

**REPORT TO:** LICENSING COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

**TITLE:** LICENSED DRIVER TRAINING

**LEAD OFFICER:** MICHAEL PITT, ENVIRONMENT AND LICENSING MANAGER (01279) 446114

**CONTRIBUTING OFFICER:** DAVID TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL EHO (LICENSING) (01279) 446164

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- A The Licensing Committee recommend to Full Council adoption of proposals to provide for additional approved means of meeting the Council's driver licensing requirements for Child Sexual Exploitation and Disability Awareness training, as set out at paragraphs 8 to 13 of the report.

**BACKGROUND**

1. Members of the Licensing Committee will be aware that following the Licensing Committee Meeting of 22 March 2016 a requirement for licensed drivers to attend training provided by the Council on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Disability Awareness (DA) was implemented. The requirement applies to new applicants and to existing drivers when renewing their licence.
2. A CSE training programme to cater for existing licensees was delivered over 11 months between June 2016 and May 2017, and a Disability Awareness training programme began on 9 May and will with the aim of training all existing drivers by winter 2017.
3. CSE and DA training will be made available to new applicants when they make their first application for a driver's licence. On completion of the current DA training programme, additional CSE and DA training courses will be made available every 6 to 9 months according to demand.
4. CSE training is now being delivered by neighboring authorities including Epping Forest District Council.

**ISSUES**

5. The anticipated low demand for future training will create delays for new applicants because the Council may be unable to offer a training place for up to 8 months. This might act as a barrier to new applicants.

6. A number of existing licensed drivers have been affected by issues raised by in the CSE course and have approached the licensing team about options other than group training to fulfil the obligation. The Council should be mindful of its duty to protect the interests of persons who have been directly affected by historic CSE issues and therefore it may be appropriate in certain limited circumstances to offer alternative training arrangements.
7. Additional approved means of meeting the Council's driver licensing requirements for Child Sexual Exploitation and Disability Awareness training will allow the Council to address these issues.

## **PROPOSALS**

8. Where otherwise appropriate, applications for drivers' licenses be granted where the Council is unable to offer CSE or DA training within a reasonable time frame and where;
  - The driver/applicant gives an undertaking that she/he will participate in the next available course and,
  - The driver/applicant has not without good reason previously declined an offer of training.
  - The driver/applicant has not previously disregarded offers of training.
9. Where an applicant can show that he/she has been directly affected by CSE issues to the extent that group CSE training would be inappropriate, the Licensing team in consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Officer the Council is to offer appropriate one-to-one training or other suitable training in lieu: any additional cost to be borne by the applicant.
10. Where an applicant can show that he/she is unable to attend group training sessions provided the Licensing team in consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Officer the Council is to offer appropriate one-to-one training or other suitable training in lieu: any additional cost to be borne by the applicant. It is anticipated that this exemption will be rarely applied.
11. CSE and DA training provided at another authority be deemed to fulfil the Council's licensing requirements in respect of such training where the course curriculum is assessed by the Licensing team as being equivalent to that provided by Harlow Council. This will provide more flexibility for drivers and new applicants.
12. Where an applicant can show that he/she has received CSE or DA training to a standard equivalent to or higher than that offered by the Council in another profession or setting within the preceding 3 years, the Council's licensing requirements in respect of such training to be deemed to be satisfied . It is anticipated that this discretion would be appropriate in the case of persons

working as teachers, social workers and similar occupations, and would be exercised infrequently.

13. The approach to training applicants proposed at paragraphs 8-12 be applied to any existing licensee who has not completed all training requirements.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Place (includes Sustainability)**

As set out in the report.

Author: **Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place**

### **Finance (Includes ICT)**

None specific.

Author: **Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

### **Housing**

None specific.

Author: **Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

### **Community Wellbeing (includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)**

Suitable arrangements to ensure that all drivers can be readily trained on Child Sexual Exploitation and Disability issues will make a valuable contribution to Community Wellbeing

Author: **Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

### **Governance (includes HR)**

The approval of flexible arrangements for Child Sexual Exploitation and Disability Awareness training will facilitate a process that will continue to ensure compliance with the Council's licensing conditions

Author: **Dimple Roopchand Assistant Solicitor for Brian Keane, Head of Governance**

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
DA	Disability Awareness