

# Child Sexual Exploitation

## Guidance for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles



**SPEAK OUT**  
**AGAINST CHILD**  
**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Recognise the signs and speak out. Contact the Child Safeguarding Team on **0300 126 1000** or Northamptonshire Police on **101** or **999** in an **emergency**



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## **What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of child sexual abuse. It happens where a person 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.

## **How does this affect the Taxi and Private Hire industry?**

Hackney carriage and private hire vehicles are the eyes and ears of the community. With your help, we can make this a safer place for young people.

Many drivers have stories to tell about jobs that didn't seem right, situations that caught your attention, or passengers that worried them. With your help, this information can be used to combat and interrupt the sexual exploitation of children and young people.

## **Indicators of CSE for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles:**

- The behaviour of people traveling together especially if there are adults with young people
- Adults putting a young person, who may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, into your taxi and private hire vehicles
- Young people who look concerned or frightened in the company of adults

## Indicators of CSE continued...

- Young people being picked up and taken to hotels, particularly at odd times of the day and night
- Adults who appear edgy in the company of young people
- Victims traveling alone late at night between hotels and a house/flat
- Victims may show inappropriate sexual behaviour or be dressed inappropriately for their age
- Victims may have more money than a young person ordinarily would or may own expensive phones and clothing than you would expect for someone their age
- You may overhear conversations or witness sexual activity within the vehicle
- Fare paid by someone other than the customer/young person
- Morning pick-ups from hotels/B&B's
- Young people who look dishevelled, distressed or disorientated
- Young people being picked up from other cars
- Frequent suspicious activity in the same place
- Men who regularly request taxi rides to and from location – taking young people with them
- Young passengers going to A&E or clinics accompanied by someone who is not a parent
- Observing suspicious activity in hot-spot areas



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**SAY SOMETHING** IF YOU **SEE SOMETHING**

## Indicators of CSE continued...

- Taking/collecting young people from obscure places i.e being dropped off/collected from the middle of the road or somewhere which isn't an obvious destination
- Young people frequently using taxis during the day when they should be in school/college/employment
- Attempts by young women to avoid paying fares in return for sexual favours
- A regular customer who has their fare pre-paid
- Young people with injuries such as bruising or blood stains

**REMEMBER** – Young People will often try to make themselves look older than they actually are. Always consider the age of the young person even if, at first glance, they may look over 18.

## Missing children

Young people who run away from home are putting themselves at increased risk of sexual exploitation. Missing children may:

- Seem unusually emotional
- Be carrying bags
- Have difficulty paying the full fare
- Be trying to get to a station or airport
- Be reluctant to discuss their destination

## Additional safeguarding

- If you refuse to take a young person inform someone that you cannot take them so they can deal with the person another way (e.g. hospital staff, family, security staff if a club/pub or the police)
- Record any refusals – dates/addresses/phone numbers/descriptions
- Always get a specific address from passengers

# What to do if you have concerns about a young person in a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle

**If you think the young person is at imminent risk of harm, call 999 to report your concern.**

## Offer support to the young person:

- Ask if they are ok
- Check that they are not receiving unwanted attention
- Check whether they know who they are with and if they feel safe being with them
- Offer to call a parent/carer
- Make sure any person you are unsure of knows you have seen their face

## Gather any relevant information:

- Names
- Locations and addresses
- Document detailed descriptions of any suspected offenders
- Document detailed descriptions of the children and young people who you are concerned about
- Car registration plates, make and models of vehicles
- Description of suspicious activity

## Report the concerns:

- Call the Police non-emergency number 101 or in an emergency 999
- Provide a written record of your concerns and descriptions of individuals to the Police



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# **Safeguarding Code of Conduct for Taxi Drivers working with vulnerable passengers**

Check at the point of booking if there are any vulnerability issues

Ask the person booking if an escort for the vulnerable passenger is required and if they are providing one

Let your head office know (or keep a record) of the time you picked up the vulnerable passenger, the time and place you dropped them off and whether there was any incident or anything significant on the journey

If you refuse to take a passenger inform someone that you can't take them so they can deal with the person another way (e.g. hospital staff; family; security staff if a club/pub)

Record incidents and refusals

Be professional - try not to be over-friendly or talk about personal or intimate issues, don't exchange personal contact information such as passenger's telephone numbers or Facebook address

Avoid swearing or aggressive behaviour

Do not touch passengers

Never accept an offer of a sexual favour instead of payment

Make sure you are wearing ID, (your licence badge and your company uniform)

Sit lone passengers in the back unless otherwise agreed

## **Safeguarding Code of Conduct for Taxi Drivers working with vulnerable passengers**

Ask or explain to passengers if using a centralised locking system - don't just put it on without an explanation

**DON'T ASSUME** that your passenger wants help - **ALWAYS ASK**

Never follow a passenger into the house unless previously agreed/properly authorised

**ASK** before making a journey shorter by going off the main roads/using isolated country roads, explain and give the passenger (or person booking) a choice of route

**NEVER** set off with a passenger without a specific destination address

**NEVER** double up on a booking – even if passengers are travelling in a similar direction

If you think the passenger is afraid, offer to ring head office to tell them you have a passenger named XXXX with you and give the address and approximate time of arrival; this reassures the person that they are safe

As with all professions if you are concerned about another driver's conduct report your concerns

Organisations should have a lead member of staff for safeguarding

**ALWAYS KEEP A RECORD** either in your cab or at head office, of ANY incidents you were not happy with – the record should include a description of what happened and what you did to keep yourself/your passenger safe



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