

# **Safeguarding Vulnerable Passengers from the Risk of Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation**

25

**Partnership with the Taxi/Private Hire Trade**

# Learning Outcomes

At the end of the session attendees will be able to:

- Be aware of what child sexual exploitation is
- Be aware of what human trafficking is
- Be able to recognise and report a vulnerable person at risk
- Understand how child sexual exploitation and human trafficking can relate to their business
- Know how to protect themselves as drivers and demonstrate due diligence

# What makes a passenger vulnerable?

27

# **What are your responsibilities to a vulnerable passenger?**

# What is human trafficking?

Human Trafficking is a process

- Recruitment (Grooming)
- Pre travel
- Travel
- Arrival
- Exploitation
- Rescue/escape

# **What is human trafficking the Law?**

## **Section 59(A) Sexual offences act 2003**

- A person intentionally arranges or facilitates:
- The travel of a person within the UK For the purposes of sexual exploitation
- During or after the journey
- Believes that another person is likely to sexually exploit the person
- During or after the journey

## What does this mean?

- If a taxi driver transports a child knowing or believing that child will be sexually exploited
- During or after the journey
- That driver will commit the offence of Human Trafficking
- Maximum sentence 14 years imprisonment

# Consent

1. The international definition of Human Trafficking has 3 elements
2. The Act, what is done, Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, receipt of a person.
3. The means, how you get someone to consent to the act.  
Children cannot consent to be exploited so this is not needed
4. The purpose, why it is done, Sexual exploitation
5. As a child cannot consent to be exploited the only elements of the definition that need to be present to identify that an act of Human Trafficking has been committed are one of the elements at 2 above and the purpose Sexual exploitation.

# Palermo Protocol

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons...

...by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person...

...for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs“

A child cannot consent to be exploited

**Act Means Purpose**

# What is Sexual Exploitation?

- Young people receive something in return for engaging in sexual activities.
- Offenders have power over victims due to their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common.

# How Are Young People Targeted?

- Vulnerable
- Befriended by offender
- Grooming process
- Blackmail/threats
- Isolation from support

# Indicators of Risk

- Going missing from home
- Relationships with older males or females
- Concern that young person is sexually active
- Breaking away from family, friends or professionals
- Not attending school
- Experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol

# Indicators of Risk

- Secretive
- Involved in offending behaviour
- Unexplained mobile phones/credit
- Accepting lifts in different cars
- Sending and receiving inappropriate images
- Spending increasing time on social networking sites

# Who are the Offenders?

- Individuals who control adult sex workers
- Drug dealers with links to violent crime
- Groups of males who exploit for their own sexual gratification
- Males who pass young people on to others for sex
- Female offenders
- Other young people

# What are we doing to stop this?

- Professionals and Partners trained to spot signs of exploitation.
- Young people warned of risks.
- Those at risk supported by youth workers.
- Information passed to police to disrupt activities and prosecute offenders.

# How Could this Affect You?

- Concerns about young people in your vehicle.
- Concerns about locations/venues you drop young people off at.
- Concerns about adults paying for young peoples' taxi fares.
- Concerns about young person's conversation 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.
- Pass on any information/concerns you have.

## Scenario

You work in a city centre and often pick up passengers from pubs and clubs. You notice that there are often high numbers of young people who appear to be drunk and underage coming out of a particular night club at weekends.

On this occasion when you arrive to pick up your passenger you see a young girl leaving the premises. The girl seems to be about 14 or 15 years of age and is very intoxicated. She is with three significantly older men and the group is walking towards your vehicle.

# Scenario

An intoxicated 14 year old offers you sex in place of a taxi fare. She is dropped off at a children's home.

## Scenario

You are called to a job at a massage parlour at 3.15am where you pick up an adult female who looks about 23 years old, she has a young girl and a boy with her who look about 13. They are escorted to the car by two older men who address the woman in a foreign language. The children appear afraid and the woman seems upset. The men are in a hurry and ask you to take the passengers to an address in Leeds.

# How to report your concern

- **Phone 999** if risk is imminent / assault happened or likely to
- **Record and report concerns to the police 101** and / or the safeguarding services if a child (xxxx) or vulnerable adult (xxxx) is involved.
- **Signpost if safe to do so** – offer the passenger information (for example make contact cards or window stickers visible)
- **Crimestoppers** – insert info

# Protecting yourself

- Risks
- Code of Good Safeguarding Practice

# Good Safeguarding Practice (1)

- Check at the point of booking if there are any vulnerability issues This will allow you to prepare for the journey in the right way.
- Ask the person booking if an escort for the vulnerable passenger is required and if they are providing one
- Let 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 (eg 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, either a badge or company uniform.
- Sit lone passengers in the back unless otherwise agreed.
- Ask or explain to passengers if using a centralised locking system – don't just put it on without an explanation.

# Good Safeguarding Practice (2)

- 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, they may pose a threat or risk to the other passenger
- 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 and someone is monitoring the trip.
- As with all professions if you are concerned about another driver's conduct report your concerns to your manager or the relevant agency.
- Organisations should have a lead member of staff for safeguarding, this person should be able to advise colleagues about how to manage vulnerable passengers and any incidents arising.
- ALWAYS KEEP A RECORD either in your cab or at head office, 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.