

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE**

**21 November 2018**

**Safeguarding Children in Derbyshire – Home to School Transport**

**Scoping Report**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To inform the Committee of the scope and purpose of a proposed review of the policies in place to safeguard children in Home to School Transport across Derbyshire.

**2. Information and Analysis**

As part of the Committee's responsibility to scrutinise the safeguarding of children, it reviews the policies in place within the County Council and those of District and Borough Councils where appropriate.

The Derbyshire Chief Executives Group commissioned a review (in 2017) of the consistency and robustness of taxi driver licensing policies across Derbyshire. The review involved the District/Borough Councils, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and the Police.

The review stemmed from concerns identified within one of the District Authorities and also the significant issues highlighted nationally regarding Taxi Licensing and the protection and safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The Chief Executives and the Police recognised that taxi drivers are in a position of public trust and, due to the nature of their work, they are likely to have unaccompanied access to children and vulnerable adults.

The review made 9 recommendations which were developed into a draft Action Plan which set out the proposed timescale for delivery and identified Lead Officers for each element.

In addition to this work, the Strategic Director of Economy, Transport and Environment reported to Cabinet on 22 February 2018 on the development of a Transport Safeguarding Standards Framework for Contracted Passenger Transport Services. This report also had an Action Plan to implement 7 Standards which include the introduction of a Drivers' Code of Conduct, improved collaboration with Derbyshire licensing authorities and other initiatives to ensure the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults whilst travelling in contracted transport.

## **Potential Information Sources**

The review will be conducted by a working group of Members of this Committee who will hear evidence from;

- Dan Swain (Chief Executive of North East Derbyshire and Bolsover District Councils) who commissioned the review on behalf of the Derbyshire Chief Executives' Group.
- Officers of the Economy, Transport and Environment Department who are responsible for implementing the Safeguarding Transport Standards Framework and Action Plan.
- Officers and Committee/Cabinet Members of the county's taxi licensing authorities.
- Safeguarding specialists in the Children's Services Department and Adult Care Department
- Taxi and Passenger Bus operators' groups representatives.
- Public Transport Contract Procurement team
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Parents and school Head Teachers

The working group appointed by this Committee will undertake the review and submit a final report to the full Committee at the conclusion of the review.

### **3. Officer's Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to:

- (1) Agree the scope of the review; and
- (2) Appoint Members of the Committee to the review working group.

**Janie Berry**  
**Director of Legal Services**