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](http://www.telford.gov.uk/scrutinyreviewofcse)
CSE – Telford & Wrekin’s’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.

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• Thank you!!! 😊