



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



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

For licensed private hire drivers and hackney carriages.


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Safeguarding relates to the protection of an individual, either a child or adult, who is vulnerable.


Any child can be hurt, put at risk of harm or abused regardless of their age, gender, religion or ethnicity.

Safeguarding includes:

-  **Protecting children from maltreatment**

-  **Preventing impairment of children's health and/or development**

-  **Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care**

-  **Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes**

Who is responsible?

The action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm is the responsibility of everyone.




Why licensed drivers?

Safeguarding is not an issue which can be dealt with by just one agency.





Taxi and private hire drivers have an important role to play as you are the 'eyes and ears' in and around Stockport.

Your assistance is vital in tackling this issue.

Child protection

-  Abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, neglect and harm
-  Abuse can be in a family setting, an institution or within the community
-  An abuser can be an adult known or unknown to the child or another child

Child sexual exploitation

-  Child sexual exploitation is a type of sexual abuse and it is against the law
-  Taxis are often used in the trafficking (transportation) of children who are exploited
-  Child sexual exploitation affects both male and females under the age of 18 years of age
-  The victim is often given gifts such as money,

alcohol, drugs in return for sexual acts with the abuser

Often the victim will be groomed and maybe subjected to violence or intimidation to comply with the abuser's requests.

The young victim will not always recognise that this type of relationship is unlawful.

They may be vulnerable and seek affection from adults who wish to exploit them.

How can you help?

Sometimes you may hear or see things whilst working, either involving passengers or other drivers that you don't feel happy about.

You may notice a pattern of being asked to pick up young people and transport them without an adult who is paying for the journey.

You may also notice a particular young person travelling regularly to certain locations – such as hotels, bed and breakfast establishments or parks.

You should report any concerns to the police.

Contact:

999 if anyone is in immediate danger

101 if they are not in any immediate danger or

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Child sexual exploitation – NSPCC on 0808 800 5000

Report any child sexual exploitation on line:

[itsnotokay.co.uk](https://www.itsnotokay.co.uk)

This can be done anonymously.

Signs of abuse

-  **Anger or sadness**
-  **Being with an adult looking girlfriend/boyfriend**
-  **Aggressive and risk facing behaviours. Eg: drug use, alcohol use, inappropriate relationships.**
-  **Lack of self-esteem**
-  **Self-harming**
-  **Suspicious injuries**
-  **Depression**
-  **Changes in behaviour**
-  **Age-inappropriate sexual behaviour and language**

Domestic abuse and violence

Domestic abuse involves any incident that is violent or threatening between family members. It can also include those people who are or have been in intimate relationships and this is regardless of their gender.

The abuse can be sexual, financial or emotional.

Most commonly women tend to be the victims of domestic abuse with men being the abusers, although it can affect anyone; men, women and same sex relationships.

This type of abuse is controlling and aggressive behaviour which is aimed at gaining power and control over the victim.

Contact:

999 if anyone is in immediate danger

**101 if they are not in any immediate danger or
Crimestoppers 0800 555 111**

Or visit endthefear.co.uk


Human trafficking


This is a serious offence.

A person is trafficked if they are brought in or moved around in a country by people who threaten, intimidate and hurt them or force them to do things they don't want to do, this also includes sexual acts and forced labour.

If a taxi driver transports a child, knowing or believing that the child will be sexually exploited, either during or after the journey commits the offence of Human Trafficking with a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison

Driver safety

 **Check at the point of booking whether there are any vulnerability issues**

 **Keep a record or let your base know if anything happens during the journey**

 **Be professional at all times:**

Don't talk about any personal issues – either yours or the passengers

Don't exchange phone personal phone numbers or other personal contact details.

 **Do not touch passengers**

 **Do not accept sexual favours instead of payment**

 **Always wear your ID badge**

 **Request lone passengers sit in the rear of the vehicle**

- + If you have centralised locking in your vehicle, mention this to passengers if you are going to use it**
- + Don't set off on a journey with a passenger unless you have a specific destination address**
- + Don't double up on a booking, they could be a danger to the other passenger**
- + Never follow a passenger into their home unless this has previously been agreed**
- + Keep a record of any incidents which cause you concern. You should include what happened and what actions you took with regards your passenger and yourself**
- + Stay alert and aware at all times**