

Previous Policy Wording;

5.9 Safeguarding and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) training

Licensed drivers are an integral part of modern life and as such play an important role in providing a safe means of transport to all members of society. Their role within our communities places them in direct daily contact with some of the most vulnerable members of our society and as such licensed drivers are ideally placed to assist all those agencies who have a statutory responsibility to safeguard the vulnerable. Drivers can be vulnerable and need to know how to protect themselves.

*For this reason the Council believes that it is appropriate for licensed drivers to undertake basic safeguarding training to enable them to recognise the signs and report suspicious behaviour appropriately as well as identify ways in which they can protect themselves. **This training is in the form of the online / e-learning training course on Child Sexual Exploitation (2017) run by the Lancashire Safeguarding Children's Board. (In the event that this course should be discontinued, applicants / drivers will be directed towards a replacement course which the Council considers appropriate).***

Any new applicant for a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver's Licence will be required to provide proof of successful completion of the above online / e-learning training course as part of their application process. Evidence of successful completion of other courses will not be accepted.

Existing licence holders must also provide proof of successful completion of the above course before their licence is renewed (ie every 3 years). In either instance, any documentation provided as evidence of successful completion must be dated within a 3 month period prior to the date on which a new application or application for renewal was made.

Any current holder of Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver's Licence who has failed to attend a training course (on Safeguarding or any other matter) when obliged to do so by the Licensing Authority will be given a reasonable period (of up to 3 months) to complete the training course to the Council's satisfaction. If there is a refusal or failure to attend, or the licensed driver does not meaningfully participate in the training or attain the training accreditation, the licence may then be suspended or revoked. The cost of such training will be borne by the licence holder.

New Proposed Policy Wording;

Licensed drivers are an integral part of modern life and as such play an important role in providing a safe means of transport to all members of society. Their role within our communities places them in direct daily contact with some of the most vulnerable members of our society and as such licensed drivers are ideally placed to assist all those agencies who have a statutory responsibility to safeguard the vulnerable. Drivers can be vulnerable and need to know how to protect themselves.

*For this reason the Council believes that it is appropriate for licensed drivers to undertake basic safeguarding training to enable them to recognise the signs and report suspicious behaviour appropriately as well as identify ways in which they can protect themselves. **This training is in the form of an online / e-learning training course or an approved course by the Licensing Authority on Child Sexual Exploitation.***

Any new applicant for a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver's Licence will be required to provide proof of successful completion of the above training course as part of their application process. Evidence of successful completion of other courses will not be accepted.

Existing licence holders must also provide proof of successful completion of the above course before their licence is renewed (ie every 3 years). In either instance, any documentation provided as evidence of successful completion must be dated within a 3 month period prior to the date on which a new application or application for renewal was made.

Any current holder of Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver's Licence who has failed to attend a training course (on Safeguarding or any other matter) when obliged to do so by the Licensing Authority will be given a reasonable period (of up to 3 months) to complete the training course to the Council's satisfaction. If there is a refusal or failure to attend, or the licensed driver does not meaningfully participate in the training or attain the training accreditation, the licence may then be suspended or revoked. The cost of such training will be borne by the licence holder.