

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 22nd March 2017
Report for: Consideration
Report of: Executive Member Children's Services

Report Title

Executive Response: Home to School Transport – DBS Check Update

Summary

Please find below an update on DBS situation for drivers contracted to SEND home to school transport runs.

Update

1. Qualification to get on to the Council's Dynamic Procurement System

To get on to the Council's Dynamic Purchasing system (DPS) for Social Care Transport, all contractors have to state that they will provide drivers who have enhanced DBS checks. The specific question stated in the tender submission document is below:-

8.3	Please confirm that your organisation will ensure all drivers have an Enhanced DBS check under the category for working with children and vulnerable adults who operate under the social transport contract
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Please Note: StaR will seek evidence relating to the questions above.

The requirement of having drivers who are appropriately checked and trained is stated throughout the tender documentation to be able to get on to the DPS.

2. Mini Tender Process

Once a contractor has been approved to get on to the DPS, they can then bid for mini tenders. Each time a mini tender is advertised on the DPS, the requirement to have drivers with an enhanced DBS is stated again within the terms and conditions, the specific clause is below:-

Drivers shall at all times:

6.1	be a competent and reliable person, properly and appropriately licensed and comply with any request to complete an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checked in accordance with procedures authorised by the Home Office for the disclosure of the criminal backgrounds of people with access to children or other vulnerable persons.
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3. PSV Licence Holders

Even though a DBS is not required to obtain a PSV license, the Council's terms and conditions state that this is a mandatory requirement.

On reviewing the original DPS submissions all of those contractors who have a PSV Operator's licence, all have stated that their drivers have enhanced DBS checks. In some cases this information was provided up front by the contractor as part of the DPS submission.

Trafford Travel Co-ordination Unit (TTCU) conduct spot checks of runs and also work with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency who specifically monitor PSV drivers and vehicles. .

4. Future Developments

One of the outcomes of a current organisational change within the TTCU team is to create a business case for an additional post to increase capacity. One area of responsibility for the post holder will be to support with the conduction of vehicle and driver checks for all runs, as well as support with the management of the passenger assistants.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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