

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
3 SEPTEMBER 2020

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.
- 4.4 The way will need to be delivered in the current covid19 climate will need some consideration. It may not be appropriate to simply move this to a simple on line format as the interaction and sharing of experiences is a key part of the sessions.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (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; and**
- (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

Matthew Finch
Director –Communities & Environment