

11 June 2018

Update Paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The report outlines issues of interest to the Board not covered under the other items on the agenda.

Recommendation

Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board note the update.

Action

Officers to progress as appropriate.

Contact officer:

Mark Norris

Position:

Principal Policy Adviser

Phone no:

0207 664 3241

E-mail:

mark.norris@local.gov.uk

Update Paper

Police pursuits

1. In May, the Home Office launched a consultation on [police pursuits](#) of suspected criminals, seeking views on whether any legislative change should apply to police response driving to offer better legal protection for officers. The Home Office want to make clear in future guidance that a suspect being pursued is responsible for their own decision to drive dangerously and that blame should not be attached to the pursuing police officer. This will be discussed at the next moped, motorbike and scooter roundtable meeting, which Cllr Blackburn is due to attend.

County Lines

2. In May, the Home Office held the County Lines working group session and updated members of the group on the commitments made in the Serious Violent Crime Strategy. The LGA is highlighted in the County Lines Action Plan as being supportive of disseminating best practice on tackling county lines issues. We will be hosting a [conference](#) on county lines and tackling criminal child exploitation on 12 July in Westminster. The Home Office will also be speaking at this event.

Sisters for Change – Domestic Abuse

3. In May, Cllr Anita Lower spoke at the Sisters for Change roundtable event on the forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Sophie Linden and Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Dame Vera Baird QC also contributed to the roundtable. During the meeting, Anita highlighted the importance of taking a public health approach to tackling domestic abuse – to ensure prevention and early intervention are central aspects of the new Bill. She urged stakeholders to contribute to the Home Office's consultation and outlined the LGA's proposed response.

Domestic Abuse consultation

4. The LGA submitted its [response](#) to the Government's consultation on the new Domestic Abuse Bill. Our key messages are outlined on the LGA website [here](#). We will continue to work with the Government and our local partners on this important issue, as the consultation progresses.
5. As part of the consultation process, the LGA hosted a training session organised by the Domestic Abuse charity Standing Together on 'violence against women and girls issues' for local government colleagues. During the training session, we sought views from local government colleagues on the LGA's response to the Government's consultation. The feedback we received helped us develop the LGA's response.
6. In May, the LGA also joined the Employment Initiative on Domestic Abuse, led by Elizabeth Filkin OBE. We will be raising awareness of domestic abuse issues and support services within the organisation and we have invited Elizabeth Filkin to present at the next employee forum.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government audit of domestic abuse services

7. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have commissioned Ipsos Mori to survey councils on the provision of local domestic abuse services in England. Once the results of the survey have been finalised, MHCLG officials will present their recommendations to the Minister on the future funding of domestic abuse services. LGA officers are liaising closely with the MHCLG team as this issue progresses.

Police Foundation report on neighbourhood policing

8. The Police Foundation launched the [final report](#) on the future of neighbourhood policing which examined how and why neighbourhood policing has changed since 2008 and what it looks like in 2017/18. The report found that this form of policing has become increasingly diverse but also fragmented and diminished. Drawing on insight from 31 forces the report presents a set of principles for delivering preventative and integrated local policing services for the future; these include neighbourhood policing carried out by dedicated teams and targeted at the areas of greatest need while retaining a focus on place rather than the case-management of individuals. The full report is available [here](#).

Surveillance Camera Commissioner meeting

9. In May, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner held an advisory group meeting on the use of facial recognition systems to identify and detect perpetrators of crimes. The LGA attended the meeting and we agreed to work with the Commissioner's office on the dissemination of any best practice materials to local government on this issue. We updated councils on their responsibility to adhere to the surveillance code of conduct in the Chief Executive and Chairman's bulletins.

Community Safety Survey

10. To complement the Community Safety Survey 2016, we issued a summary report identifying key trends and outlined next steps for our work on community safety at the LGA. The summary report is [available here](#).

Counter-terrorism and Prevent

11. The Government has published its long-awaited updated counter-terrorism strategy, [Contest 3.0](#). This follows the announcement of a review of the Strategy in the Queen's Speech in June 2017, to ensure that the police and security services have adequate powers, that custodial sentences are sufficient to keep people safe, and look at what more can be done to halt the spread of online extremist propaganda.
12. We held our third Prevent leadership essentials course at the end of March, which was attended by 14 elected members from a range of authorities. Further courses around

Prevent, counter-extremism and community cohesion are being developed for the coming year and will be publicised shortly.

Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper

13. Members will recall that officers from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government attended the last Board meeting to provide an input on the recently launched Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper. The consultation on the proposals closed on 5 June; LGA's response set out broad support for the Strategy's objectives, including the importance of locally-led approaches to integration, but argued that there would be limited progress around many of the issues highlighted in the Strategy without further resources and powers for local authorities.

National FGM Centre

14. The National FGM Centre (NFGMC) will be taking part in the Innovation Zone at the LGA's Annual Conference on the 5 July alongside Thurrock Council, who they work in partnership with. The presentation will focus on the NFGMC's independently evaluated intervention model, it will showcase how its partnership with local authorities has led to a transformation in the way children are safeguarded and communities are engaged with.
15. Councillor Anita Lower chaired the National FGM Centre's Advisory Group in May. The group discussed the sustainability of the Centre and how the Centre's work was developing since the last Group meeting in January. The Group also had a presentation on the Centre's FGM Assessment tool, which has been developed by the Centre for social workers to help them assess cases where FGM is a concern. It comprises two parts, best practice guidance and the online FGM assessment tool and is available on the Centre's [website](#). The Group also discussed arrangements for the September meeting, which will take the form of a workshop rather than a meeting to look at the offer of the Centre.

Competition and Markets Authority – Funeral Markets Study

16. The Competition and Market's Authority are undertaking a study on the funerals industry in the UK, looking at both private providers and local authority cremation services. They will examine how competition between funeral directors works and transparency issues in the provision of funerals; we will also focus on how competition works in the crematoria segment of the industry. Further information is available on the CMA's [website](#).

Gambling licensing

17. In May the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) issued their [response](#) to the consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures, which launched in October 2017 and receive over 7,300 responses.
18. The key announcement was the reduction to the maximum stake on B2 gaming machines (FOBTs) from £100 to £2, something that the LGA has been actively campaigning for. The decision to opt for the £2 stake followed a supplementary call for evidence on FOBT stakes in March 2018, the analysis of which showed a degree of support for the reduction

of stakes to £2. The response also confirmed that government plans to maintain the status quo on stakes, prizes and allocations for all other gaming machines, a position which the LGA has also supported.

19. A package of measures for improving player protection on category B machines including the potential ending of sessions when player limits are met and exploring in more detail the costs and benefits of tracked play. Measures for strengthening player protection online were also set out and The Gambling Commission has been tasked with taking this forward and will be looking at age verification, unfair terms and conditions, implementing strong penalties for businesses who breach advertising guidelines, and reviewing gambling product characteristics to identify whether particular features pose greater risk of harm than others.
20. The measures on advertising proposed as part of the consultation will be taken forward, including a major responsible gambling advertising campaign led by GambleAware. Members of the Board have been invited to sit on the advisory panel for this campaign being launched later this year. GambleAware has also commissioned research on the effects of marketing and advertising on children, young people and vulnerable groups.
21. In terms of problem gambling, Government have also committed to continue to work with the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE) to improve evidence on treatment and assess gaps. The LGA will continue to support local authorities in this area, and has developed new guidance on taking a whole council approach to problem gambling, which will be launched at an event on this issue on 10 July.
22. In response to calls from the LGA and local authorities for greater powers to limit the clustering of betting shops, the government remains of the view that local authorities can address this using existing powers for example a local risk assessment. Government have also confirmed that there are no plans to introduce a mandatory levy on the gambling industry to fund research, education and treatment instead the Commission will focus on strengthening the existing voluntary system.

Taxi/ PHV updates

23. The Ministerial working group on taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) licensing have considered a first draft of a report and recommendations. A further draft will be shared with members of the working group before being presented to Minister for Taxis, Nusrat Ghani MP, to consider.