



BARNLSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Sheffield
Futures



Safeguarding Vulnerable Passengers

Working in Partnership with the
Taxi/Private Hire Trade
Barnsley 2022

Transforming lives, creating positive futures.





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An independent, local charity offering:

- Careers guidance
- Youth work
- Positive activities for young people
- Opportunities for youth involvement



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This training has been developed in association with the following agencies



Learning Outcomes

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- At the end of the session attendees will be able to:
- Understand the need to protect vulnerable adults, young people and children.
- Identify possible victims of abuse and exploitation by understanding indicators of risk.
- Identify sources of advice and pathways for reporting concerns.
- Understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to personal safety and security.





What makes a passenger vulnerable?





What are your responsibilities to a vulnerable passenger?

50/70



Safeguarding Responsibilities

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- The Licensing Authority recognises that all children and vulnerable persons have a right to be safe and protected from abuse and harm
- It takes seriously its duty to safeguard and protect children and vulnerable persons
- Children's Act 2004 Section 11 states that we have a duty to have regard for the safeguarding of children
- Under the Criminal Justice Act, the Licensing Authority has a duty to cooperate with multi-agency public protection arrangements
- Drivers can promote the safety of vulnerable passengers by always behaving in a professional manner



Scenario

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You regularly pick up an 11 year old boy for transport to school. The child has mild learning difficulties and behavioural difficulties. He is usually bright and talkative, clean and well presented. You have noticed recently that his behaviour and appearance have changed: his clothes are dirty, his hair looks unwashed. On several occasions he has been late getting in to your vehicle to take him to school. You have seen an adult who you do not recognise ushering him out towards the vehicle each morning. On this occasion when you pick up your passenger you see that he is crying as he walks towards your vehicle.



Safeguarding Children and Young People in Transport

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- When transporting children, especially if they are alone, remember it's important to keep to the agreed timetable and route
- It is important to be friendly towards the children but remember not to have particular favourites
- Be aware that some children may require extra help and time due to disabilities and medical conditions



Good practice when transporting children

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- ***Never.....***
- Give personal or contact information to children
- Make unnecessary physical contact
- leave the vehicle unattended, leaving the child alone
- use bad language or discuss personal or offensive issues
- sit a child on your lap
- buy gifts or sweets for children
- NEVER be afraid to ask for help. If a young persons behaviour is causing a problem, or you have any concerns, don't struggle or worry alone. Ask for help.



Scenario

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You work in a city centre and often pick up passengers from pubs and clubs. You notice that there are often high numbers of young people who appear to be drunk and underage coming out of a particular night club at weekends. On this occasion when you arrive to pick up your passenger you see the security staff propping her up as they escort her off their premises. The girl seems to be about 14 or 15 years of age and very intoxicated. She is with another girl of a similar age who does not seem to be quite as intoxicated. The 'bouncers' point the girls towards your vehicle.



Scenario

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You collect an older woman (75 years) from hospital at 9pm. It is clear that she has just been discharged. Hospital staff ask if you will see her into her house as she lives alone. When you do this you realise that the house is very cold. She asks you to make her a cup of tea, and you see that there is no milk or basic provisions in the house.



Types of Abuse

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- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Institutional
- Financial or material
- Discriminatory
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Exploitation



What to do if you are concerned about a vulnerable passenger

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- Phone **999** if risk is imminent / assault happened or likely to.
- Record and report concerns to the police **101** and / or safeguarding if a child or vulnerable adult is involved.
- Assessment & Joint Investigation Team (Children's Social Care) Tel: **01226 438831**
- Adult Social Care – Customer Access Team is **01226 773300**.
- Out of Hours Team **01226 787789**



Scenario

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You collect a young couple from the station; they have a child of about 4 years with them. A row breaks out in the back of the taxi and the man punches the woman in the face twice causing swelling and bleeding. The child is distressed and screams. The man bundles them all out and you see them going into an address.



What is Domestic Abuse?



- any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse [psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional], between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality’.

2004 Government single definition of domestic violence.



What is Sexual Assault?

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‘any unwanted sexual behaviour that causes humiliation, pain, fear or intimidation and this can include unwanted kissing and touching, forcing someone to watch sexual acts, pornography, sexual harassment or forcing a woman into prostitution.’



What is Exploitation?

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To use someone for profit or personal gain

This can include

- Sexual exploitation
 - Forced Labour
 - Child Trafficking
 - Organ Harvesting
 - Domestic Servitude
-
- Arranging, transporting, receiving and harbouring someone for exploitation is a crime under the Modern Slavery Act.



What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

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“Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. “ (revised 2017)



Key Facts about CSE

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- Child Sexual Exploitation affects both girls and boys. Referral to specialist services in the UK are around 12% Young men and 88% young women.
- The people who want to sexually exploit young people can be of any age and any gender.
- The incidence of Peer on Peer exploitation is rising in the UK.
- Both perpetrators and victims can be of any ethnicity and/ or religion.
- CSE affects all communities. Some cultural practices may mean that CSE is more hidden but this does not mean that it doesn't happen.
- Boys and young people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities are less likely to report that they have been exploited. This may be that they feel that they are more likely to be judged or blamed.



Key Facts cont...

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- Male victims may be heterosexual, gay or bisexual. If they are exploited by a man, that doesn't mean they are gay.
- Young people may think that the person who is exploiting them is their boyfriend/ girlfriend. Exploiters use this as a form of control.
- CSE can happen on-line or off-line. Online abuse is increasing.
- Offences can include any sexual activity including unwanted touching, taking and sharing photographs, sexual acts with another adult, young person or with themselves.
- All young people are at risk, but some are more vulnerable than others.



How are young people targeted?



- Vulnerable.
- Befriended by offender.
- Grooming process.
- Isolation from support.
- Blackmail/ Threats
- Can be moved from place to place – County Lines



Warning Signs

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- Going missing from home.
- Relationships with older males or females.
- Concern that young person is sexually active
- Breaking away from family, friends or professionals.
- Not attending school.
- Experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol –
County Lines



Warning Signs

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- Secretive.
- Involved in offending behaviour.
- Unexplained mobile phones/credit.
- Accepting lifts in different cars.
- Sending and receiving inappropriate images.
- Spending increasing time on social networking sites.



Who are the offenders?



- Individuals who control adult sex workers.
- Drug dealers with links to violent crime – County Lines
- Groups of males who exploit for their own sexual gratification
- Males who pass young people on to others for sex.
- Female offenders.
- Other young people.



What are we doing to
stop this?



- Professionals and Partners trained to spot signs of exploitation.
- Young people warned of risks.
- Those at risk supported by youth workers.
- Information passed to police to disrupt activities and prosecute offenders.



How could this affect
you?

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- Concerns about young people in your vehicle.
- Concerns about locations/venues you drop young people off at.
- Concerns about adults paying for young peoples' taxi fares.
- Concerns about young person's conversation in your vehicle.



What can you do to help?



- Be aware that your taxi could be used to transport young people for sexual exploitation
- Take note of older males travelling with/ or paying fares for younger females
- Pay attention to conversations for signs that your passengers may be involved in exploitation
- Take note of collection and delivery points
- If suspicious, take note of appearance, names or nicknames
- Be alert to addresses to which you regularly transport young people to
- Report any concerns to the Licensing Section or directly to the police
- Email: licensing@barnsley.gov.uk



Scenario

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An intoxicated 14 year old offers you sex in place of a taxi fare. She is dropped off at a children's home.



Protecting Yourself

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- Be Alert to Risks
- Work to your Code of Good Safeguarding Practice
- Keep notes of any concerns
- Let your base know if you are escorting a vulnerable passenger and you have concerns.



Allegations of Abuse



- Where the Licensing Authority receives a complaint regarding the physical, sexual harm or neglect of a child (under 18) or vulnerable person (over 18) the Licensing Authority has the authority to issue a precautionary suspension while the matter is investigated.
- The license holder will be informed that Officers have received an allegation into his/her professional conduct.
- Allegations of abuse or harm are reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
- The procedures for the management of allegations in Licensing are the same as those applied to all professionals and volunteers working in services for children and may result in Licenses being revoked.



Whistleblowing

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- As with all professions, if you are concerned about another driver's conduct report your concerns to your manager immediately.
- Organisations should have a lead member of staff for safeguarding, this person should be able to advise colleagues about how to manage vulnerable passengers and any incidents arising.
- If you are concerned and do not wish to provide your name we can still take your information via 0800 555 111 (Crimestoppers)



Remember....

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Thank you for listening
Any questions?