

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

6 SEPTEMBER 2018

AMENDMENT TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 For Members to consider an amendment to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy relating to the requirement to undertake safeguarding training.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 In June 2015 the General Purposes Committee considered a report on the issue of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and the links to taxi drivers. Members agreed to amend the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy to require all drivers to undertake safeguarding awareness training within 12 months of obtaining their licence.

2.2 The training has been well received by the majority of the drivers and has proved a very successful initiative.

2.3 The default period for the duration of a licence is three years (although lesser periods have been granted in exceptional circumstances) which means that a driver can be a third of the way through their licence period before undertaking their training and in the cases where shorter licences are issued the problem is exacerbated.

2.4 Discussions with other authorities in Nottinghamshire has indicated that most authorities require the completion of the training before a licence is issued. This is not an onerous requirement as the courses are standard across the county and if training sessions is not available within Newark & Sherwood a driver can attend at another local authority.

2.5 As Members are aware drivers are required to meet a number of other requirements prior to a licence being issued and it is unlikely that the requirement to attend the training before getting a licence will add any significant time period to the administration or issue of a the licence.

2.6 Set out below is the relevant extract for the Council's Policy.

Every new applicant will undergo Safeguarding Vulnerable Passengers training within 12 months of the initial licence being granted. The training involves attending a training session at a location approved by the Council and the applicant will also complete and pass the test at the end of the session. Current licence holders will also undertake the training within twelve months of the renewal dates of their licence. Failure to pass the test will result in the applicant or current licence holder re-taking the training session and exam at their own cost. Should the applicant or current licence holder fail the test for a third time, in the case of a new applicant the application will be refused, in the case of a current driver the application to renew will be refused or when mid-term of a licence may be revoked

3.0 Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that the Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Policy in relation to safeguarding be amended to require the relevant training to be undertaken prior to any licence being issued.

3.2 The suggested amended policy is proposed as:

Every new applicant will undergo Safeguarding Vulnerable Passengers training before a licence is issued. The training involves attending a training session at a location approved by the Council and the applicant will also complete and pass the test at the end of the session. Failure to pass the test will result in the applicant re-taking the training session and exam at their own cost. Should the applicant fail the test for a third time the application will be refused.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to consider the details relating to the proposed amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and approve the following:

- (a) authorise that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licence Conditions be amended to include the requirement for applicants to attend a safeguarding course prior to their licence being granted; and
- (b) the paragraph set out in 3.2 above is added to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy.

For further information please contact Alan Batty on 01636 655467

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