safeguarding concerns before they are granted a licence. (A recommendation from the Jay Report).
- Creating a booklet/information sheet that provides drivers with the contact details and process that they need to follow if they have safeguarding concerns.
- To deliver safeguarding training to taxi drivers across the county and the Council can make its attendance mandatory and part of the licence conditions.

3.0 Current Situation

3.1 The knowledge test taken by drivers has been reviewed and updated. However, safeguarding matters have not been included during this review process. This is because the mandatory training introduced for drivers has now addressed this (see below for further details).

3.2 Details of where and how the drivers can report concerns is now included in the standard paperwork issued with every new and renewed licence. This is also covered in the training.

3.3 The conditions attached to all licences issued required drivers to undertake a safeguarding training session with 12 months of the issue of the licence. This has been in place since 2016.

3.4 Taxi driver licences are issued for a period of three years. All drivers renewing their licence are also required to undertake safeguarding training

3.4 The training consists of a 1.5 hours presentation followed by a multiple choice exam at the end so that the drivers can show that they have understood the principles of safeguarding. This forms part of the licensing authority assessment that the driver is a 'fit and proper' person.

- 3.5 The safeguarding sessions are delivered by licensing staff with a maximum of 30 delegates on each. The sessions are generally interactive and give rise to many questions and points of debate raised by the drivers.
- 3.6 The pandemic has had a serious impact on the ability to deliver the training and there is now a backlog of drivers requiring training. As Castle House opens to the public, dates for training sessions have now been set and reminder letters are being issued to the drivers that have not as yet undertaken their training.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the update to safeguarding measures for taxi drivers.

Background Papers

For further information please contact Alan Batty on Ext 5467

Matthew Finch
Director – Communities & Environment