



# Safeguarding Vulnerable People in Partnership with the Transport Sector

Sept 2017 v1.0

# Session Objectives

- Understand what safeguarding is and the need to protect vulnerable adults, young people and children
- Be able to identify possible victims of abuse and exploitation by understanding indicators of risk
- Identify sources of advice and pathways for reporting concerns
- Know how to protect themselves as drivers and passenger assistants and demonstrate due diligence

What makes a person  
vulnerable?

# Vulnerabilities?

- alcohol,
- drugs,
- age (very old or young),
- disability (physical or learning),
- illness (mental/physical),
- unfamiliar with the area,
- separated from friends,
- communication issues (deaf, blind, speak a different language, stroke),
- victims of domestic violence,
- children regularly missing school,
- someone experiencing family break up,
- anyone distressed,
- people who have experienced abuse or neglect,
- people living in residential care or fostered.

# Vulnerabilities?

- Are they with people who do not seem appropriate e.g. age, coercion, number of older people to younger person.
- Sometimes people make unwise choices but they may have 'capacity' to make those choices. In these cases social care might not be able to help, but it is important that you still report your concerns to professionals who may be able to offer advice.
- Where children are concerned, the law is clear that we must put their interests first, whether they wish this or not. So any concern about a child **MUST** be reported to the relevant authority.

# Activity 1

- Before you move on to the activity, we are going to show you a short video created by Barnardo's. [Click here](#) to go to YouTube.
- You are now going to look at 4 examples and what you should do in response to those situations.
- There are points to consider in additional slides.
- Telephone numbers for referrals are listed towards the end of the presentation

# Example 1

You regularly pick up passengers from pubs and clubs, where there are often high numbers of young people who appear to be drunk and underage.

On this occasion when you arrive to pick up your passenger, you see a girl leaving the premises; she seems to be about 14 or 15 years old and is very intoxicated. She is with three significantly older men and the group is walking towards your vehicle. They give a hotel as the address they want to be taken to.

## As a driver you should:

- Accept the passengers, engage in conversation, if concerns emerge or still exist, note details including the descriptions of the passengers, date time, address of pick up and destination and alert the police
- Report the club to the Police / licensing authority / trading standards for suspected underage drinking.
- Record the incident.

# Human trafficking / modern slavery ?

This example could be human trafficking / modern slavery. This will impact on transport industry :-

- ‘A Person commits an offence if they intentionally arrange or facilitate the travel of another person with the intent to commit a relevant offence’

Sexual Offences Act 2003

# What does that mean for a taxi driver ?

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

## Example 2

An intoxicated 14 year old offers you sex in place of a taxi fare and they ask to be dropped off at a residential unit or children's home.

# Consider

- SAY NO! Professional conduct / reputational risk.
- Both the young person and the driver are potentially at risk.
- Record your own account of the incident so that you can demonstrate you are a responsible operator, if the passenger makes a complaint or allegation about you.
- Recognise the vulnerability of the child and transport them home – if necessary forgo the fare – another person might not decline or may take advantage in another way.

# What would you do?

You should report the incident

- to the children's residential unit, and;
- Call Derbyshire so that social care are made aware of the incident.

If you are concerned about the response you get when you reported your concern, you should let the transport team know.

- This raises issues around consent ;
  - A child **CANNOT** consent to sex, intoxicated or not.
  - If someone (any age) is under the influence of alcohol / drugs they cannot consent to sex.

## Example 3

You regularly transport an elderly woman and her daughter from their home address to the local supermarket where they do the shopping.

The mother is starting to look dirty and dishevelled. She is also starting to smell of urine and faeces.

You think that the daughter has mild learning disabilities.

# Consider

- Both passengers are at risk due to their situation
- Try to engage the passengers in further conversation in order to find out a bit more information about their wellbeing.
- Find out if there is someone else at home.
- Consider the ability of the daughter to care for her mother.

This would enable you to have a better picture of the situation and help you decide to refer to services or not.

If you do decide to make a referral contact Call Derbyshire and make a record of the incident

## Example 4

A 24 year old with learning disabilities is transported to a day centre three times a week in a mini-bus.

He tells his parents that the passenger assistant touched him on the leg which he was upset about. He also said that the passenger assistant swears at him says she will drop him off in 'the middle of nowhere' if he doesn't behave.

The passenger assistant denies the allegations and claims that it is the client who swears and attempts to smoke in the taxi but she accepts that she touched him on the leg to quieten him when he opened the window and started shouting and swearing at a passer-by.

# Consider

- All passengers in the mini bus, including the passenger assistant are at risk.
- Report the incident to Call Derbyshire
- Keep a record of the incident
- Report the incident to the transport team to see if there are any additional safeguards required for this passenger.

# Transport services responsibilities – duty of care

- Duty of care. Make sure vulnerable people are safe.
- To treat all passengers with dignity and respect
- Duty to pass on information if concerned about abuse / neglect
- Whistle-blowing (other drivers / other services / club staff)



# Victoria Climbié – abuse victim killed age 9

- The next slide is shared with us by Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board and shows how many professionals came into contact with Victoria Climbié.
- Workers did not share concerns, they accepted great aunts explanations for injuries and relied on aunt to translate.
- **A taxi driver was the person that had concerns for Victoria and tried to save her when he saw how she looked. He ignored the great aunts wishes and drove to a paramedics bay and raised the alarm, she sadly died of her injuries once admitted to hospital. However this taxi driver still put the child's welfare first.**

It highlights that this 'non – professional' person with very little safeguarding knowledge put the welfare of Victoria above all else.



# Definition of Safeguarding

A measure taken to protect someone or something or to prevent something undesirable.

Oxford Dictionary

# People suffering harm

We need to be aware that some people suffer harm as a result of abuse by others.

When this is the case, we have a duty to take some action.



**Safeguarding  
is everybody's  
business**

# Categories of Abuse

## All Adults and Children

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Psychological Abuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Modern Slavery / human trafficking
- Neglect and acts of omission

## Adults only:

- Financial or material abuse
- Organisational abuse
- Self neglect
- Discriminatory abuse

# What is sexual exploitation

- Child sexual exploitation is child abuse
- Young people receive ‘something’ in return for engaging in sexual activities
  - ‘something’ could include material items such as a phone or something as basic as a bed for the night or a meal.

# What is sexual exploitation

- Offenders have power over victims due to their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources
  - Threats will be made in order to make victims comply. For example; If you don't have sex with my mates I will rape/assault your mother
- Violence, coercion and intimidation are common

# How are young people targeted?

- Vulnerable
- Any young person can be targeted – although young people in care homes are over-represented they are not the majority. Usually perpetrators will choose young people who need some love and attention, e.g. bereavement, not-fitting in, not happy at home or school etc..
- Experience of previous abuse – sexual, emotional, physical and neglect.
- Experience of, or witness to, domestic violence.
- Desire/need for money.
- Drug or alcohol misuse (by child or young person and/or parent).
- Family history of involvement in prostitution – especially siblings.
- History of being looked after.
- Homelessness.
- Isolation, which may be generated through the child or young person being located in an area away from all support networks (including a different country).
- Lack of awareness of the risks incorporated with sexual exploitation.
- Low self-esteem/self-worth/self-mutilation.
- Poor attachments.
- Poor school attendance/school exclusion.
- Young gay/bisexual male exploring sexuality in an unsupported way.

# How are young people targeted?

- **Befriended by offender**
  - Could be another young person at school or in the community
  - Someone who works in a shop
  - A young man / woman who flatters them

# How are young people targeted?

- **Grooming process**

- A young man / woman who flatters them
- Take them to parties
- Gives them material objects for free
- Shows them affection and support

# How are young people targeted?

- **Blackmail/threats**
  - Hurt family members
  - Show videos or photographs of them
  - Do this for me or I will get hurt

# How are young people targeted?

- **Isolation from support**
  - Control elements – only allowing them to go where the offender wants them to
  - Turning family and friends against them
  - Making victim think that family are against them

# Risk Indicators

- Behavioural changes
- Physical symptoms
- Mental health issues
- Substance misuse
- Unexplained gifts or money
- Truanting or going missing
- Repeat offending
- Perpetrator activity



# Who are the offenders?

- Male or female
- Same age peers
- Respectable
- Jobs and education
- Families and partners
- Positions of trust
- Any age
- Any ethnicity
- Any religion

## Not all

- Have previous convictions
- Are in 'gangs' or 'rings' of males who exploit for their own sexual gratification

Anyone can be an offender

# Who are the offenders?

- Vanessa George, Colin Blanchard and Angela Allen were convicted of sexual abuse of extremely young children in a nursery setting including the taking and sharing of images. Child / babies did not receive anything in return for this but the offender did.
- Football coach George Ormond convicted in 2012 for assaulting young boys in the 1990's.
- Lewis Daynes, 19 – groomed Breck Bednar 14 via Xbox – lured him to his flat and killed him.



# Who are the offenders?

- Deleah Poulton, 19, groomed 12 year old she babysat for, buying him alcohol and engaging him in sexual acts until he was 15 years old.
- 18 individuals convicted of grooming, trafficking and sexual offences against girls in Newcastle August 2017.

The last example is the much publicised model, however this shows it is not always the case.



# 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/social workers and other agencies
- Information passed to police to disrupt activities and prosecute offenders

# How Could this Affect You?

- Concerns about young people, their situation and the conversations they have in your vehicle
- Concerns about locations/venues you drop young people off at
- Concerns about adults paying for young peoples' taxi fares

# How Could this Affect You?

- Taxi drivers are the eyes and the ears of the community. You are in an ideal situation to help identify those vulnerable people and situations by reporting what you know to authorities in a position to support them.
- This does not mean reporting to the police all of the time, this could mean reporting to social care to gain support for an elderly person or preventing the exploitation of a vulnerable young person.

# 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

**Say something if you see something**

# How to report your concerns

|                           |              |           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Police non emergency      |              |           | 101          |
| Police emergency          |              |           | 999          |
| Social Care               | Adults       | Childrens | out of hours |
| Derbyshire County Council | 01629 533190 |           |              |
| Derby City Council        | 01332        | 01332     | 01332        |
|                           | 642855       | 641172    | 786968       |

# Local Contacts

Your local licensing department:

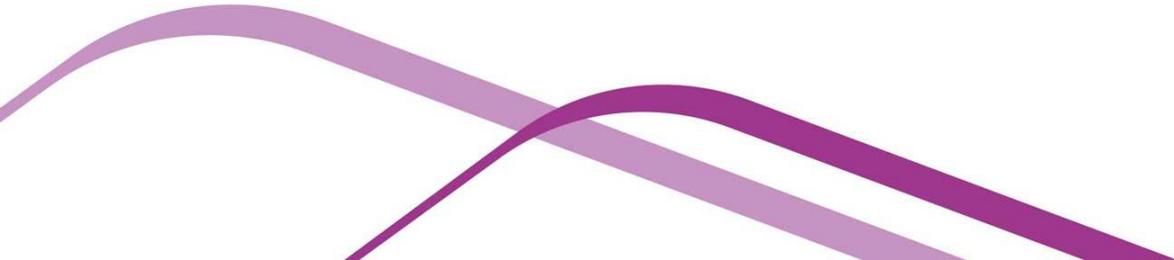
Derbyshire County Council Transport:

Home to School Transport – 01629 536739

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities  
Transport – 01629 536727

Adult Care Transport – 01629 538091

# Protecting Yourself

- Ensure your DBS is up to date and if applicable you have your Certificate of Good Conduct.
  - Consider the risks to you and your business
  - Also adhere to a code of Good Safeguarding Practice
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# Good Safeguarding Practice

- 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 inappropriately
- 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

For the full practice guidelines please click on the link on the webpage.

**Thank you for your time!**

