

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 10 th October 2019
Report Subject	Safeguarding Training for Private Hire / Hackney Carriage Drivers
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise Members of the Safeguarding Training for Private Hire Operators, and Private Hire / Hackney Carriage Drivers, following approval by the Licensing Committee on October 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	For Members to note the content of the report.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR TRAINING																					
1.01	A report was presented to Licensing Committee in October 2017 asking Members to consider the introduction of mandatory Safeguarding Awareness training for all Flintshire licensed Private Hire / Hackney Carriage Drivers and Private Hire Operators.																					
1.02	The Committee agreed to support the amending of the Private Hire / Hackney Carriage (Joint) Driver, and Private Hire 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'																					
1.03	Members also supported the proposal that Private Hire / Hackney Carriage (Joint) Drivers who fail to attend the mandatory training will be reported to Licensing Committee.																					
1.04	Flintshire County Council Licensing Section have organised for six sessions run by the NSPCC to take place throughout the month of October. The session schedule is shown below: <table border="1" data-bbox="320 1055 1386 1491"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> <th>Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10 October 2019</td> <td>12:00 – 14:00</td> <td>Council Chamber, County Hall.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 October</td> <td>10:00 – 12:00</td> <td>Council Chamber, County Hall.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>13:30 – 15:30</td> <td>Council Chamber, County Hall.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23 October 2019</td> <td>10:30 – 12:30</td> <td>Clwyd Room, Theatre Clwyd.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>14:30 – 16:30</td> <td>Clwyd Room, Theatre Clwyd.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>19:00 – 21:00</td> <td>Clwyd Room, Theatre Clwyd.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Time	Location	10 October 2019	12:00 – 14:00	Council Chamber, County Hall.	17 October	10:00 – 12:00	Council Chamber, County Hall.		13:30 – 15:30	Council Chamber, County Hall.	23 October 2019	10:30 – 12:30	Clwyd Room, Theatre Clwyd.		14:30 – 16:30	Clwyd Room, Theatre Clwyd.		19:00 – 21:00	Clwyd Room, Theatre Clwyd.
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1.05	To date, 373 drivers and operators have booked themselves onto the training, and most have been in support of this.																					
1.06	The training session has now been delivered by NSPCC to members of the licensing team in preparation for the sessions to begin.																					
1.07	The Licensing Section will also be supporting the white ribbon campaign, to raise awareness of domestic violence, and will be ensuring every driver and operator is given a white ribbon sticker for their vehicle.																					
1.08	The scheme is supported by the Council's Safeguarding Board, and also has the support of North Wales Police.																					

1.09	The consultation process for changing the licensing condition has begun. Information was included in all of the safeguarding training letters which went out to all drivers. Further detailed information will be sent out to Private Hire Operators in the coming weeks. Once the condition has been changed, there will be an obligation for every licensed driver to have completed the training.
1.10	For those drivers who do not take advantage of the free sessions, attendance on a safeguarding training course will be chargeable in future. Any refusal will result in the licence holder being brought before a Licensing Sub Committee to ascertain whether they remain fit and proper to remain a licensed driver or operator.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The six sessions have been funded by Flintshire County Council, to ensure that all current licence holders have had the opportunity to attend a session. Future courses will be chargeable.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultation has been initiated with all licensed drivers
3.02	Further consultation to be carried out with Private Hire Operators before changing the conditions is actioned.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The nature of the role of a Private Hire / Hackney Carriage Driver means they may find themselves on a one to one basis in a vehicle with children or vulnerable adults at any time of the day or night.
4.02	A Private Hire Operator is responsible for taking any bookings for a Private Hire Driver.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Gemma Potter – Team Leader Telephone: 01352 703371 E-mail: gemma.potter@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>Private Hire – a type of licensed vehicle which can only be booked through a licensed operator.</p> <p>Hackney Carriage – black cab style taxi or purpose built vehicle, which has 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 holder of the licence to allow bookings for Private Hire vehicles to be taken.</p> <p>NSPCC – National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children</p> <p>White Ribbon Campaign – initially began as the symbol of anti-violence against women.</p>