

½ day 'Recognizing and Responding to CSE' Awareness Raising session

Bespoke Session for Private Hires, Hackney Carriages and Taxi Drivers

Session
Welcome and Introductions
<p>Aims and objectives of training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The participants will be introduced to the aims and objectives of the training and what they could hope to achieve by the end of the training</i> <p>Group working agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>A common set of rules that will set the expectations from participants and the trainer e.g. respect, confidentiality, time keeping etc. to enable participants to fully engage and confidently contribute throughout the training</i> <p>Disclaimer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Given the sensitive nature of the training subject, I also remind participants of taking time out should the discussions or materials overwhelm or upset them in any way or form. Participants will also be reminded of confidentiality, the limits of it and also to only share information that they are comfortable sharing</i>
<p>What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Exercise: <i>Participants will be asked to brainstorm on what their understanding of CSE is and to feedback to the wider group</i>• <i>Explores their understanding and current knowledge of the subject matter.</i>• <i>Delegates are then introduced to the national definition (which very often reflects their own understanding of the concept of CSE)</i>
<p>Facts and Figures: The Reality of CSE in the UK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group Exercise: <i>Delegates are provided with some statements relating to the prevalence of CSE and asked to match the statements to figures. This activity is intended to get them thinking that despite being a hidden issue, CSE still continues to hit staggering statistics on how prevalent it currently is in the UK and that this figures are only the tip of the iceberg.</i>• Slides presentation: <i>A brief insight into the grooming process and vulnerabilities of children and young people being targeted for CSE. We also review how young people are targeted. The discussion also encourages them to challenge their own perspectives of how young people may get caught up in exploitative situations and gets across the very important message that although some young people may appear to be choosing or consenting to be involved in sexual exploitation, the reality is that children and young people cannot consent to their own abuse and the responsibility always lies with the adult committing the act</i>
<p>How could this affect you as taxi drivers – open discussion and slide presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>This is an important aspect of the training as it highlights the need for taxi drivers to be trained in being able to spot signs and indicators of CSE.</i>• <i>It also emphasises that they are the eyes and ears of the community and are in a perfect position to spot signs of CSE and hence form a very important part of a network to put a stop to children and young people being exploited or trafficked for sexual purposes -</i>• <i>Very often drivers feel compelled to attend the training due to it being a license</i>

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requirement and this sense of importance helps them to understand that it goes beyond that and touches on their social and moral responsibilities.

Break

What can you do to help and what help is available for you?

- ***DVD – Barnardo’s: Nightwatch: Empowering The Night Time Economy To Tackle CSE - An animated film from Barnardo’s showing how front line, including taxi drivers can play an important role in helping keep young people safe from sexual exploitation. The film follows a journey of a young girl and a perpetrator and highlights how, if you feel that something just isn’t quite right, you should report it. The DVD highlights missed opportunity and shows how everyone can provide a network of eyes and ears.***
- ***Group exercise: This is a brainstorming exercise for delegates to start thinking about warning signs and indicators that they could look out for that might indicate a child/young person at risk of CSE, which includes discussion on being alert to sudden changes in behaviours especially if the young person is known to the driver; addresses that they take the young person to, hints in conversations and anything else that could indicate that they might be at risk.***

• ***Best practice in responding to CSE - open discussion and slides presentation***

Given what’s been covered so far in the session, delegates are reminded the importance of best practice in safeguarding the child/young person who may make disclosure to them, especially since that cab journey might be the only window of opportunity to safety for that child/young person. Key aspects such as listening, reassuring the child/young person, not promising secrecy or investigating further and more importantly reporting it to their designated safeguarding lead as soon as possible form part of the discussion.

• ***Local Response***

The session is finished by providing delegates with numbers and details of who they can contact if they have any concerns or would like to report an incident

- *Delegates are reminded of the importance of being alert to signs of CSE, the need to report any concerns immediately and how their alertness and cooperation against CSE is a lifesaving skill and could make a huge difference in the lives of many children and young people*

Questions, Evaluations and Close of Training

The about outline might seem a little heavy at the outset but the sessions are very informal, discursive and is presented using a mixture of audio visuals and small group discussions to maintain interest, and has been well received by all the drivers to whom I deliver to within Leicester City and county wide for the last 2 -3 years. Feedback has always been positive and those who attend have always found it informative and knowledge enhancing both on a professional and personal level.

Mega Arumugam
18th September 2017