

1. **REPORT TITLE** **Results of Consultation - CSE and Safeguarding Awareness Sessions**
Submitted by: **(Democratic Services Manager)**
Portfolio: **(Safer Communities)**
Ward(s) affected: **(All)**

Purpose of the Report

To inform the Committee of the feedback received regarding consultation on compulsory safeguarding and child sexual exploitation awareness sessions for all private hire and hackney carriage drivers

Recommendations

That the results and feedback from the consultation be noted.

1. **Background**

At the meeting held on 22nd September 2015 it was resolved that:

- a) That a consultation letter be sent to all drivers regarding the introduction of compulsory awareness training for safeguarding and CSE.
- b) That there be a 4 week consultation period.
- c) That a report be brought back to this Committee on 3rd November regarding the outcome of the consultation.

The consultation period has now ended and a copy of the letter sent out is attached to this report.

2. **Issues**

Although no written responses have been received to the consultation we have received a large number of phone calls from drivers.

All except one phone call have been very positive in regard to the awareness sessions with the majority of drivers stating that they would appreciate the training and would have no concerns in attending.

At the moment the content of the training is still being finalised and we hope to be able to bring a report back to the next meeting of this Committee with confirmed dates for the sessions.

The report to the next meeting will also confirm timescales for completion of the training and recommend the following for inclusion in the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy:

- 1. That all new applicants for a private hire or hackney carriage drivers' licence be required to complete a safeguarding/child sexual exploitation course prior to their licence being granted.

2. That all existing drivers be required to have completed the training by the end of December 2016 or upon renewal of their licence whichever is sooner.
3. That should an applicant fail to attend a training session, without providing 24 hours' notice then a fee of £35 will be incurred.
4. That any driver not attending a training session prior to 31st December 2016, without a good reason, may have their licence revoked.
5. That a refresher training session be attended prior to any subsequent licence renewal.

3. **Proposal**

That the results of the consultation be noted and that Member agree with the proposals for the next meeting.

4. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- *creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough*

5. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

As this will ultimately be a matter of Policy implementation it must be considered and agreed by the Public Protection Committee prior to implementation.

6. **Financial and Resource Implications**

The funding for the training will be met by using existing resources from the Business Improvement, Central Services and Partnerships budgets

7. **Major Risks**

The risks associated with not having a robust safeguarding/cse policy have been highlighted In the findings of the Rotherham report which found evidence of sexual exploitation of at least 1,400 children between 1997 and 2014 and that there had been a collective failure by the council and the police to disrupt abuse, assist victims and prevent further incidents.

8. **Background Papers**

Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham (1997 to 2014)