

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:** CSE Training  
DRI / OP

**Date:** 08 August 2016

**Dear Sir or Madam**

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Protecting Children from harm**

Taxi and Private Hire drivers are in daily contact with people who may be at risk of harm. Central Bedfordshire Council is implementing training to raise awareness of child sex exploitation. The training sessions will provide an outline to enable all drivers and operators to be able to safeguard themselves from allegations whilst transporting passengers. The training will also provide information on how to correctly report issues that cause concern.

The sessions take approximately one hour and will include a brief multiple choice questionnaire. Certificates will be issued following completion of the course which will last for three years before a refresher is required. At the present time, Central Bedfordshire Council are not charging drivers and operators to attend the course, however, it is expected that attending a course will become mandatory in the future and the cost of the course will become the responsibility of the applicant.

All courses will take place at Henlow Bridge Lakes, A507 Slip Road, Arlesey Road, Henlow SG16 6DD. Parking and refreshments will be available free of charge.

The next safeguarding courses are due to take place on 22 August and 26 August at either 10am – 11am, 11.30am – 12.30 am, 1pm – 2.pm or 2.30pm to

3.30 pm. Only 15 places are available per session and will be offered on a first come first served basis. Further dates will be available in the future.

If you wish to book on one of the courses in August please email Barbara Falendes: [barbara.falendes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.falendes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) by 2pm on Wednesday 17 August with your full name and confirmation of your badge number or operator name. If you cannot attend one of the courses in August, you can also register your interest by emailing Barbara Falendes: [barbara.falendes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:barbara.falendes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) with your details. She can then keep you informed of any future dates.

Yours sincerely

**Margaret James**

Principal Public Protection Officer (Licensing)

**Direct telephone** 0300 300 4521

**Email** [Margaret.james@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Margaret.james@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Please reply to: Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 1LF.



**Your ref:**

**Our ref:** CSE Training  
DRI / OP

**Date:** May 2017

**Dear Sir or Madam**

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Protecting Children from harm**

Taxi and Private Hire drivers are in daily contact with people who may be at risk of harm. Central Bedfordshire Council is implementing training to raise awareness of child sex exploitation. The training sessions will provide an outline to enable all drivers and operators to be able to safeguard themselves from allegations whilst transporting passengers. The training will also provide information on how to correctly report issues that cause concern. This training was previously offered in 2016.

The sessions take approximately one hour and will include a brief multiple choice questionnaire. Certificates will be issued following completion of the course which will last for three years before a refresher is required. At the present time, Central Bedfordshire Council are not charging drivers and operators to attend the course, however, it is anticipated that attending a course will become mandatory in the future and the cost of the course will become the responsibility of the applicant. It is suggested therefore, that if you did not attend the training in 2016, you book onto the free training during 2017.

All courses will take place at either Mount Pleasant Golf Club, Station Road, Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire SG16 6JL or Toddington Village Hall, Leighton Road, Toddington. LU5 6AN. Parking will be available free of charge.

**Central Bedfordshire Council**  
Priory House, Monks Walk  
Chicksands, Shefford  
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

**Telephone** 0300 300 8647  
**Email** [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)  
[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

The next safeguarding courses are due to take place on the following dates.

Mount Pleasant Golf Club

At either: - 10.30 am – 11.30 am. 12 noon – 1.00 pm. 1.30 – 2.30 pm  
Friday 23 June 2017  
Friday 21 July 2017

Toddington Village Hall

At either: - 10.00 am – 11.00 am. 11.30 am – 12.30 am. 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm  
Monday 11 September 2017  
Monday 09 October 2017  
Monday 06 November 2017  
Monday 04 December 2017

Only 15 places are available per session and will be offered on a first come first served basis.

If you wish to book on one of the courses please email [taxilicensing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:taxilicensing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) with your full name, address and badge number, together with the date and time of the course you wish to book. I regret that we cannot take any bookings over the telephone. All bookings will be acknowledged and confirmed.

Taxi Drivers Handbook

Driving a taxi or private hire vehicle is one of the most dangerous professions. Drivers are sent alone to isolated areas, including high-crime neighbourhoods, to pick up strangers. Please find enclosed the Bedfordshire Taxi and Private Hire Drivers' Handbook. It is a comprehensive guide covering every aspect of community safety when on the streets. Taxi and private hire drivers are often the first to witness criminal activity taking place. This book encourages more reporting of crime, particularly those under reported incidents such as hate crime. We hope you find it useful.

Yours sincerely



**Margaret James**

Principal Public Protection Officer (Licensing)

**Central Bedfordshire Council**  
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[www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**To:**  
**All Hackney Carriage and Private Hire  
Operators  
Proprietors  
Drivers**

**Your ref:**  
**Our ref:** Licensing  
**Date:** July 2018

**Dear Sir or Madam**

**Consultation with the Trade**

We are proposing to amend the current policy and conditions for hackney carriage/private hire drivers and private hire operators and would welcome your comments on the following four proposals. These proposals will then be discussed at Committee later in the year with a view to adopting them with effect from January 2019. The consultation will last for six weeks.

**Child Sexual Exploitation Safeguarding Courses**

Central Bedfordshire Council is considering introducing compulsory safeguarding for all licensed hackney carriage/private hire drivers. The proposal for compulsory training is in response to recent high profile cases of child sexual exploitation (CSE). Varied reports have found that abusers often use taxis and private hire vehicles to move their victims so taxi and private hire vehicle drivers can play an important role in safeguarding children or vulnerable people at risk of abuse. The training is intended to help drivers to spot signs of abuse, such as regularly dropping children at an address that is not their home. It is also an opportunity to highlight other concerns of abuse of vulnerable people.

Before this we are offering 600 free places (in addition to the previous free training we provided) on courses due to be carried out in August, September, October and December this year. Central Bedfordshire Council is aiming to further improve safety for all passengers by making this training compulsory. The first three proposals are therefore: -

1. All new drivers are required to attend the CSE training in advance of first being licensed as a combined hackney carriage/private hire driver or private hire operator.
2. All existing combined hackney carriage/private hire drivers and operators be required to attend the CSE training
3. The cost of the training is the responsibility of the applicant. It is anticipated that the cost will be £20.

**Driver applicants residing outside Central Bedfordshire**

All new combined hackney carriage / private hire driver applicants are subject to various checks to determine his or her fitness to hold a licence. Additional checks are required for driver applicants who live outside of Central Bedfordshire

Therefore, the fourth proposal is;

4. That driver applicants living outside the Central Bedfordshire Council area incur an additional fee to cover the costs for the additional checks required. It is anticipated that the cost will be £20.

**Please feel free to comment on all or any of the proposals. Your comments can be emailed to [licensing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) or write to the Licensing Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire. LU6 1LF. All comments must be received by 26 August 2018.**

Yours sincerely

**Licensing Team**  
**Central Bedfordshire Council**  
**Telephone 0300 300 8307**  
**Email [licensing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)**

**Central Bedfordshire Council**  
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Chicksands, Shefford  
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**Margaret James**

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**From:** Rachel Rees <rachel@atob.travel>  
**Sent:** 12 July 2018 10:47  
**To:** Licensing Enquiries  
**Cc:** Nicola O'Donnell; Margaret James  
**Subject:** Consultation with the trade :

Child Sexual Exploitation Safeguarding Courses:

Dear All

Firstly I am in full approval of this & more. Most of the drivers have already done this through Luton licencing, however if it is not the same it will be good for the new applicants & existing to cover & if they have perhaps refresh.

I will ask Sandra to check our training records & send those that have not covered first & those that need refresher if any spaces left. If the course is different then I am happy to send all my private hire drivers.

Going forward on your proposals:

1. I agree all new drivers to have training, however so that this does not delay the application process when waiting for a course perhaps to undertake the training within say a 3 month period of license being issued and if not completed then the license suspended until undertaken.

2. I agree everybody holding a licence & a operator license should attend.

3. OK to pay if cost is as stated, however CBC to source courses & availability, as you may well know some license holders will just say they find it difficult if we leave it to them 😊

the 4<sup>th</sup> proposal

I agree for licencing issues, as explained I don't have a Luton licence as my DBS was late back by 3 days, so our dear friend Mr Ireland would not renew my licence.

However if it was for some other reason you would still not be aware I did not hold a Luton licence .

The other reason if a driver comes and applies for a CBC licence from say Manchester. Is it possible to ask on the application:

- 1 . You already do this, Do you or have you held a licence for another authority.
2. HAVE YOU EVER OR ARE YOU SUBJECT TO A SAFEGUARDING INVESTIGATION.

This then covers if anything did come up and make applicants feel that you have a way of checking, currently this is only the Police if they have been made aware.

I have spoken to Mark Mullane at Luton PTU, who currently lets LBC know if they have concerns of Taxi drivers who have say any safeguarding issues going on through social services etc... I have said perhaps to include CBC as well.

Hopefully this helps, let me know if you require any further input .

Kind Regards

Rachel