

LICENSING COMMITTEE
08 JUNE 2016

SAFEGUARDING AND PREVENT TRAINING FOR HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

1. Summary

1.1 To advise Members of the introduction of Safeguarding and Counter Terrorism (Prevent) learning modules for all hackney and private hire driver applicants undertaking the knowledge test.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the introduction of Safeguarding and Counter Terrorism (Prevent) training for new hackney carriage and private hire driver applicants undertaking the knowledge test (the knowledge test being a pre-requisite to the grant of a licence), be endorsed.

2.2 That the Dartford Borough Council 'Better Driver, Better Operator, Better Cab, Better Car' Accreditation Scheme, at Appendix A to the report, be endorsed.

2.3 That drivers and operators who are currently licensed, be offered the opportunity to undertake the training modules as part of the Dartford Borough Council 'Better Driver, Better Operator, Better Cab, Better Car' Accreditation Scheme.

2.4 That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be updated to refer to the Council's duty on Safeguarding and Prevent as detailed in para. 3.9 of the report.

2.5 That the Committee note the Safeguarding and Prevent informative produced for licence holders and new applicants at Appendix B.

3. Background and Discussion

3.1. The Council has a duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the requirement to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

3.2. Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on key organisations and bodies – including district councils, to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions, they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Reports of harm, abuse or exploitation are most frequently associated with children or young people. But increasingly, there is public recognition and reporting of adults who have been victims of abuse because their circumstances have made them vulnerable.

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The duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults applies across the Council.

- 3.3. There is increased awareness of well-publicised cases relating to child sexual exploitation and human trafficking, together with the increased threat of radicalisation and terrorism.
- 3.4. The Council as licensing authority has a duty to raise awareness within the Taxi and Private Hire Trade of these issues, and to protect those who are vulnerable and/or being exploited.
- 3.5. The Council requires the co-operation of taxi and private hire drivers and operators to help identify those who commit these crimes, and protect those who most need the Council's help, working closely with relevant safeguarding organisations.
- 3.6. With the introduction of the computerised knowledge test, new modules are available to train and test applicants on material which covers Safeguarding (including Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking) and Prevent.
- 3.7. Applicants undertaking the knowledge test as either a hackney carriage or private hire driver will receive bespoke training designed to help them as a licence holder to be aware of those who may be vulnerable or being exploited, and questions relating to this subject are posed within the Driver Training Test, that all new applicants must undertake as part of the criteria for the grant of a licence.
- 3.8. The Dartford Borough Council 'Better Driver, Better Operator, Better Cab, Better Car' Accreditation Scheme (replacing Grabbacab) (at Appendix A to the report for the Committee's endorsement)) was drawn up by Officers in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Community Safety Partners and the trade. The Scheme seeks to both support community safety objectives and improve service to the public. Drivers and operators who are currently licensed, will be offered the opportunity to undertake the training modules as part of the Scheme.
- 3.9. That the following statements be included in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy to explain the Council's duty in relation to Safeguarding and Prevent:

Safeguarding

- Dartford Borough Council is committed towards meeting its statutory and moral duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults who come into contact with its services and activities.

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- The Council has a duty to co-operate to improve the wellbeing of Children and Vulnerable Adults. This requires each local authority to make arrangements to promote co-operation between the authority, each of the authority's relevant partners and such other persons or bodies working with children in the local authority's area as the authority considers appropriate. The arrangements are to be made with a view to improving the wellbeing of children in the authority's area, which includes protection from harm or neglect.

Extremism and radicalisation

- The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the 'Prevent duty'). This statutory duty includes district councils and applies to both children and adults.
- The Prevent duty is addressed through a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into committing acts of terrorism through a process known as 'Channel'. A 'Channel Panel' comprising of agencies who have a role in the Prevent process look at putting into place interventions and a tailored support package to safeguard those at risk based on an assessment of their vulnerabilities.

3.10. As well as the training material discussed at 3.6 - 3.8 above, an informative for Licence Holders and new applicants has been produced at Appendix B, detailing Good Safeguarding Practices to protect and to recognise those who are vulnerable and / or being exploited and how to react should an incident arise.

7. Relationship to the Corporate Plan

The Licensing function supports the Safer Communities theme of the Corporate Plan, specifically, strategic objective SC1: To use the Council's statutory functions to increase public safety in the Borough.

8. Financial, legal, staffing and other administrative implications and risk assessments

Financial Implications	None
Legal Implications	As referred to in the body of the report
Staffing Implications	None
Administrative Implications	None
Risk Assessment	No uncertainties and/or constraints

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9. Details of Exempt Information Category

Not applicable

10. Appendices

Appendix A – The Better Driver, Better Operator, Better Cab, Better Car' Accreditation scheme

Appendix – Safeguarding and Prevent Informative.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<u>Documents consulted</u>	<u>Date / File Ref</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Section and Directorate</u>	<u>Exempt Information Category</u>
	May 2016	Joanne Philpott - Senior Licensing Officer (01322) 343024	Licensing - Strategic.	N/A