

7 July 2016		ITEM: 6
Licensing Committee		
CSE Awareness Training for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Paul Adams – Principal Licensing Officer		
Accountable Head of Service: Lucy Magill – Head of Residents Services		
Accountable Director Steve Cox - Corporate Director of Environment and Place		
This report is: Public		

Executive Summary

This report seeks to make attendance of Thurrock Council’s Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training, a pre application requirement, which will require all licensed drivers to have undertaken the training before they renew their licence or before any new drivers are granted with a licence.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Licensing Committee agrees recommend to Council the inclusion of the completion of Thurrock Councils CSE Awareness training as part of its pre application requirements.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is growing concern nationally, with a number of high-profile cases being highlighted in the national press over recent years, such as Rotherham.

2.2 It has been identified during the investigations and enquiries into cases of CSE, such as the Jay Enquiry that “The prominent role of taxi drivers in CSE as a ‘common thread’ across England and noted that their involvement was evident from an early stage in Rotherham.”

2.3 These findings are not identifying taxi drivers as the perpetrators of CSE, but highlights the victims of CSE are often moved about in Taxis, often unknowingly buy the taxi driver, and they often unknowingly hold important information to help prevent and detect CSE.

- 2.4 As part of an initiative from Thurrock's MASE (Multi agency sexual exploitation) group, a CSE Awareness training course has been produced which is specifically aimed at Hackney Carriage/Private Hire drivers.
- 2.5 The training provides taxi drivers with:
- A definition and understanding of what CSE is,
 - How to identify the signs of CSE,
 - How taxis could be used in cases of CSE,
 - How to report any concerns that drivers may have,
 - How to safeguard themselves from safeguarding complaints and allegations when transporting children or other vulnerable persons.
- 2.6 The training is being provided free of charge to the drivers, and is being delivered from August 2016 by Thurrock Council's CSE coordinator, and a CSE specialist from Essex Police.
- 2.7 Attendance to the course at the moment is voluntary, and we are having a very large and positive take up by the local drivers.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Thurrock Council currently requires that all applicants for a Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire Drivers licence have to meet the following criteria or submit the following documentation:
- A fully completed application form.
 - An application for an enhanced DBS check via our online service, or when requested by completing the DBS form.
 - If a person has ever lived outside the UK for a period of more than 4 continuous weeks, they will also need to supply a 'Certificate of Good Conduct' from the relevant embassy.
 - A completed the DVLA DP20 Data Protection Mandate. This mandate enables us to check their DVLA licence online for a period of three years.
 - A DVLA/EU Driving Licence
 - A Valid Passport or birth certificate
 - Proof of address from the last 3 months (e.g. utility bill, bank statement)
 - Proof of National Insurance number
 - Passport style photograph
 - Fee
 - Applicants shall be 21 years old or over at the time of submitting their application.

- Applicants shall have been in possession of a full valid UK/EU driving licence continuously for a minimum of 3 years.
- DVLA Group 2 Medical Standards examination report. This should be completed by a GP, preferably your own.
- PATS certificate - All new applicants are required to undergo PATS (Passenger Assistant Training Scheme).
- Have passed the relevant Knowledge test.

3.2 It is proposed that the following additional requirement is added to this list:

- To undertake the Thurrock Council Child Sexual Exploitation awareness training for taxi drivers.

3.3 This will be applied to all new applicants, and any driver seeking to renew their licence.

3.4 An e-learning course that follows the content of the delivered training package is being developed to allow new applicants to receive the appropriate training. This course will be sat at the same time as the knowledge test, and will ensure that the training can be delivered after the initial courses have run.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 Following the consultation there were no comments received, Policy cannot be adopted by the Licensing Committee, and adoption is a Full Council Function.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

4.1 Informal consultation has been undertaken with representatives of local Private Hire Operators, who have reviewed the course content and are supportive of its delivery to all drivers.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 Making this training mandatory for all drivers will contribute to the prevention of CSE affecting the local community; this is part of a much larger CSE prevention plan for Thurrock.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Finance Officer

All additional costs will be recoverable by the license fee.

7.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: **Chris Pickering**
Principal Solicitor - Litigation & Employment

This revised policy will have to be referred to Full Council for adoption.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**
Community Development and Equalities Manager

The introduction of CSE training as a pre application requirement helps to protect vulnerable children and young people.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. **Appendices to the report**

- None

Report Author:

Paul Adams

Principal Licensing Officer