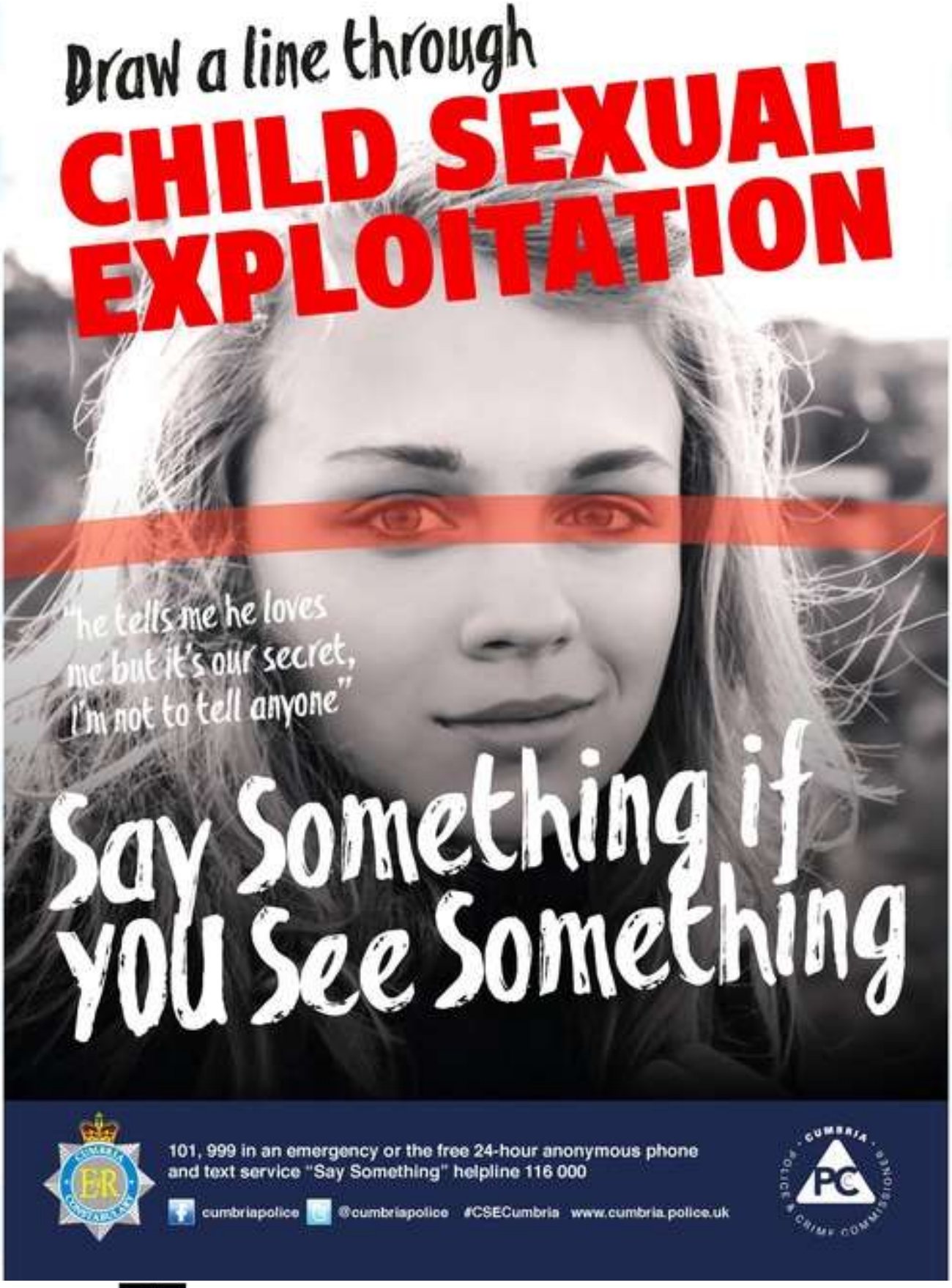
CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Guide for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and Operators



Handbook funded by the County Community Safety Partnerships

What is Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)?

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (eg food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition, for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the internet or mobile phones without immediate payment or gain.

In all cases, those exploiting the child or young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social, economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

How this booklet can help your business:

We believe that Cumbrian businesses can play a key role in preventing CSE and human trafficking, which puts children and your business at risk. This booklet aims to raise awareness specifically with the taxi trade of the signs to look out for and actions to take to help ensure that businesses are not vulnerable to being associated with this type of crime. Drivers specifically can form a crucial part of the fight against these issues and be the eyes and ears of the community, providing potentially important information to authorities.

There are a number of criminal offences associated with CSE and human trafficking resulting in damaging consequences including a possibility of prosecution, action being taken in relation to licensing and reputational/financial damage. By working together we can play a positive role in protecting children and businesses in our community. You have the power to help prevent CSE and trafficking.

Signs to look out for

- Dropping off and picking up young people from hotels, B&Bs and house parties
- Picking up young people from other cars
- Young people who look distressed or intimidated
- Observing suspicious activities in hot-spot areas
- Young people under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol
- Attempts by young people to avoid paying fairs in return for sexual favours
- Regular passengers travelling to and from locations taking young people with them
- Taking young people to hospital/A&E, who are not accompanied by parents
- Young people with injuries such as bruising or blood stains

This is not an exhaustive list, and if you have any suspicions regarding CSE you should take action.

What to do

- Make notes about the information you know
- Anyone with concerns about child sexual exploitation can contact:
  - Cumbria Police on 101
  - In an emergency always dial 999
  - Call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111
  - Cumbria Safeguarding Hub on 0333 240 1727
  - Call the 24-hour anonymous phone and text service “Say Something” helpline 116 000

Information to share

- Names
- Description of people
- Car registration numbers, makes and models of vehicles
- Description of concerning activity

Guidance for operators employing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers

This booklet aims to promote good safeguarding practices in the taxi trade in Cumbria when providing services to vulnerable and young people. Vulnerability can be caused by a number of factors including physical and mental ability, mental illness, drug use and alcohol. Adults and children can both be classed as vulnerable as a result of these factors.

At the point of booking, a vulnerable passenger risk assessment should be undertaken and recorded in writing. This should inform your operating policy in relation to the protection of passengers and drivers.

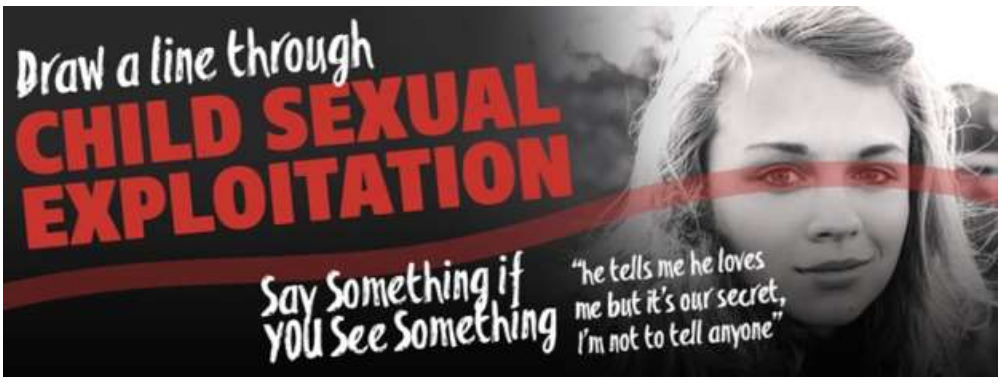
All drivers will be provided with information and should be aware of the policies adopted by the district council in which they are licenced.

Drivers should record the start and end time of each shift.

Drivers should be required to produce their photo-identification to the carer, young or vulnerable passenger at the point of collection.

Drivers should remain professional at all times and should not:

- Touch any passenger unnecessarily or inappropriately
- Make offensive or inappropriate comments
- Attempt to misuse personal details observed via the business about their passengers.

Records should be maintained of any complaints and subsequent action against a driver.

A record should be kept of any journey that involved a vulnerable or young person who is not accompanied by a carer. If a driver is concerned about the safety, welfare or behaviour of a passenger they are encouraged to report this to the Police or appropriate body.