

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 12 th October 2017
Report Subject	Mandatory safeguarding awareness training for all licensed Private Hire / Hackney Carriage (Joint) Drivers and Operators.
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning & Environment)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For Members to consider the introduction of mandatory safeguarding awareness training for all Flintshire licensed Private Hire / Hackney Carriage (Joint) Drivers and Operators.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Committee support the introduction of mandatory safeguarding awareness training for all of Flintshire's licensed Private Hire / Hackney Carriage (Joint) Drivers and Private Hire Operators.
2	That the Committee support the amending of the Private Hire Driver and Operator conditions to include the following condition: The driver / Operator must complete a Safeguarding Awareness training course when required to attend by the Licensing Section.
3	That Members support the proposal that Private Hire / Hackney Carriage (Joint) Drivers, and Private Hire Operators who fail to attend the mandatory safeguarding training will be reported to the Licensing Sub Committee.
4	That a consultation with Private Hire / Hackney Carriage (Joint) Drivers and Private Hire Operators is undertaken, following which, the matter will be reported to Members for final consideration.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REASONS FOR INTRODUCING MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING
1.01	The primary role of the Licensing Section and Licensing Committee Members is the protection, safety and wellbeing of the public.
1.02	A number of high profile safeguarding issues around the country have been publicised – particularly in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE).
1.03	The independent inquiry into CSE in Rotherham (1997-2013) led by Alexis Jay OBE highlighted significant concerns regarding safeguarding controls for Private Hire and Taxi licensing in Rotherham. It was found that taxi and private hire vehicles had been used extensively by those involved in the sexual exploitation of children to move children around the city and to other cities.
1.04	The safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk is everyone's business. Licensed trades are often the critical eyes and ears of the community and often come in to contact with people who may be vulnerable.
1.05	The Private Hire (and Hackney Carriage) trade in Flintshire are responsible for transporting many people on a daily basis. Some of these journeys will involve transporting children and vulnerable persons. Occasionally this will be as part of a contract with this Authority.
1.06	The Licensing Section wishes to strengthen safeguarding practice and raise awareness and standards by providing the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage trade with the information and skills to know their responsibilities and what course of action to take if they have concerns about the safety or welfare of an individual.
1.07	Many Local Authorities have been reviewing their Private Hire and Hackney Carriage procedures and policies to ensure they can make the best use of the powers they have to protect the public. Many of our neighbouring authorities have already introduced mandatory safeguarding training.
1.08	It is felt that this proposal will increase and raise awareness of safeguarding children and vulnerable people across the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage trade, and will provide drivers and operators with the means to report any suspect behaviour.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	North Wales Police will provide the training, therefore resource implications will be minimal. Rooms, invitations and refreshments would need to be paid for by the Council.
2.02	Drivers and Operators have a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court

	following changes to their licence conditions, which may involve a cost to the Authority.
--	---

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
-------------	---

3.01	It is proposed to consult with Drivers and Operators if support to this scheme is given by the Committee.
------	---

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
-------------	------------------------

4.01	The nature of the role of a Private Hire / Hackney Carriage Driver means the licence holder is likely to be in contact with children and vulnerable adults on a regular basis.
------	--

5.00	APPENDICES
-------------	-------------------

5.01	None
------	------

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
-------------	--

6.01	<p>Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham</p> <p>http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1407/independent_inquiry_cs_e_in_rotherham</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Potter – Community Protection Team Leader Telephone: 01352 703371 E-mail: gemma.potter@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
------	--

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
-------------	--------------------------

7.01	<p>Private Hire – a type of licensed vehicle which can only be booked through a licensed Operator’s office.</p> <p>Hackney Carriage – Black Cab style taxi or purpose built vehicles which have distinguishable features and can be hailed from the street.</p> <p>Joint Driver – a dual licence to drive both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles</p> <p>Private Hire Operator – the person who holds a licence to allow bookings for Private Hire Vehicles to be taken</p>
------	---