

REPORT FOR DECISION

MEETING:	LICENSING & SAFETY PANEL
DATE:	20th MARCH 2018
SUBJECT:	INTRODUCTION OF SAFEGUARDING TRAINING FOR APPLICANTS/LICENCE HOLDERS OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS BADGES
REPORT FROM:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LOCALITIES)
CONTACT OFFICER:	MR M BRIDGE
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	To introduce safeguarding training for applicants/licence holders of Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Drivers Badges
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To introduce a policy for the requirement for applicants/licence holders of hackney carriage/private hire driver's badges to undertake safeguarding training. 2. To delegate to the Head of Service (Trading Standards and Licensing) following consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing and Safety Panel to approve alternative providers to carry out the safeguarding training. 3. Refuse to introduce a policy for the requirement for applicants/licence holders of hackney carriage/private hire driver's badges to undertake safeguarding training.

IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	There are no specific issues from the report other than potential costs/risks associated with legal appeals.
Statement by Director of Finance and E-Government:	The cost of the licensing function are funded through the fees and charges levied by the Council. There may be additional costs if appeals are lodged with the Magistrates and Crown Courts.
Equality/Diversity implications:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
Are there any legal implications?	Under the legislation the Council is required to determine applications. The report is in accordance with the appropriate legislation.
Staffing/ICT/Property:	None
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	Internal Scrutiny Panel

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Executive Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Following issues raised in the 2014 report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham regarding safeguarding controls in taxi and private hire licensing, the Licensing Service has identified the need to review its own safeguarding arrangements. Although the current portfolio of procedures and policies is comprehensive, effective and robust, there is still room for improvement.
- 1.2 The proposed training aims to enable drivers to understand the need to protect vulnerable adults and children, identify possible victims of abuse and exploitation, understand things that could be identified as a risk, understand their own roles and responsibilities in relation to personal safety and identify where they can report any concerns.

1.3 Private and public hire drivers play an important role in safeguarding the public. It is for this reason that the Council believes that it is appropriate for all licensed drivers, and applicants wishing to be a licensed driver, to undertake basic safeguarding training. Sexual exploitation is the sexual abuse of children and young adults through the exchange of sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, shelter, protection, other basics of life and / or money. Sexual exploitation includes involving children and young adults in creating pornography and sexually explicit websites.

1.4 The Convictions Policy and guidelines approved on 4th December 2014 states the following:-

The Council is concerned to ensure:

- o That a person is fit and proper
- o That the public are not exposed to persons with a history of dishonesty, indecency or violence
- o The safeguarding of children and young persons and vulnerable adults

2.0 CURRENT ISSUES

2.1 Currently Bury Council does not have a policy in place that requires applicants who wish to become licensed drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles or existing licence holders, to undertake any training in relation to safeguarding matters.

2.2 On the 14th November 2017, Greater Manchester Wider Leadership Team considered a report relating to common minimum standards by Steven Pleasant, Chief Executive of Tameside MBC. The report was very well received and was supported by the Chief Executives of all ten Greater Manchester Authorities.

2.3 In January 2018, the Licensing Service consulted the hackney carriage / private hire trade at the trade liaison meeting on the current work that the GM Authorities are developing relating to common minimum standards for the hackney carriage and private hire trade.

2.4 Further to the above, the licensing service received a request by the Interim Executive Director of Resources and Regulation requesting that the Licensing Service investigate the possibility of introducing a policy relating to new applicants and existing licence holders to undertake safeguarding training. Safeguarding training is one of the elements being considered as part of this approach.

2.5 The Licensing Service have currently identified two suppliers of safeguarding training, one being a private company and the other being Barnardo's.

2.6 It is proposed the costs of the training will be borne by the applicant or the licence holder.

2.7 The current cost proposals for the Barnardo's online training is £6,000 for an unlimited licence to access the training.

2.8 Bury Council currently licences 1061 Private Hire Drivers & 125 Hackney Carriage meaning having over 1000 drivers , unit costs would equal , £6 per driver.

- 2.9 Facilitating the training would add additional costs for supervising the drivers taking an online training session.
- 2.10 The private company Personnel Check, work on the basis of a pay per session basis, each session would be for 40 drivers per session, the cost of which would be approximately £750.00 or £30 per training session.
- 2.11 Additional costs may have to be included in respect of room hire etc.
- 2.12 Members of the panel are requested to consider introducing the requirement of safeguarding training for new applicants as a pre-requisite prior to application and that existing drivers will be required to undertake the training before the expiry of their current badge.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Members are requested to consider the options of this report on page 1.

List of Background Papers:-

Minutes of the Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Drivers Trade Liaison Meeting

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