



## Safeguarding Information for Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Taxi Drivers when transporting children and young people

### Introduction

As part of your job you may have to transport children or young people under the age of 18. This leaflet is intended to help you to be as well informed as possible. It is aimed at providing some basic advice and giving links to sources for further information including safeguarding procedures.

### Basic Requirements

All private hire and taxi drivers MUST undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and hold a valid Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence, issued by the local District Council. If you do not have one *you* should contact your local taxi licensing office;

### Your employer

If you are an employed driver, the company you work for may have its own requirements and procedures on safeguarding issues - it is essential that you ask for them and make sure you read and understand them.

### You

As a driver, it is in your responsibility to follow safeguarding advice to prevent problems from arising and to know how to deal with issues if they do arise, how to report concerns, and to be aware of what happens if an allegation is made.

Employers of drivers need to know this too.

### Transporting a child or young person under the age of 18

When asked to carry a child or young person on their own, ask the responsible parent or adult booking the journey if the child or young person:

- has behavioural needs that may require special assistance for his/her own personal safety or that of a driver. Is an escort required and are they providing one?
- uses any medication, or has any health conditions which may affect him/her during the journey (e.g. asthma, epilepsy, diabetes)? If so, is the child/young person able to self-medicate?
- has any disabilities which require additional support, such as assistance entering or exiting a vehicle.

**You should always feel comfortable about the child you are transporting. Do not take a child if you have concerns and if you are worried about their safety contact the Police or Social Care (see contact details on page 3)**

### **Advice for drivers**

- An operator (if applicable) should provide parents and/or carers with the details of the car and driver transporting a child.
- Seat belts, or other suitable restraints (depending on a child's physical needs), should be used and wheelchairs and occupants (if appropriate) properly secured.
- Care must be taken when assisting a child/young person to enter/exit the vehicle, or when fastening a seat belt.
- Where possible, children should exit a vehicle on a pavement away from traffic, and should not be allowed to cross a busy road unsupervised.
- Drivers should avoid being over friendly with any children transported; they should not seek to find out personal information about a child or share any personal information about themselves.
- Drivers must never exchange any personal contact details with the children/young people they transport, and they must never photograph a child or young person or access CCTV images for personal use.
- ALWAYS KEEP A RECORD of ANY incidents or situations you were not happy with – the record should include a description of what happened and what you did to keep yourself and your passenger safe and make sure that you report them to your manager, social care, or the police (contacts on page 3).

### **Safeguarding children, young people and yourself**

#### **Taxi drivers can help protect young people.**

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of sexual abuse that can affect any child, anytime, anywhere and from any background. It involves offenders grooming youngsters and using their power to sexually abuse them. It could be a seemingly 'consensual' relationship with an older boyfriend, or a young person manipulated into having sex in return for attention, gifts e.g. alcohol or cigarettes.

Does your customer appear to be:

- under 18 years old
- with an older person and in a relationship or with a group of older persons
- under the influence of alcohol or drugs, perhaps coming out of a pub or club
- going to a hotel, house party or secluded location

**Are you worried about what you have seen or heard. Pass your concerns on to the police**

- If a child or young person discloses that s/he is being abused you must listen carefully, make a note if possible and then report the information immediately by telephone, to **the relevant team** listed below.
- If a child has special needs, there may be physical or emotional behavioural issues which demand special handling; whilst reasonable verbal reprimands are permitted, minimal physical action should only be taken that is proportionate, reasonable and absolutely necessary.
- In exceptional circumstances and if a child is abusive and endangering a driver or him/herself, then a driver should stop the vehicle and call for assistance from the responsible parent or adult booking the journey.

## **Allegations**

Becoming the subject of an allegation is difficult and distressing for everyone involved and is likely to cause a great deal of anxiety and concern. We recognise that the impact on you, your family and the child concerned can be far reaching. We are committed to providing fair treatment and to achieving fair outcomes for **all** concerned. If an allegation is made against you then you should obtain the following LSCB leaflet via the link given below;

### **Information for Employees and Volunteers regarding the Management of Allegations of Abuse against Adults who work with Children**

[www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk](http://www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk)

### **Concerned about a child?**

If you are worried that another driver may be acting in an inappropriate way towards a child or young person or there is a child protection concern about a child or young person that you or others transport, then you must immediately contact **the relevant team** below;

### **Contacts**

*Duty and Assessment Team (Hastings and Rother)*  
Ground floor,  
Ocean House, 87-89 London Road,  
St Leonards-on-Sea,  
East Sussex TN37 6DH  
[See a map of this address](#)

Phone: 01424 724144

Fax: 01424 724122

*Duty and Assessment Team West (Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden)*  
1st Floor,  
St Mark's House, 14 Upperton Road,  
Eastbourne,  
East Sussex BN21 1EP  
[See a map of this address](#)

Phone: 01323 747373

*If you urgently need help outside of office hours you can contact the  
Emergency Duty Service for East Sussex and Brighton and Hove. Phone  
01273 335905 or 01273 335906.*

**Police;**

Call 999 in an emergency otherwise 101

**Where can I get more information?**

Allegations against people who work with children are considered in Chapter 8.2 of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Procedures;

<http://pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com>

For more information about safeguarding children or Brighton and Hove's Local Safeguarding Children Board please visit;

[www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk](http://www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013;

<http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/>

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