

# **Safeguarding Vulnerable Passengers**

## **Raising Awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation & Human Trafficking**

**Partnership with the Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Trade**

## Learning Outcomes

**At the end of the session you will have a better understanding of:**

- **What is meant by Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking**
- **Some key indicators**
- **How child sexual exploitation and human trafficking relate to the taxi trade**
- **The legal implications of knowingly aiding and abetting CSE and Human Trafficking**
- **What to do when you have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk**

## What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

- **A child or young person is encouraged or forced to take part in a sexual act**  
Often in return for money, jewellery, new clothes, mobile phones, alcohol, drugs or a place to stay
- **It can happen to any young person from any background and they can be targeted by abusers both online or in person**  
Children and young people often don't realise they're being exploited which means that they cannot protect themselves
- **It's a process of grooming where the abuser targets a child's vulnerability, makes them feel loved or wanted as though the relationship is normal when in fact the child is being controlled through intimidation, fear or violence**



## **Child sexual exploitation - Indicators of risk:**

- **The child has unexplained gifts or expensive items**
- **They misuse drugs or alcohol**
- **Changes in behaviour; the child becomes secretive, aggressive or defensive, exhibits mood swings**
- **The child often goes missing, from home, care or school**
- **The child has relationships with older males or females**
- **They have more than one, or share their, boyfriend or girlfriend**
- **They hang out with anti-social groups, gangs, known criminals**
- **They become involved in petty crime: shoplifting, stealing**

## **Child sexual exploitation - Indicators of risk:**

- **The child displays inappropriate sexual behaviour, is over-familiar with strangers and/or engages in 'sexting'**
- **Changes in appearance – losing weight, lack of interest in their overall appearance or dressing inappropriately**
- **They self harm or make suicide attempts**
- **The child seems to be breaking away from family and/or friends; becoming isolated**
- **They are seen getting into or out of a number of different vehicles**
- **The child suffers sexually transmitted infections or has become pregnant**

## **This is not about culture**

- **It is not about British girls (or boys) and Asian men or Eastern European girls and British men**
- **We know that different cultures have different standards**
- **What may be 'normal' and 'acceptable' within certain cultures may be seen as abusive and abhorrent to others**
- **However this cannot be used as a barrier to safeguarding**
- **Where issues arise concerning what is accepted as right or wrong, the protection of the child or young person is paramount and UK law overrides any cultural barriers**

## A victim's experience

*"I felt isolated and scared.  
You just get trapped and there  
is nothing you can do"*



# Licensing Partnership



## What is Human Trafficking?

- **An offender moves someone from one place to another for the purposes of exploitation**
- **This could be within the UK or across UK borders.**
- **Exploitation may include:**
  - Sexual Exploitation**
  - Forced Labour**
  - Domestic Servitude**
  - Begging**
  - Benefit Fraud**
  - Organ donation**





## What are your responsibilities?

- You have a duty of care while passengers are in your vehicle
- You have a moral/social responsibility to report a concern about a vulnerable person; reporting a concern could save a life
- You are a public service representing the area you work in and are the eyes and ears of the local community; taxi drivers often see things that others don't and can play a key role in reporting suspicious behaviour.
- You also have responsibilities under the law

## Human Trafficking: The Law

*Section 59(A) Sexual Offences Act 2003*

**A person who intentionally arranges or facilitates the travel of a person within the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation during or after the journey or believes that another person is likely to sexually exploit the person during or after the journey commits an offence of Human Trafficking.**

**Maximum sentence - 14 years imprisonment**

## What does this mean in relation to the taxi trade?

- If a taxi driver transports a person knowing or believing that that person will be sexually exploited during or after the journey that driver will commit the offence of Human Trafficking
- If a private hire operator provides vehicles knowing or believing that a person will be sexually exploited during or after the journey they commit the offence of Human Trafficking

**Maximum sentence - 14 years imprisonment**

## What to look out for

- **The behaviour of people travelling together especially if there are adults with young people**
- **Young people being picked up and taken to hotels or other locations on a regular basis**
- **Adults putting a young person who may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs into your vehicle**
- **Young people who look concerned or frightened in the company of adults**
- **Adults paying young peoples fares**
- **Risqué or other unsettling conversations between young people in your vehicle**

## What can you do to help?

- Be aware of indicators of risk
- Be aware of young people you think may be at risk
- Be aware of addresses you are taking young people to
- If anything concerns you write it down while it is fresh in your mind
- Pass on any information or concerns you may have

## **Say Something if you See Something**

## Contact Details

**If you are concerned that a child or young person is being harmed or is likely to be harmed you should call one of the following numbers:**

- **If you believe someone is in immediate danger – 999**
- **Kent Police - 101 (ask for the Combined Safeguarding Team)**
- **Kent Safeguarding Children Board - 03000 411111**
- **NSPCC - 0808 800 5000**

**For advice from the Partnership Licensing Officers: Sevenoaks District Council 01732 227004, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council 01892 554034 Maidstone Borough Council 01622 602255**

# Questions / comments

