

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION GUIDANCE FOR LICENSED DRIVERS**

### **Why do I need to know?**

Recently there have been high profile cases involving Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation in the national media. We want to protect those who are vulnerable in our society; and due to their role in the community, drivers of licensed vehicles can play a key role in helping to identify potential victims and report concerns to the authorities.

You should also be aware that if you transport a child, knowing or believing that the child will be sexually exploited during or after the journey, you could be found guilty of the offence of Human Trafficking with a potential sentence of up to 14 years imprisonment.

Please read the following information carefully so you know what to look out for and how to report concerns. If you need more information, please ask.

### **What is Human Trafficking?**

Moving a person (adult or child) from one place to another into conditions of exploitation, using deception, coercion, the abuse of power or the abuse of someone's vulnerability.

### **What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?**

Situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive "something" as a result of them performing sexual activity or having another person perform sexual activity on them.

Those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Those being exploited might receive things like food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, gifts, money or affection.

Young people may be targeted if they are perceived as vulnerable, for reasons such as: coming from a dysfunctional household, loneliness, homeless or in residential care, learning disabilities.

### **What should I look out for?**

- Dropping off or collecting young people (girls and boys) from hotels/B&Bs/house parties
- Picking up young people from other cars
- Young people who look distressed or intimidated
- Observing suspicious activity in hot-spot areas, such as pubs or takeaways
- Young people under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol
- Attempts 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

## **Annex 2**

- Customers who do not know the destination of the journey or those who allow others to speak for them when addressed directly
- Changes in behaviour, e.g. becoming withdrawn, aggressive or depressed

### **What should I do?**

To report concerns:

Dial 999 – in an emergency, such as when you believe a child is about to be exploited

Dial 101 – Police non-emergency number, to record and report non-emergency concerns

Dial 0800 555 111 – Crimestoppers can take details anonymously if you do not want to talk to the police.

Behave professionally:

- Never touch a child or young person unnecessarily or inappropriately
- Do not make offensive or inappropriate comments (such as the use of swearing or sexualised language)
- Try not to be over-friendly or talk about personal or intimate issues
- Do not misuse personal details obtained via the business (for example communicating with a child using mobile phones, at their postal address or by social network)
- Never accept or solicit an offer of a sexual favour instead of payment
- Seat lone customers in the rear of the vehicle
- Discuss with or notify your customer before deviating from an agreed route or before using a central locking system
- Report other drivers or colleagues who you believe have acted inappropriately

### **Things to remember**

- A child may not consider themselves to be being exploited, they may see their abuser as a boyfriend/girlfriend or other person of trust
- Victims and abusers can be male or female

### **More information**

If you would like more information in relation to Human Trafficking or CSE, please use the following contacts:

Wokingham Borough Council 01635 519167 or [licensing@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@wokingham.gov.uk)

Children and Adult Services: 01189 746105 or [ChildrenServicesReception@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrenServicesReception@wokingham.gov.uk)

Thames Valley Police: 101 or 999 in an emergency, also see [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cse](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/cse)

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 or [help@nspcc.org.uk](http://help@nspcc.org.uk)