

Safer & Stronger Communities Board– Councillor Simon Blackburn (Chair)

Serious Violence

Serious Violence Taskforce

1. I attended the Home Office's Serious Violence Taskforce. The meeting focused on the Government's recent announcement of new funding for local Violence Reduction Units, plans for the Youth Endowment Fund and heard about the Premier League's Premier League Kicks programme. LGA officers continue to liaise with the Home Office on this important issue.

Tackling Serious Violence and County Lines

2. At this year's LGA Annual Conference, I chaired a workshop session on 'taking a public health approach to tackling serious violent crime and county lines'. We had some excellent speakers from the Children's Society, the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre and the Violence and Vulnerability Unit. The panel discussed the importance of strong multi-agency partnerships to tackle serious violent crime and highlighted the valuable role that councils play in tackling this important issue. Our next LGA conference on tackling serious violent crime will be on 13th November 2019, in Westminster. Further details will be available on the LGA website.

Meeting with London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden

3. I also met with London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to discuss tackling serious violent crime and wider community safety issues. In the meeting, I highlighted the importance of the Serious Violence Taskforce continuing into the new Government administration to ensure there is cross-departmental collaboration on this important issue.

Police and Crime Panels Annual Workshop

4. In July, Deputy-Chair Cllr Anita Lower hosted the LGA's annual Police and Crime Panels workshop, which launched updated guidance for chairs, members and officers of Police and Crime Panels. There were speakers from the Home Office, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, PCP scrutiny officers and wider discussions about serious violent crime and current community safety issues.

Domestic Abuse

National Oversight Group of Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence

5. In June, Cllr Anita Lower attended the National Oversight Group on Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence. Cllr Lower has highlighted the importance of investing in early intervention and prevention, in order to prevent domestic abuse from occurring in the first place.

Prevent and Counter-Extremism

6. Cllr Anita Lower chaired a plenary session at the LGA's annual conference on being bolder in tackling threats from terrorism and extremism. The session included inputs from the Home Office on Contest, the government's counter-terrorism strategy, councils' role in delivery and

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recent developments; and from Cllr Debra Coupar and Cllr Hazel Simmons, co-chairs of the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism ([SIGCE](#)), about the challenges from extremism facing councils and the work of the SIGCE to support local authorities in response.

Fire Services Management Committee

7. On 24 June, Cllr Nick Chard attended the Fire Standards Board, where the board discussed how the recent tranche of inspection results might affect the work of the Board going forward. The Board which was established in January aims to publish its first set of standards early in 2020.
8. On 26 June, Fiona Twycross AM facilitated the LGA Leadership Essentials for Fire and Rescue for a group of 16 members and officers. The programme covers all relevant key aspects of the fire sector and gives members an opportunity to network and share experiences.
9. On the 28 June FSMC lead members and Roger Hurst PFCC attended the Fire Senior Sector Group hosted by the Home Office. The meeting focused on the spending review and a broadened future work programme.
10. On the 16 July Cllr Ian Stephens attended the Strategic Resilience Board, which discusses a range of resilience issues across different services.

FGM

National FGM Centre

11. On 18 June, Cllr Anita Lower opened the National FGM Centre Education Conference around the change of content of Relationship and Sex Education in secondary schools and Relationship Education in primary schools. The conference focused on how to implement the changes and add value with training and resources for schools.
12. On the 8 July, Cllr Anita Lower and I met with Victoria Atkins MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Women to discuss the work of the National FGM Centre. We continue to work with the Home Office around FGM and other harmful practices through our partnership with the children's charity Barnardo's.

Licensing, Regulation and Water Safety

Water safety

13. In July, Cllr James Dawson, the Board's Water Safety Champion, visited the headquarters of the RNLI in Poole. The visit was an opportunity to hear from staff about the work the RNLI are doing around drowning prevention including the Respect the Water campaign as well as the support they offer to water safety partnerships across the country.

Gambling

14. Cllr Eric Allen attended GambleAware's briefing event in July. The event introduced findings of recent research into gambling advertising and marketing, and the exposure among children, young people and vulnerable adults to this across the country.

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Media Roundup

15. Since the last Forum, I have given comments in the following press releases on behalf of the Board:

- 15.1 [LGA responds to report on domestic violence and homelessness;](#)
- 15.2 [LGA responds to report on cremation fees;](#)
- 15.3 [Criminals targeting residents in Council Tax scam 'barrage';](#)
- 15.4 [LGA responds to NAO report on ensuring food safety;](#)
- 15.5 [LGA responds to final report on Draft Domestic Abuse Bill;](#)
- 15.6 [LGA responds to calls to repeal Vagrancy Act;](#)
- 15.7 [Cold water shock dangers need including in lessons, councils urge;](#) and
- 15.8 [LGA responds to NAO report on serious and organised crime](#)

Contact officer: Mark Norris
Position: Principal Policy Advisor
Phone no: 020 7664 3241
Email: Mark.norris@local.gov.uk