

Appendix 4 - Safeguarding and Disability Awareness

Since April 2015, the Councils in West Suffolk have represented Suffolk on the Exploited Children Strategic Group. The group brings together a number of related work streams and its purpose is to support the Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) in fulfilling its statutory duty. The LSCB monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of what is done by local authorities and Board partners, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve. It also ensures there is a multi-agency response to the identification and safeguarding of vulnerable children and young people and the risks they may encounter.

A key strategic priority of the group and the LSCB is to raise awareness of what child exploitation is and what risk factors may indicate that a child or young person is being abused or at risk of abuse in a number of areas including the hackney carriage and private hire trade.

To support this awareness, information materials have been developed for hackney carriage and PHV drivers. However, face-to-face training is key to ensuring that all drivers are fully aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and what actions they can take to alert the appropriate agencies.