

Keeping the Public Safe Taxi Licensing in St Helens



Introductions

Lorraine Simpson

Licensing Manager St Helens Council

Cllr Jeanie Bell

Cabinet Member Community Safety

Cllr David Banks

Chair of Licensing Committee



Members Introduction

- Safeguarding Awareness Training
- Know Your Ride Campaign
- Healthy and productive working relationship between officers and elected members



Context

- Deregulation Act 2015
- Impact on St Helens
- Public Safety
- Local Economy



High Standards

- No changes to checks
- No significant fee reductions
- Maintained Knowledge Test (Essential Skills)
- Introduced Mandatory Safeguarding Training
- Licensing Committee – hard line approach



Safeguarding Awareness

- Adopted in 2017
- 1 hour course with a support handbook
- Mandatory for all drivers, operators and base staff
- Incorporated within Essential Skills Assessment
- Only two authorities introduced in Liverpool City Region
- Adopted as Regional standard
- Independently assessed



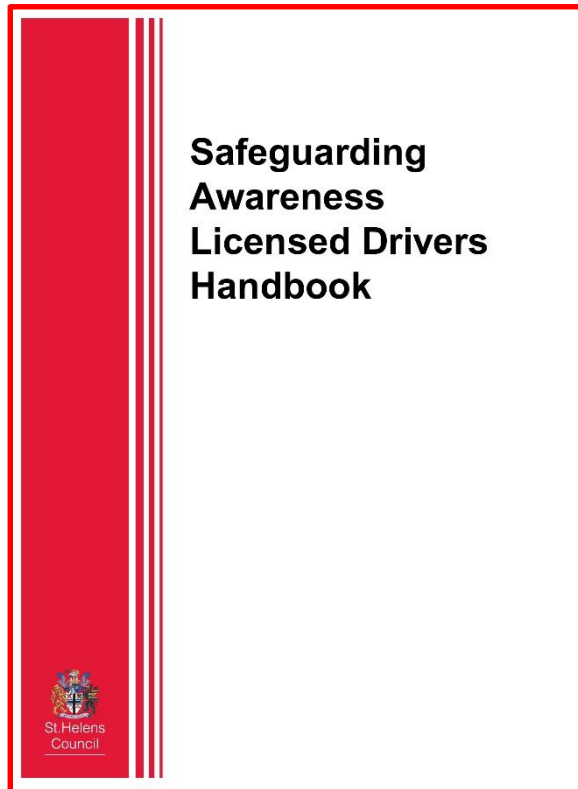
The Awareness Session

What do we cover?

- Explain Safeguarding role
- Spotting abuse
- About assumptions
- 5R's
- Barnado's short film



Safeguarding Handbook



- Issued to every participant
- Key points from training
- Small portable size
- Template provided to authorities



Know Your Ride

#KnowYourRide
Always use a St Helens
licensed vehicle.

Look for the badge
All **Gold Standard Drivers**
have been checked by
St Helens Council.

Your safety is our priority.



Local Drivers • Local Business • Local Knowledge

For more information, visit
www.sthelens.gov.uk/knowyourride



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St.Helens Council

Statutory Guidance for Taxi Licensing (Draft)

- Will bring significant changes to Taxi Licensing
- Part of the Government response to the Task and Finish Group
- Some parts of the guidance will become legislation
- Key features are around safeguarding
- First definition of the fit and proper test
- Mandatory training for members, officers, licence holders
- Recommending mandatory 6 monthly DBS
- DBS and Police referrals by Licensing
- Seriousness of not reporting convictions
- Tighter controls around Private Hire Operators



The Future

- Awaiting introduction of Statutory Guidance
- Future Plans

