

Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

Title:	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
Date:	Monday 3 September 2018
Venue:	Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
16	Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed new and existing members to the board. A roundup of introductions were made. The Chair noted the apologies received. No declarations on interest were made.	
17	Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2018/19: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies The Chair invited Benn Cain, Member Services Officer, to introduce the item. Benn stated that the paper was for members to agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Terms of Reference;• the Board's membership;• the Board's nominations to outside bodies;• future meetings of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB); and• agree to the appointment of member champions. The Chair thanked Benn for the update and welcomed members to comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members requested that the meeting date in November be held a week later; the Board then agreed for the next SSCB to be held on Monday 19 November. All other meeting dates were agreed.• Members agreed the Terms of Reference.• Members agreed the Board's membership.• Members agreed to the nominations of outside bodies.• Members agreed to the following Member Champions:	

Abuse, exploitation and modern slavery
Anti-social behaviour
Bereavement services
Community cohesion and integration
Licensing
Domestic abuse
Prevent and Counter-extremism

Regulatory Services
Water safety
“Scambassador”

Cllr Alan Rhodes
Cllr Anita Lower (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Nick Worth
Cllrs Farah Hussain and Katrina Wood
Cllrs Kate Haigh and Eric Allen
Cllrs Katrina Wood and Jim Beall
Cllrs Simon Blackburn (Chair) and Colin Spence
Cllr Anita Lower (Deputy Chair)
Cllr James Dawson
Cllr Judith Wallace

The Chair thanked members for their comments.

Action

- Members noted the report.

- 18 Appendix A - Terms of Reference for the Safer and Stronger Communities Board**
- 19 Appendix B - Safer and Stronger Communities Board Membership 2018/19**
- 20 Appendix C - Safer and Stronger Communities Board Outside Body Appointments**
- 21 Appendix D - List of Future Safer and Stronger Communities Board Meetings for 2018/19**
- 22 Appendix E - Board Member Champions Role Description**
- 23 Safer and Stronger Communities Board Policy Priorities for 2018-19**

The Chair invited Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, to introduce the item.

Mark stated that the paper sets out proposals for the SSCB priorities and work programme for 2018-19. The proposals are based on corporate LGA priorities and options for broader work based on a continuation of ongoing work (including responding to recent policy announcements by Government) and areas of interest previously indicated by Board members. The Board’s work priorities now also include regulatory services in relation to food safety and the UK’s departure from the EU; Mark stated that it is difficult to say what the work load may be currently, as this is dependent on the final deal.

The Chair thanked Mark for his update and welcomed members to comment:

- Members requested that we use the term “anti-modern slavery” (in reference to paragraph 19) from henceforth.

- Members discussed the on-going work the LGA is undertaking in relation to drug and alcohol abuse; Mark stated that his team are having live discussions with the Home Office.
- Members discussed how deaths caused by drowning have doubled over the summer due to the hot weather. Members made reference and Mark confirmed that the LGA will be submitting to the upcoming consultation on Cold Water Shock Training.
- Members requested more information on potential cross-cutting work on mental health and community safety issues (paragraph 15.6). Mark stated that this will be discussed at future a future meeting of the SSCB.

The Chair thanked members for their comments.

Action

- Members noted the report.

24 National FGM Centre

The Chair invited Leethen Bartholomew, Head of the National FGM Centre, to introduce the item.

Leethen gave his presentation to the Board via a PowerPoint presentation, which was shared with members. This presentation included:

- The National FGM Centre was set-up via a partnership Barnardo's & the LGA, funded by the Department of Education (DoE).
- Discussed the aims and objectives of the centre's work.
- Leethen stated that the centre also supports local authorities in relation to breast flattening & child abuse linked to faith and belief.
- Leethen made reference to the government's Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls, which includes breast flattening and female genital mutilation (FGM).
- Leethen stated that this abuse has links to Human Trafficking.
- Abuse linked to faith or belief is a growing issue in the UK .
- Leethen discussed how FGM is a hidden crime, with reported cases of FGM being undertaken in the UK extremely hard to prove.
- It was discussed that women who are victims of FGM are four times more likely to be victims of domestic abuse (DA). Leethen stated that all cases are extremely complex.
- The centre undertakes early intervention and prevention work.
- Leethen discussed trauma and re-traumatisation through investigation questions undertaken by police and social services.
- Leethen discussed the four types of FGM. Leethen also stated that women and girls do not present or report this abuse due to fear and judgement.
- FGM is not just prevalent in countries in Africa, but also in South America, India and Asia.
- Leethen discussed the centres knowledge hub and the FGM Assessment Tool (launched in February 2018, which has been globally accessed over 2000 times), and the Global Prevalence Map.

- Leethen also made reference to operation limelight, which investigates inbound and outbound flights from the UK.

The Chair thanked Leethen for his update and welcomed members to comment:

- Members discussed how community engagement is key with this area of work.
- Members discussed the view of Sharia Law in relation to FGM, breast flattening and abuse linked to faith and belief. Leethen stated that the Quran doesn't make reference to FGM. Members agreed the distinction between culture and religion, and that this type of abuse is much more linked to culture.
- Members discussed the link with mental health and this type of abuse.
- Member discussed operational issues in relation to low prevalence area (and made reference to paragraph five).

The Chair thanked members for their comments.

Action

- Members noted the update.
- Leethen's PowerPoint presentation to be circulated after the SSCB.

25 Civil resilience and Operation Black Start

The Chair welcomed Lord Toby Harris of Haringey, UK Coordinator for the Electric Infrastructure Security Council, to introduce the item.

Lord Harris' presentation included implications of a major power failure, which can be caused by a number of different events, including:

- Terrorist attacks on the UK electricity grid, either through an Electrical Magnetic Pulse or cyber-attacks.
- Natural disaster, including weather, space weather (such as a solar flare), all of which can cause natural EMP's.

Lord Harris also made reference to the Lancaster incident, which highlighted the reliance of power and interconnection of modern life. Emergency generators do exist, but tend not to be tested regularly and are therefore due to fail.

Lord Harris made reference to services and national infrastructure that will stop being provided/fail:

- Schools will probably be closed or used as crisis centres.
- Transporting fuel will also fail, meaning people won't be able to get to work – especially worrying when thinking about medical staff or engineers. This could cause civil disorder in relation to food and water supplies.
- Nuclear power centres; what happens when the nuclear core coolant fails?
- Water and sewage systems will fail, causing floods.

- Communication systems – including phone masts – will also fail, which will heavily implicate the emergency services response (providing they have fuel). Lord Harris also made reference to the government's decision to take out copper landline wire.
- Lord Harris confirmed that BBC Radio 4 will keep broadcasting.

Lord Harris stated that Local Councils often keep their plans Emergency Planning strategies online, and often these do not take into consideration other local authorities when power is down, due to capacity issues and lack of resources on local government.

Lord Harris concluded with the importance of how to manage a national emergency incident, and how local ward councils are at the best place to work out what buildings should be kept open and how to help the most vulnerable people.

The Chair thanked Lord Harris for his update and welcomed members to comment:

- Members discussed preventive work.
- Members discussed reliance on businesses such as super markets giving food out. Lord Harris stated the major supermarkets have all confirmed they will hand out free food and emergency supplies, however there are legal restrictions over this as any food that has gone out of date and handed out, that supermarket in question could be liable for legal
- Members discussed the growing independence of online services.
- Members discussed the implications of Brexit. However, Lord Harris stated that the UK's electrical dependence is different as we are an island and not part of the European mainland continent.
- Members discussed resilience, with Lord Harris advising to prepare a grab bag to include; something to keep you warm, a wind up radio; a wind up torch; and containers of water for two weeks.
- Members discussed how this is an issues that is not at the forefront of peoples mind until it happens.
- Members discussed previous education in relation to resilience. Lord Harris stated that this has disappeared, and that there is a real nervousness form Government to issue guidance around resilience to the public to avoid causing fear and panic.
- Members discussed the need for sharing best practices amongst local authorities . Lord Harris stated that some authorities that have high risk of flooding have some plans but encouraged all local authorities to prepare extensively, and where possible, move this up the political agenda.
- Members welcomed a series of Cllr training events.
- Members discussed generators and the issues on reliance on them. Members questioned if there is list of public bodies that have generators. Lord Harris stated that there probably is not a list in circulation, and questioned where would you prioritise diesel supplies.
- Members agreed the presentation highlighted the importance of emergency planning at a very local level, although also agreed that this doesn't issues in a complete blackout scenario.

- Members discusses ways of preparation without causing panic. The Chair asked if it would be beneficial for future updates and case studies of preparation and best practices. Members agreed this would be helpful.

Action

- Members noted the report.
- Invitation to Lord Harris to be extended in the future to discuss case studies of preparation and best practices.

26 Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings

The Chair invited Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, to introduce the item. Mark stated that the report sets out the LGA's building safety related work since the last Board meeting, including the LGA's response to Dame Judith Hackitt's final report, the LGA's response to the consultation on the ban on the use of combustible materials on high-rise residential buildings, and work related to remediating private high-rise buildings with combustible cladding systems.

Mark also stated that the Secretary of State for MHCLG has set up a Task & Finish Group for High Rise Buildings, specifically to look at private sector infrastructure (as changes to these buildings cladding are very much behind public sector buildings whose cladding needs to be changed. Mark concluded by stating the Secretary of State has asked the LGA to set up an inspection team, which will be funded by MHCLG.

The Chair thanked Mark for the update and concluded made areas to the two areas to note in the report:

- The Chair made particular reference to paragraph 13 (the government's announcement that it would be fully funding the removal and replacement of unsafe cladding. Details on how councils can apply for funding were published on 3 July 2018), praised officers for all their hard work and stated that this announcement would not have happened without the LGA lobbying, which built a very strong case.
- The Chair also made particular reference to the submissions set out in both **Appendix A and B**, and highlighted the importance of these messages being raised at a national level.
- Members agreed that all ongoing work is appropriate.

Action

- Members noted the report.

27 Appendix A - LGA Response to Dame Judith Hackitt's review of building regulations and fire safety

28 Appendix B - LGA Response to MHCLG consultation on banning the use of combustible materials in the external walls of high-rise residential buildings

29 Update Paper

The Chair invited Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, to introduce the item.

Mark stated that the report outlines issues of interest to the Board not covered under the other items on the agenda. The Chair welcomed members to comment:

- Members discussed the BBC's round-table interview, a response to the UK's second heatwave, highlighting the importance of water safety.
- Members discussed female offenders and the extra pressure this is having on local authorities. Members highlighted particular early intervention work, a more cohesive community solution, and better custody facilities. Members also highlighted the five new women centres around the country.
- Members also discussed the Safer Car wash App, referenced in paragraph 13 – 15 in the report.
- Members also discussed the work carried out with the parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee (referenced in paragraph 16 – 18 in the report). Members stated that this submission was well received.
- Members also discussed the recent event attended event at American Embassy, in relation to FGM.

Action

- Members noted the update.

30 Notes of previous meeting

Members agreed the noted to the previous SSCB on Monday 11 June 2018.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Morris Bright MBE	Hertsmere Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Hannah Dalton	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Members	Cllr Eric Allen	
	Cllr Keith McLean	Milton Keynes Council
	Cllr John Pennington	Bradford Metropolitan District Council
	Cllr Colin Spence	Suffolk County Council
	Cllr Judith Wallace	North Tyneside Council
	Cllr Katrina Wood	Wycombe District Council
	Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council

Cllr Jim Beall
Cllr Carole Burdis
Cllr James Dawson
Cllr Kate Haigh
Cllr Farah Hussain
Cllr Alan Rhodes

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
North Tyneside Council
Erewash Borough Council
Gloucester City Council
Redbridge London Borough Council
Nottinghamshire County Council

Apologies

Cllr Jeremy Hilton

Gloucestershire County Council

In Attendance

LGA Officers