



SUBJECT: Lewis Hamilton or Driving Miss Daisy?

RECIPIENTS: All Council Directorates

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Mirror, Signal, Sat Nav !!!!!

Why are drivers at such a high risk of accidents?

As with all drivers, technology has changed the driving experience dramatically– gone are the days when the only dashboard distraction was the speedometer and fuel gauge.

Mobile phones and sat-navs have added a new distraction and risk. But one of the main factors putting drivers at risk is that, regardless of how they feel, employees will often still go to work when they're not up to it. They might be tired, emotionally distracted or unwell but feel the pressure to get behind the wheel. Someone's lifestyle can contribute to the way they drive when they get into a vehicle. Drivers sometimes feel under pressure as a result of vary things both work related i.e. targets, resources etc but also personal reasons i.e. illness, family stressors etc. Risk is not just in the vehicle but also in the job – take visits, for example.

Employees come up against trip hazards, pets and even abuse. You have to do a dynamic risk assessment looking at risk when arriving at the location – it is about going beyond the control, manoeuvring and parking of the vehicle. You can't say to people they can't drive because of these contributory factors – but you can give them the tools to cope and manage it. Once you've acknowledged a problem, then you can manage it."



Education

LCC have recently installed a new e-learning course on Lincs2Learn which cover general driver safety, covering key risk areas, things for drivers to consider and actions they can take to reduce these risk. It also looks at driver behaviour and attitude and how people act and react when behind the wheel, are you more Lewis Hamilton than Driving Miss Daisy? Do you let people in or close the gap, rubbing bumpers with the car in front? This is just the first stage of a bigger Driver Assessment Tool Kit that will become available for all LCC employees with a Driver assessment and evaluation system coming on-line later in the year. Click [here](#) to access the new Driver Safety e-learning course.

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact: Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)