

KHS Road Safety position statement on minibus driving within Kent County Council

A report by the Director of Kent Highway Services to the Highways Advisory Board on 18 September 2007

Background

1. Kent County Council's Corporate Health & Safety Board produced a Minibus Code of Practice in 1996. This Code was developed with the inclusion of all the relevant parties and the Road Safety team were involved in this process.
2. The Code dictates much of the content in the Minibus Drivers Familiarisation Training Course run by the Road Safety team. The largest user groups of the Course are schools and Social Care Centres, although individuals from other teams and outside agencies affiliated with KCC often participate. A key element of the Code is to regulate and standardise the requirements, both legal and from a safety perspective, supporting safe minibus operation on KCC business.

Current Situation

3. Since the publication of the Code of Practice there have been some significant changes in legislation governing minibus operation and in - vehicle safety generally (e.g. mobile phone, child seats, etc.). Consequently some managers or organisations may not be aware of recent developments, or might choose to ignore them. There is a concern that units within KCC may be unaware of best practice developments on driving related issues and that this could be exposing KCC, its staff and customers to avoidable risk.

Proposed Position Statement

4. To overcome this concern the Road Safety team has developed a Position Statement (Appendix A.) that covers a range of key issues related to minibus driving safety. The purpose of this Position Statement is to clarify and reinforce road safety good practice and remind managers and drivers of the need to place safety above all else whilst operating a large vehicle. The Statement, which would be circulated throughout KCC, should be viewed as a blueprint for the safe operation of any large passenger carrying vehicle and should be promoted as such to organisations outside of KCC.

Recommendations

5. Subject to the views of this Board, it is proposed to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste that the Highways Advisory Board approve the Position Statement set out in appendix A of this report.

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