

PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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Introduction

- Since the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, all local authorities have been forced to **sit up and listen!!**
- Telford & Wrekin's Young People's Scrutiny Committee undertook a review on CSE in November 2014
- Terms of reference – **'How well are organisations in Telford & Wrekin working together to prevent CSE, protect and support the victims and their families and prosecute perpetrators'**

Introduction

- Conclusions of the Scrutiny Committee's Report were:-
- **That the Committee were reassured by the level of commitment from all the organisations that participated in the review.**
- **The Committee concluded that, based on the evidence presented, organisations in Telford & Wrekin were working well together to respond to known cases of CSE.**
- **A full copy of the report and response can be found at:-**
- **www.telford.gov.uk/scrutinyreviewofcse**

CSE – Telford & Wrekin's approach

- Why do we issue licences?
- **Paramount** consideration is **PUBLIC SAFETY**.
- We have a duty to ensure drivers are '**fit & proper**' to hold a licence.

- What are the checks we undertake?
- **1. Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service Checks (DBS)**
- **2. DVLA Mandate Checks**
- **3. Group 2 Medical Checks**

THESE CHECKS ARE GENERALLY STANDARD
THROUGHOUT ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN
ENGLAND & WALES.

- Telford & Wrekin Council also undertakes two additional checks:-

- 1. Driving Standards Assessment**

- 2. Driver Awareness Training (which incorporates a Street Knowledge Test)**

- As a result, since August 2015, Telford & Wrekin Council's licensing department has revised its current Street Knowledge Test.
- Now incorporate a strong emphasis on CSE.
- Encourage drivers to **'say something if you see something'**

- Many licensing authorities have provided mandatory ‘one-off’ training sessions for drivers to attend.
- Telford & Wrekin Council has currently undertaken a consultation exercise on its ‘Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Policy and Conditions’
- CSE Training will become **mandatory**

- Driver Awareness Training now includes a short video to highlight CSE issues (Telford & Wrekin has used Barnado's resource toolkit as a point of reference)
- **Questions are now incorporated into our Knowledge Test specifically on CSE issues.**
- 20 questions are centred around our existing conditions of licence.
- **5 questions on CSE issues.**

- If applicants do not answer **4** of the 5 questions on CSE correctly, **they fail!!** (even if the applicant passes all other parts of the Test!).

- **Key elements that our training concentrates on:-**
- **What are the signs to look out for. Emphasis on:-**
- Taking/collecting young people (girls and boys) from hotels/B&B's/house parties
- Picking up young people from other cars
- Young people who look distressed or intimidated
- Observing suspicious activity in hot-spot areas
- Young people under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol
- Attempts by young women to avoid paying fares in return for sexual favours
- Regular males requesting taxi rides to and from locations - taking young people with them
- Taking young people to A&E, who are not in the presence of parents
- Young people with injuries such as bruising or blood stains

What should drivers do with that information?

- Make notes about the information you know
- Call the police non-emergency number 101 to report your concerns about possible sexual exploitation, or report the matter to the Licensing Team.

What information should they share?

- Names
- Locations and addresses of concerns
- Descriptions of people
- Car registration plates, makes and models of vehicles
- Description of concerning activity

- Telford & Wrekin Council currently has **260** licensed drivers.

70% of Asian origin

18% White British

7% Other White Background (predominantly Eastern European)

5% African and Caribbean

- **Heavy emphasis** is placed on regularly sharing CSE information with all drivers at:-
- **Renewal appointments (CSE literature given to all drivers)**
- **By Email (CSE information given to all Private Hire Operators to display at their bases).**
- **By Text (routinely sent to drivers reminding them how to report CSE matters).**

- Considerable amount of effort has been given towards ‘breaking down barriers’.
- Drivers often fearful or reporting matters direct to West Mercia Police and Crimestoppers.
- Drivers often want anonymity!!! – Certain elements of the community are afraid to ‘*grass on other drivers!!*’. The Licensing Department encourages drivers to share any CSE matters. Assurances given that their identity withheld.

- **The Way Forward**

- More drivers are expected to apply for licences. Conservative estimate will see an additional 150 applicants over the next year!
- CSE is too important to ignore! – we need to ensure that we continue to engage with our licensees and highlight matters surrounding CSE.

The Way Forward

- CSE literature now required to be displayed at our Private Hire Operator Bases.
- Not just for licensed drivers to see, but also for those who take the calls.
- We are going to ensure that operators have a designated CSE contact for drivers to report concerns confidentially.

The Way Forward

- Telford & Wrekin are currently working with partner agencies to conveying the importance of CSE to our late-night refreshment houses.
- Several dates planned where CSE literature to be distributed to restaurants/late-night take-aways.
- CSE launch event to these premises on 1st December 2016.

- We are happy to share our practices with you.
- Contact me directly: 01952 382317
- Email – carl.phillips@telford.gov.uk
- Thank you!!! 😊