

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIROMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 3		
DATE:	7 MARCH 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	5
TITLE:	SAFEGUARDING/CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AWARENESS TRAINING		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR GITTINGS	PORTFOLIO:	CULTURE, SPORT AND CONSUMER SERVICES
SERVICE:	PLANNING DEVELOPMENT & REGULATORY SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	CLYDE MASSON	TEL:	0118 937 2453
JOB TITLE:	PRINCIPAL LICENSING & ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	E-MAIL:	clyde.masson@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider and approve compulsory Safeguarding/Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) training for hackney carriage, private hire & private hire (school transport) drivers on the grant and renewal of driver licences as part of the application process.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 The Sub Committee is asked to approve the proposed training requirement to form part of the application process on the grant and renewal of driver licences as set out in the report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The current delegations register provides authority to the Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory services to grant, renew and refuse hackney carriage and private hire (including school transport) vehicle driver licences provided all criteria set out in the application process is successfully completed.

- 3.2 Conditions may be attached to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire (including School Transport) vehicle driver licences by way of Byelaws under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 for HCV drivers and delegated powers for Private Hire vehicle drivers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Current Position

- 4.2 For applications to be deemed valid the applicant is required to submit the following documentation along with their application form and fee;

1. Data Barring Service check (DBS) (lasts 3 years)
2. Medical Certificate
3. Driving Vehicle Standards practical test (only required to be passed once)
4. Reading Borough Council two part theory test (only required to be passed once, unless left the trade for more than 3yrs)

- 4.3 The current Reading Borough Council 2 part theory test requires applicants to answer questions on Licence Conditions, Highway Code, Transportation of Disabled Passengers and safeguarding/CSE.

- 4.4 Information about safeguarding/CSE is on the Council website and forms part of guidance for applicants when applying for a driver licence.

5. THE PROPOSAL

- 5.1 In the continuing review of safeguarding/CSE information sharing and training for drivers it has been recognised by officers that existing drivers (of which there are 800) have not received or received only limited training on safeguarding/CSE. Officers have been working on an awareness training package to address this matter.

- 5.2 Firstly officers propose in conjunction with the Councils Safeguarding team, a limited number of free training sessions for drivers throughout 2017. The training sessions will be approximately an hour and a half and cover how to safeguard themselves and passengers, report suspected CSE, provide scenarios which drivers may find themselves in or recognise through the course of their work which should alert them to possible CSE.

- 5.3 As driver licences are issued for 3 years, officers are proposing that all drivers are offered the opportunity to attend one of these free sessions and as long as they complete the training they will not be required to take any further safeguarding/CSE training until the renewal of their HCV or PHV (including School Transport) driver licence. (Driver licences that expire after these training sessions cease which are within 2017 will not be required to undertake any additional training until the next renewal of their licence).

- 5.4 Any drivers that do not attend one of the free training sessions and their licence is renewable in 2017 will not be able to renew their licence until have taken and passed this safeguarding/CSE training as set out in part 2 (5.5) below.
- 5.5 Secondly in conjunction with other Berkshire local authorities officers are proposing to provide a joint safeguarding/CSE training strategy. Reading, Bracknell Forrest, Wokingham and West Berkshire Councils have been developing an awareness training package for drivers which will be linked to the renewal of HCV and PHV (including School Transport) driver licences.
- 5.5 These training sessions may conclude with a short exam to affirm the driver's knowledge in respect safeguarding/CSE. The training has been developed to take approximately an hour and a half attracting a cost neutral fee for local authorities of approximately £20 per driver.
- 5.6 The awareness training/qualification once passed will be accepted by all participating local authorities in the scheme, and drivers from any of these authorities will be permitted to undertake the training and exam in any of the participating authorities.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 This matter has been raised with the trade bodies, trade members and their Representatives.
- 6.2 Officers received no adverse comments accept for any fee to be reasonable

7. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 7.1 The implementation of this awareness training:
- To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Section 51 (2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits a district council to attach to the grant of a licence such conditions as they may consider reasonable.
- 8.2 Section 52 (2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states 'Any person aggrieved by- any conditions attached to the grant of a drivers licence; may appeal to a magistrates' court

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Initial training sessions will be met through fees collected in respect of drivers applications.
- 8.2 Training provided on renewal of driver licences as of 1 January 2018 will be met by applicants as part of the application process with no recourse to the council.