

4 October 2017		ITEM: 7
Licensing Committee		
CSE Awareness Training for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers - Update		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Paul Adams, Principal Licensing Officer		
Accountable Assistant Director: Andy Millard, Assistant Director of Planning & Transportation		
Accountable Director: Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment & Place		
This report is: Public		

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the progress of delivery for Thurrock Council's Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, which was implemented as a pre application requirement in July 2016.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 To note the contents of the report.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has been a 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.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Thurrock Council currently has licensed 335 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers.
- 3.2 Following the most recent course in August 2017 there was only 13 drivers that remain untrained. There is one more course available this year in December. It is anticipated that following this course all existing drivers will have attended this training.
- 3.3 An e-learning course that follows the content of the classroom delivered training package has been developed to allow new applicants to receive the appropriate training before starting driving. This course will be sat at the same time as the knowledge test.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The report is for information only.

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

- 5.1 None

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

6.1 Making this training mandatory for all drivers has 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

There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Adam Rulewski**
Litigation Lawyer

All the legal matters are addressed in this report.

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