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Meeting	Gambling, Licensing & Regulatory Committee
Date	15 September 2014
Present	Councillors Boyce (Chair), Cuthbertson, Funnell, Hyman, Horton, King, Looker, McIlveen, Richardson, Taylor, Watt (Vice-Chair) and Watson
Apologies	Councillors Alexander, Crisp and Orrell

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## **7. Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

Cllr Watt declared a personal non prejudicial interest that Skelton Village Hall was a polling station venue and he was a Member of the Skelton Village Hall Committee.

## **8. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2014 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **9. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

## **10. Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations**

Members considered a report that informed them of the duty on all Local Authorities to carry out a review of polling districts, places and stations in UK Parliamentary polling districts and places as laid down in the Electoral Registration Administration Act 2013.

The Election Services Manager gave an update and confirmed that the Electoral Registration Act 2013 required every Local Authority to complete the review by no later than 31 January

2015. He stated that although the polling district review for York had been delayed due to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England not issuing their final ward boundary review recommendations until July 2014 officers had begun consultation with local political parties, parish council's, disability awareness groups and local community groups. A questionnaire to all polling places would also be distributed to obtain feedback on the venues and to ensure that all polling stations were suitable and accessible to all.

Members noted that at the end of the consultation the outcome would be reported to the Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee in November to allow the newly created polling districts to be implemented in the next scheduled Register of Electors due to be published on 1 December 2014.

In answer to Members questions the Election Services Manager confirmed:

- the review would consider using more schools as polling stations as they provided good facilities and were located in a well known position in the community.
- the review would look at those areas that had, as a result of the Ward Boundary review, created a ward that crossed parliamentary boundaries and would ensure that polling districts were convenient to the electors in regard to voting arrangements.
- each venue would have suitable facilities for visitors and staff on duty.
- parish's were automatically polling district in there own right, but could be separated if extremely large in geographical area.
- that postal votes in York had steadily dropped in demand over the last ten years, so all polling stations would continue to be used to the current allocation.
- in extreme circumstances a polling station could be located outside an electors ward.
- The Returning Officer did have the power to negotiate with individual venues regarding the hiring costs, to ensure value for money.
- Parliamentary Elections were funded by central government and City of York Council only met the cost of local ward elections. Where Parliamentary and local Elections were combined on the same day, the cost was equally shared between central government and the local authority where practicable.

- The Electoral Services Manager would arrange to visit and contact the Caretaker from Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church.<sup>1</sup>

Members thanked the officer for his report and would welcome an update at a future meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To reflect the result of the consultation and meet legislative requirements

#### Action Required

Arrange to visit and contact the Caretaker from AF  
Melbourne Terrace Methodist Church

### **11. Safeguarding Children - Verbal Update.**

Members received a presentation from the Safeguarding Advisor on Child Sexual Exploitation and how it related to the Gambling Licensing & Regulatory Committee.

The Safeguarding Advisor informed Members that child sexual abuse (CSA) was the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she did not fully comprehend, was unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child was not developmentally prepared, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society. She explained that Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was a form of sexual abuse that involved manipulating or forcing a young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity through fear, physical coercion or in exchange for things such as money, gifts, accommodation, affection or status.

She discussed a number of vulnerabilities that some children may be involved in that could lead to CSE and how recognising these issues early could help minimise the risk. She confirmed that practitioners were trained to distinguish certain indicators should they think a young person was at increased risk.

The types of venues young people could be sexually exploited were discussed and how these venues, hotels, pubs/bars/clubs, taxi ranks and restaurants could have contact with the Gambling Licensing & Regulatory Committee. The officer went on to

highlight a selection of serious cases that had been reported in other Local Authority areas.

In answer to Members questions it was confirmed that:

- Wenlock Terrace children's home had regular contact with the Council including the Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Young People, who visited and received reports on a regular basis.
- Youth Workers were decreasing but officers would continue to fill those gaps and work would continue with as many people as possible including Castlegate, the Youth Offending Team, Neighbourhood workers, Foster Carers, Wenlock Terrace, North Yorkshire Police and the Front Door.
- church groups were also being trained and were made aware of CSE.
- a briefing session for all Councillors was being arranged to ensure everyone was aware of CSE.
- the Corporate Parenting Board, School Governors and the Youth Council were actively involved in these issues.

The advisor concluded to say that she was exploring a free campaign, developed by the Children's Society and the National Working Group, which would allow her to adapt a training course to highlight CSE. These training sessions could help staff in the leisure and hospitality trade identify and respond to any concerns they see on their premises.

Members agreed that working together was vital to prevent, identify and respond to any form of sexual abuse or exploitation as early as possible. They expressed a significant interest in raising awareness and agreed how beneficial it would be to educate private providers and local businesses including, taxi companies, fast food outlets and local hospitality providers. The Licensing Manager stated that York used to have a Hotel Watch Group and she agreed to investigate if this group was still in operation.<sup>1</sup>

Members understood that they needed to be very vigilant in their approach and must consider the best options available to encourage individuals and businesses to commit. Suggestions made were CCTV in taxis or introducing the training as a policy.

The Licensing Manager agreed to raise these issues and consult with the North Yorkshire Licensing Group on 22 October

2014, the Taxi Association in November and a representative from North Yorkshire Police.<sup>2</sup> She also agreed to contact Liverpool City Council to see how CCTV in taxis was introduced.<sup>3</sup>

Members thanked officers for their report and welcomed an update at a future meeting.

- Resolved: (i) That the presentation be noted.  
(ii) That the following be contacted by the Licensing Manager:
- The Hotel Watch Group
  - North Yorkshire Licensing Group
  - The Taxi Association
  - North Yorkshire Police
  - Liverpool City Council

Reason: To allow Members to be fully informed on the key issues affecting children's safeguarding in York.

Action Required

Investigate if the Hotel Watch Group is still in operation. LC

Arrange to consult with the North Yorkshire Licensing Group on 22nd Oct 14, The Taxi Association and North Yorkshire Police. LC

Contact Liverpool Council re CCTV in taxi's. LC

Cllr Boyce, Chair

[The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 5.10 pm].