



Rochford District
Council

REPORT TITLE:	To Approve The Blue Lamp Trust As A Provider For Disability Awareness Training For Our Licensed Drivers
REPORT OF:	Eugene Minogue (Interim) Director - Communities And Health

REPORT SUMMARY

The Committee is requested to approve the inclusion of The Blue Lamp Trust virtual classroom course for disability awareness training for our licensed drivers.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 Following on from the successful implementation of having the Blue Lamp Trust virtual safeguarding course available for our licence drivers to complete, we believe having the option to complete the virtual classroom course for disability awareness training would be beneficial as well.
- 1.2 The virtual classroom course is CPD credited and will take place via zoom with an instructor who will lead the course, with learning being consolidated via knowledge check questions throughout.
- 1.3 A breakdown of the elements covered are as follows:
 - Understand what is meant by the term disability.
 - Understand the law and legal requirements around disability.
 - Understand different types of disability.
 - Understand how to load and secure passengers and wheelchairs.
 - Understand best practice when interacting with a disabled passenger.

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- Understand the regulations about assistance dogs.
 - Understand their duty of care responsibilities and best practice protocols.

- 1.4 Currently we have four approved training providers for Disability Awareness training that provide the training face to face. With the inclusion of the virtual classroom course this would allow drivers the opportunity to complete the training remotely. This would be beneficial for drivers who are working outside of the district on jobs that take them away for long periods of time, such as the restricted private hire drivers who are working on films sets across the UK.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Blue Lamp Trust has previously been approved as a provider of the Safeguarding training, which is also provided virtually.
- 2.1 This has been running successfully since its implementation in September 2022.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 I foresee no risks in the approval of this training course.
- 3.2 Licensed drivers will have the option to choose which approved training provider they wish to go with, whether it is face to face or virtual.
- 3.3 We can also offer the use of technical equipment and a booked private room if drivers need assistance with this.

4.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consideration of this report has been carried out without the requirement for a consultation.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There will be no financial implications to the Council, drivers will book and pay the course fee directly to the provider for this training. The Course fee is £40.00.

6.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 If approved the Tax Licensing Policy will be amended.

7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
 - To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - To foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- 7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and found there to be no impacts (either positive or negative) on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010.

8.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None Identified.

9.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None Identified.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	