

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOODS**

**ORIGINATING SECTION: PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE**

**REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**05:02:2015**

**TITLE : UPDATE ON MANDATORY DRIVER TRAINING**

**1. PURPOSE**

To inform members of the introduction of a safeguarding module, to the mandatory driver training that all new applicants for private hire and hackney carriage drivers must undertake.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That members note the report.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

A presentation of the new safeguarding module that has been introduced to the current mandatory driver training will be delivered to members.

Every new applicant wishing to hold a private hire or hackney carriage driver licence must attend a driver training program and undertake and pass a knowledge test.

The current training program consists of modules on customer care, private hire/ hackney carriage law and conditions, disability awareness and a topographical test on the area.

Following discussions with the Council's safeguarding team it has been decided to introduce a basic safeguarding module covering both children and adults. A factsheet will also be developed for existing drivers to raise awareness with the industry.

**4. RATIONALE**

One of the common threads running through child sexual exploitation across England has been the prominent role of taxi drivers in being linked to children who were abused. The introduction of the training will hopefully encourage more reporting of any safeguarding issues from the drivers.

**5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

**6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

## **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Existing staff in the public protection service and the safeguarding team will undertake the associated work in implementing and delivering the training

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

This item was discussed at the Taxi Forum on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

## **10 . CONTACT OFFICER**

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