



**WARRINGTON**

Borough Council

# Keeping children and Young People safe within our community

Understanding Exploitation of Children and Young People  
For licensed hackney carriages and private hire drivers

By Jacqui Parkinson Contextual safeguarding Lead

## Introduction

This training aims to promote good safeguarding practice for new and existing drivers and staff working with vulnerable passengers in the taxi or private hire trade. It is recommended that the following safeguarding principles should be embedded into staff/driver training and practice.

Watch the video from the YMCA who talks to some taxi drivers about exploitation the dos and don'ts.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3aNVqnRTAys>

## Learning Objectives

By the end of the session Taxi Drivers will be able to:

- Define Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children
- Be aware of Child Sexual and Criminal exploitation
- Be aware of what Modern Day Slavery & Human Trafficking is
- Be able to Recognise and Report a vulnerable person at risk
- Understand how child sexual exploitation and human trafficking can relate to your business
- Know how to protect themselves as drivers and demonstrate due diligence

## Define Safeguarding

The action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

Everyone who comes into contact with children and their families have a role to play.

## Why are Taxi Drivers involved?

Because safeguarding is everyone business – you are the eyes and ears of our town/community.

This matter cannot be dealt with solely by policing. Working in partnership with the police and other agencies you can help to make a difference.

## Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children

**Working Together 2018 defines this as:**

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*

## The Legal framework – Law

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Children and Social Work Act 2017

## Statutory Guidance

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

## Local Policy

- Warrington Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Warrington's Level of Need Framework

## Categories of Abuse?

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Contextual Safeguarding

The Adoption and Children Act 2002 extended the definition of significant harm to include 'impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another'.

## Contextual safeguarding

As well as threats to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online.

These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including: exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as:

- County lines
- Trafficking
- Online abuse
- Sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation

Extremist groups make use of the internet to radicalise and recruit and to promote extremist materials. Any potential harmful effects to individuals identified as vulnerable to extremist ideologies or being drawn into terrorism should also be considered.

## Online Exploitation

- **Online Grooming** - The act of developing a relationship with a child to enable their abuse and exploitation both online and offline. Online platforms, such as social media, messaging and live streaming, can be used to facilitate this offending.
- **Online coercion and blackmail** – The coercion or blackmail of a child by technological means, using sexual images and/or videos depicting that child, for the purposes of sexual gain (e.g. to obtain new indecent images of children or bring about a sexual encounter), financial gain or other personal gain.
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)  
<https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

## The Internet and Social Media

- 23% cent of children aged 8 to 11 and 72% of children aged 12 to 15 have a social media profile
- Time spent online: for 3-4 8 hours 18 minutes per week and children aged 12-15 20 hours per week (2017)
- One study showed that almost a third of 15 year olds admit to having sent a naked photo of themselves at least once
- 5,653 child sex offences that involved the internet recorded in 2016/17
- The offence categories 'abuse of children through sexual exploitation' and 'sexual grooming' saw increases of 110% and 266% respectively in the year 2017/18 alone.

## Definition of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

CSE 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.

*(DfE, 2017)*

## What is CSE?

- Children receive something in return for engaging in sexual activities.
- Offenders have power over victims due to their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common.

Video link - <https://youtu.be/rhX2gzxjhdM>

## Criminal Exploitation

- There is currently no legal definition of Child Criminal Exploitation.
- Children who are trafficked, exploited or coerced into committing a range of crimes are victims in need of safeguarding and support. Though perceptions are altering these young people are still often criminalised and perceived as having 'made a choice' to take part in illegal activity.
- Some definitions of Criminal Exploitation use the definition of Child Sexual Exploitation and replace 'sexual' with 'criminal'.

CCE is a form of child 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 [criminal] 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 [criminally] exploited even if the [criminal] activity appears consensual.

Child [criminal] exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

## How Young People Describe Exploitation

“When someone you trusted makes you commit crimes for their benefit.”

*D, aged 12*

## Criminal Exploitation - Video

<https://crossingtheline2019.co.uk/>

Watch the video and consider how you would work with a young person who may be affected by criminal exploitation.

- This video is 20 minutes long
- Password is ***Cro55ingtheLine2019***

## Modern Slavery

- Sexual exploitation
- Criminal exploitation
- Forced labour
- Domestic Servitude
- Trafficking

## Human Trafficking: Legislation and Guidance

- The Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Article 3- Palermo Protocol 2000 – United Nations
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1992
- UK Human Trafficking Strategy 2011
- New DFE guidance 2014



- Implementation of EU Directive on Trafficking 2013

An umbrella term used to describe:

- Offences of human trafficking, slavery, forced labour and domestic servitude.
- Slavery-like practices such as debt bondage, sale or exploitation of children and forced marriage.
- While varied in nature, all involve one person depriving another person of their liberty, in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.

## Challenges to Understanding CSE

- The exploitation of children for sex is not a new type of abuse

### **Historical context**

In 1909, Glasgow Parish Council published a paper which detailed the child sexual exploitation of young girls by wealthy men from the city's office district, in hotels frequented by the middle classes, in middle-class suburbia and in taxis paid for by wealthy men.

The Parish also uncovered sex grooming operations, one run by two local men, involving up to twenty girls, many under twelve years of age.

The girls were lured by flattery, small sums of money and even bread and jam. The two men were prosecuted but those from the office district, suburbia and the wealthy were not.

## CSE in the news

- 'Oxford grooming sex case: Brothers jailed for life (BBC News 27 June 2013)
- Rochdale sex abuse: Victims could have been protected ( The Independent November 2014)
- About 1,400 Rotherham children sexually exploited over 16-year period (The Guardian Tuesday 26 August 2014)
- Gang which 'sold' teenage boy in Birmingham jailed for more than 60 years
- Married family man groomed two teenage boys on Grindr (Manchester Evening News: Jan 2019)

## Challenges to understanding CSE/CCE

- CSE is complex and can be wrapped up with other problems and difficulties children are experiencing.
- Children considered to be troublesome and blamed for putting themselves in risky situations - construed as a 'lifestyle choice'.
- A common feature of CSE is that the child does not recognise the coercive nature of the relationship and they do not see themselves as a victim of exploitation.
- For some children the exchange of sex is a coping response, made within severely adverse circumstances.

## Adverse circumstances

- In Rotherham Children had been raped by multiple perpetrators, trafficked to other towns and cities in the north of England, abducted, beaten, and intimidated.
- There were examples of children who had been doused in petrol and threatened with being set alight, threatened with guns, made to witness

brutally violent rapes and threatened they would be next if they told anyone

- Girls as young as 11 were raped by large numbers of male perpetrators.

## **Grooming**

- Offenders groom victims in order to manipulate them.
- This includes distancing them from friends and family to control them.

## **Stages of Grooming**

Stage 1: Targeting the victim

Stage 2: Gaining the victim's trust Stage 3: Filling a need

Stage 4: Isolating the child

Stage 5: Sexualising the relationship Stage 6: Maintaining control

- From 3 April 2017, anyone aged 18 or older who sends a child aged under 16 emails, text messages, letters or other forms of on- or offline communication with sexual intent could be prosecuted (sexual communication charge)
- Adults who communicate with children using sexual language could face up to two years in prison and be automatically placed on the sex offenders register.

## **The Warning Signs**

- Sexual health and behaviour
- Absent from school
- Missing from home
- Familial abuse and/or problems at home
- Emotional and physical presentation
- Alcohol and drug misuse
- Receipt of unexplained gifts

- Being secretive
- Distancing themselves from friends
- Use of IT, online activity and social media

## The Impact of Abuse

‘The impact sexual exploitation had on them was absolutely devastating. Many children repeatedly self-harmed and some became suicidal. They suffered family breakdown and some became homeless. Several years after they had been abused, a disproportionate number were victims of domestic violence, had developed long-standing drug and alcohol addiction, and had parenting difficulties with their own children, resulting in child protection/ children in need interventions. Some suffered post-traumatic stress and other emotional and psychological problems, often undiagnosed and untreated. Some experienced mental health problems.’

*Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, Alexis Jay OBE*

## Trafficking

Child trafficking is child abuse. Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold.

Children are trafficked for:

- Child sexual exploitation, benefit fraud, forced marriage.
- Domestic servitude such as cleaning, childcare, cooking, forced labour in factories or agriculture.
- Criminal activity such as pickpocketing, bag theft, begging, transporting drugs and working on cannabis farms.
- Many children are trafficked into the UK from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another.

## What is Human Trafficking?

**The Act** - Trafficking in persons shall mean:

- Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons

**The Means** - How do you get someone to consent?:

- Threat, use of force, coercion, abductions, fraud, deception and abuse of power

**The purpose**

- Sexual Exploitation

**What does this mean?**

As a child cannot consent to being exploited, the only elements of the definition that need to be present to identify that an act of Human Trafficking has been committed are the Act and the Purpose.

So, transportation or transfer and for the purpose Sexual exploitation.

If a person transports a child knowing or believing that the child will be sexually exploited, that person will commit the offence of Human Trafficking for which there is a maximum sentence of 14 years imprisonment.

**Tackling CSE/CCE**

As a spectrum of activity, there are a whole range of behaviours and scenarios which alone do not mean anything significant, but pieced together form a composite.

The proactive gathering of information helps to form that picture, to identify perpetrators, hotspots, and those who need protecting.

*(Casey: 2015)*

In 2017, a man was sentenced to a total of 5 years in prison for attempted abduction and the distribution and making of indecent images. The arrest and subsequent conviction was brought about when a taxi driver stopped a girl about to meet the male who had groomed her.

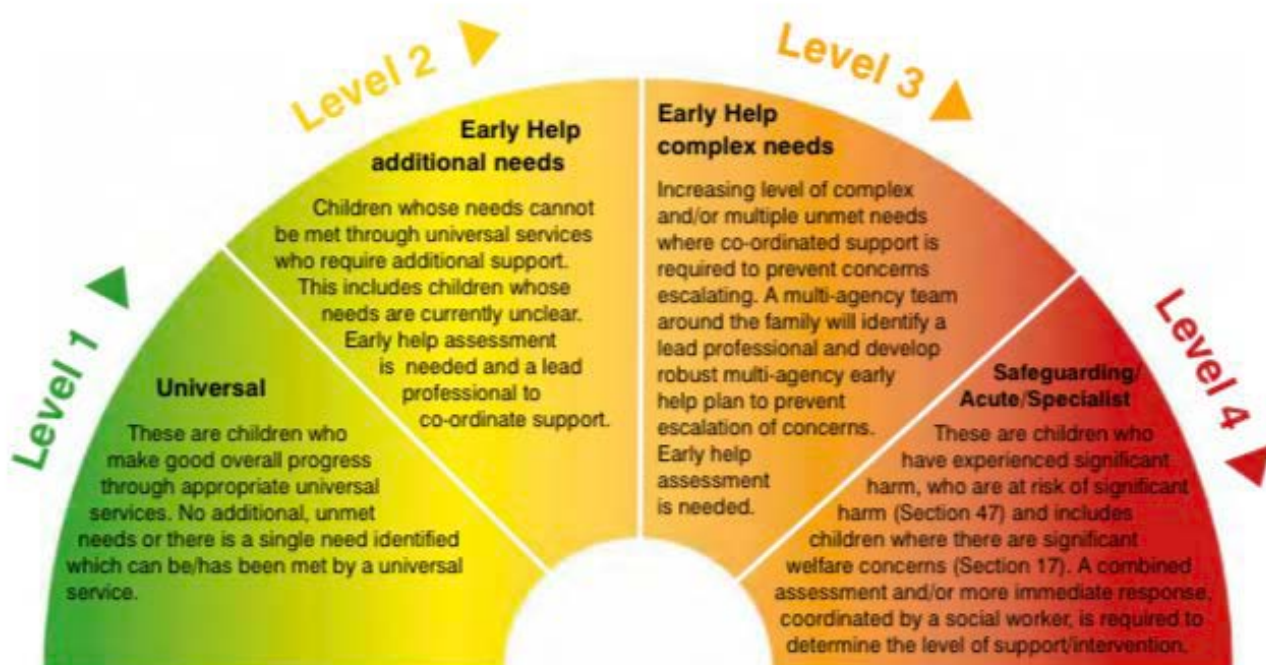
When no one arrived to meet the girl, the taxi driver asked her for more information but she declined to say more. The taxi driver then called his wife who he co-runs a taxi firm with to ask for advice. He asked the girl to speak to his wife who established that her parents were unaware of her plans and called the police.

The taxi driver then telephoned the person his passenger had said was going to meet her and made recordings of the call. In fact, the booking had been made by offender and the recordings became vital evidence in court.

Online chat logs presented to Court revealed that the offender had discussed kidnapping, sedating and raping a victim. When police arrested him at his home they found a rucksack containing knives, duct tape and co-codamol tablets.

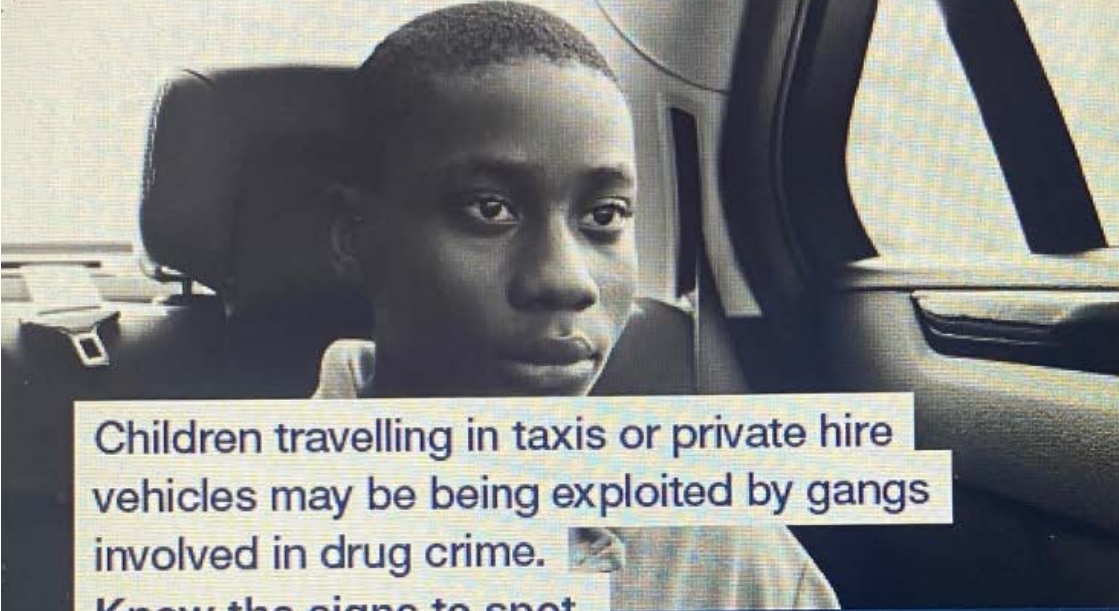
The taxi driver had received safeguarding training from the council in 2016.

## Level of Need Framework



Please note that Universal Services are available to families at any stage on the continuum of need framework and that successful partnership working is facilitated by effective information sharing and transparent communication.






## Responding to Disclosures or Observe abuse



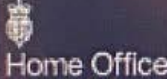
**Children travelling in taxis or private hire vehicles may be being exploited by gangs involved in drug crime. Know the signs to spot.**


County lines gangs use children to courier drugs and money across the country. Many of these children travel by taxis or private hire vehicles.

**Have you seen:**

-   
A child, sometimes as young as 12, travelling alone
-   
Are they travelling during school hours or unusual hours (early in the morning, late at night)?
-   
They might seem unfamiliar with the local area, or not have a local accent
-   
Are they travelling a long distance?
-   
Are they paying for these journeys in cash?

If you see something that doesn't feel right, or looks suspicious, concerning a child or young person you should report it to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

 Home Office

 CrimeStoppers.



## Golden rules – responding to disclosure

### Do

- Keep calm
- Listen carefully
- Explain what you are going to do and why
- Communicate appropriately (age/language/etc.)
- Record as much information as soon as you can
- Consult with your Designated Child Protection Officer
- Reassure them: they are right to tell and are not to blame
- Ask questions to clarify the account

### Don't

- Promise confidentiality
- Ask leading questions
- Use your own words to describe events
- Start the investigation
- Tell the parents what has happened if it leaves the passenger unsafe
- Ask the child to repeat their account to ensure you understand the nature of what they are saying
- Record your assumptions about the alleged abuse
- Blame the perpetrator

## Making a referral

You have a concern



Discuss with your designated person/manager



Tell the family you are making the referral if it's appropriate and safe



Refer to the Multi Agency Screening and safeguarding Hub (MASH)



Follow up in writing using Early Help Assessment within two working days

## What to do . . .

- Dial 999 if risk is imminent / assault happened or likely to happen
- Dial 101 to report concerns about sexual exploitation to the police
- Tell Crimestoppers - You can report child sexual exploitation to Crimestoppers. It is totally anonymous. Call 0800 555 111 or visit the [Crimestoppers website](#).

## How can you help?

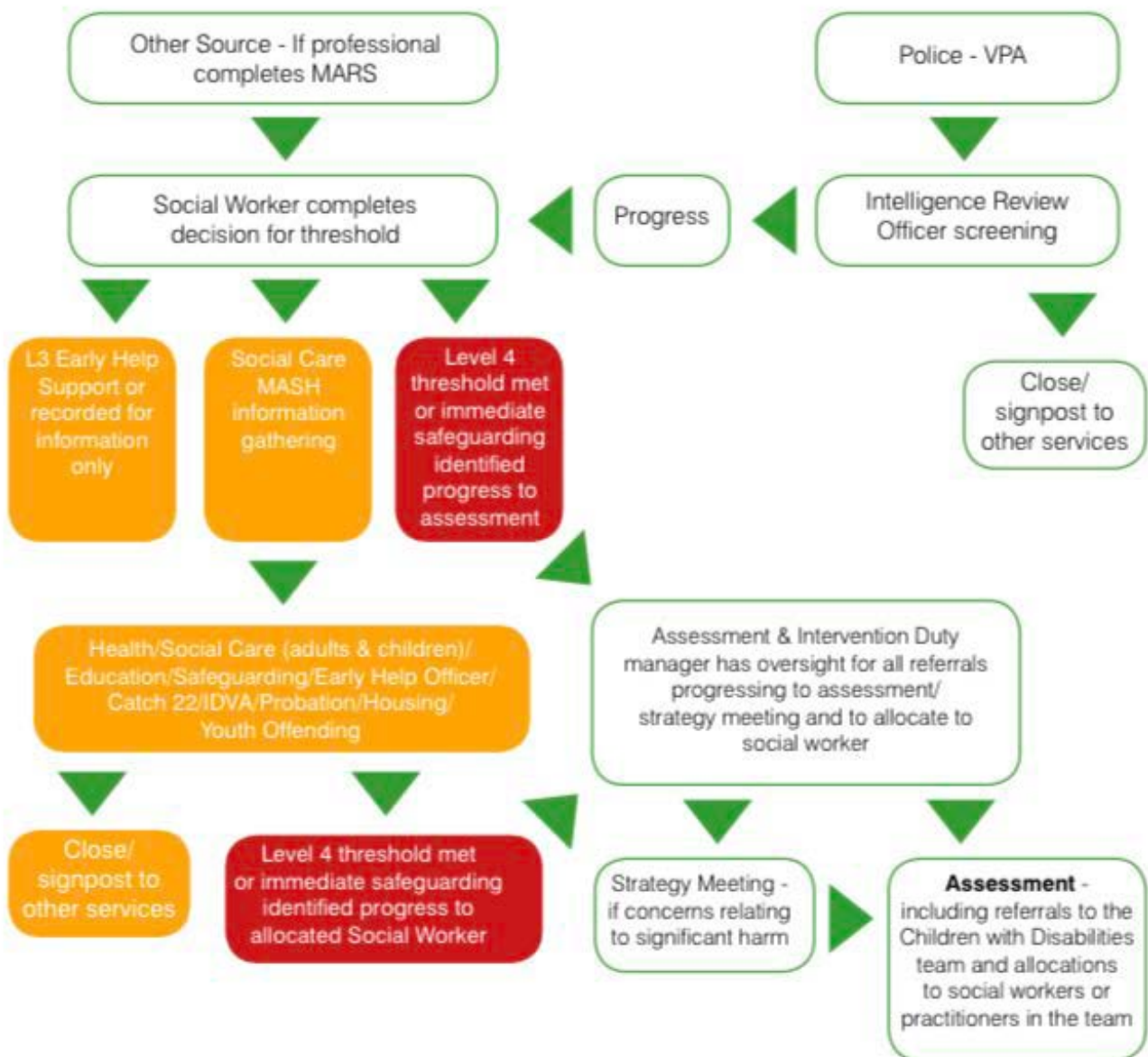
Make notes about the information you have about:

- Names

- Conversations
- Locations and addresses of concerns
- Descriptions of people
- Car registration plates, makes and models of vehicles
- Description of concerning activity
- Information which may be 'rumour'

# What happens next?

## Warrington Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub Referral & Decision Making Process



## When working with Vulnerable

### Passengers – things to consider

- All drivers should register in and out of shifts. A shift register should be maintained and at the point of registration the driver should confirm his/her identity and the registration number of the vehicle in use.
- Drivers should carry photo ID at all times.
- The booking process should include a check for vulnerability issues so that provision can be arranged.

### Practical safeguarding guidance

- When making a journey with vulnerable passengers, photo-identification should be produced to the carer responsible for the vulnerable person. If necessary, the driver/staff should obtain a record of the carer's contact details if there is no chaperone.
- Never double up passengers unless formal consent and authorisation has been obtained.
- If a vulnerable passenger is refused service a responsible person should be informed so that alternative arrangements can be made.
- Always ask if a vulnerable passenger needs help, do not assume.
- Drivers/staff should remain professional at all times and should not touch a vulnerable person inappropriately.
- Make offensive or inappropriate comments (such as the use of swearing or sexualised or discriminatory language).
- Behave in a way that may make a vulnerable passenger feel intimidated or threatened.
- Attempt to misuse personal details obtained via the business about a child (for example communicating with a child at their postal address, or by social network, internet or mobile telephone or by using any other information disclosed as part of placing a booking, or obtained by any other aspect of the business).
- A log should be maintained by drivers when a service has been provided to a vulnerable passenger including the details of any incidents occurring/actions taken or refusals of service.

- If a driver or member of staff is concerned about the safety, welfare or behaviour of a vulnerable person, s/he should report this to the police or other relevant service and to the business manager.
- As with all professions if you are concerned about someone's conduct report your concerns to your manager or the relevant agency.
- Drivers/staff should familiarise themselves with any whistle blowing policy that may be in place for their business

## Key Messages

- There is a clear link between CSE/CCE, MFH and Trafficking
- CSE/CCE is child abuse and the victims are children
- CSE/CCE has a massive effect on the physical and mental health of children
- There is no stereotypical victim of exploitation
- There are warning signs in children's behaviour that may indicate something is wrong
- The 'more you know, the more you see' - so be curious and pursue that 'gut feeling'
- 'If you see something, say something'
- Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility

## Testing your knowledge

Thank you for taking the time to read this information pack.

Information taken from this document will form questions asked after you have completed the Knowledge test. You need to get **three** out of **five** questions to pass the Safeguarding test so please make sure you have read and understood this information pack before booking the test.