

SAFEGUARDING ISSUES AND TAXI DRIVERS

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For members to consider a revised approach to ensuring the safeguarding training provided to taxi drivers with particular reference to refresher training.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 In June 2015 a report was presented to the 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 In March 2016 a report was presented to the General Purposes Committee providing an update on the steps that had been taken.

3.0 Actions to Date

- 3.1 All drivers have attended a safeguarding training session within one year of the condition being introduced or within one year of their licence being issued. Failure to do so has resulted in licences being suspended.
- 3.2 Details of where and how the drivers can report concerns has been given out to all drivers who have attended the training course.
- 3.3 There is a countywide approach to the training (with the exception of Gedling) to deliver the same training package to all taxi drivers. 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 principle of safeguarding.
- 3.5 This approach gives new drivers the flexibility to attend other Nottinghamshire authorities and their drivers to attend at Newark.
- 3.6 Drivers are given the opportunity to attend the training and sit the exam on three occasions. If they cannot pass the exam at this point they will not be considered a 'fit and proper' person to hold a licence.
- 3.7 The training document has been updated with information, videos and local examples. This has been beneficial and it shows drivers that this is happening in our area. An example of a video featuring Newark is available for Members to view.

4.0 Proposals

- 4.1 The majority of the licensed drivers attended their safeguarding training course in 2016/2017.

- 4.2 In order to keep our drivers informed of changes in safeguarding, the latest best practice and where to report concerns it is proposed that we put together a refresher safeguarding training course for drivers to attend every three years.
- 4.3 Where the period since the driver last attended the safeguarding training is greater than the recommended 3 years. These drivers will be treated as a priority and will be invited to attend on the first wave of refresher safeguarding courses.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- (a) The Hackney Carriage/Private Hire and Ambulance Driver Licence conditions, be amended to include the requirement for all drivers to attend a renewal safeguarding training course every three years.
- (b) that a driver's licence will not be renewed if they fail to attend the relevant course within three year period since their last attendance.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Nicola Kellas on Ext 5894

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