

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

That members of the Board note and comment on the update.

Action

Officers to action any matters arising from the discussion as appropriate.

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Serious Violence Conference

1. In November 2019, Cllr Simon Blackburn chaired the Local Government Associations' conference on taking a public health approach to serious violent crime. The conference focused on sharing best practice and case studies of how local government is working in partnership to tackle serious violent crime. A number of our speakers reflected on the importance of investing in an early intervention and preventative approach, particularly highlighting the importance of strong partnerships with health and education services.

County lines session, National Adult and Children Services Conference 2019

2. At this year's National Adult and Children Services Conference, the LGA held a sub-plenary session on tackling county lines and serious violent crime. Our excellent speakers, Dez Holmes (Director, Research in Practice) and Jenny Coles (Vice President, ADCS and Director of Children's Services, Hertfordshire County Council) highlighted several case studies which focused on identifying the risk factors which put children, young people and vulnerable adults most at risk of exploitation. The panel called for greater investment in youth services and diversionary schemes which help to prevent children and young people being groomed or exploited into serious violent crime.

Tackling knife crime conference 2020

3. On 6 February 2020, the Local Government Association is holding a conference on tackling knife crime. The conference will focus on local government case studies which share best practice on how to strengthen multi-agency partnership arrangements and tackle serious violent crime locally. The event is free to all councils as part of our improvement offer. Further information is [available here](#).

County lines masterclass 2020

4. The LGA is holding a County Lines Political Leadership Masterclass for Members Leads for Children Services, Safeguarding and Community Safety. County lines is an emerging national issue, which involves the exploitation of vulnerable young people and adults by violent gang members in order to move and sell drugs across the country. The Masterclass is being held on 31st March 2020, London. For further information or to register for a place, please email Grace.Collins@local.gov.uk

Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion leadership essentials courses – new dates released

5. We now have new dates available for our Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion [leadership essentials courses](#) for councillors over the coming months; scheduled for Leeds on 4-5 Feb (Prevent and counter-extremism); London 28 Feb (Prevent); Coventry 10-11 Mar (cohesion and integration); and Blackpool 25-26 Mar (Prevent and counter-extremism).
6. The programmes will include a range of inputs, practical exercises and discussion sessions on various themes, including national policy context and the role of local government in

delivery; current challenges and threats; case studies on effective approaches and opportunities to share and discuss practice with colleagues; and effective leadership and community engagement.

7. We have places available on all courses, which are open to all elected members and are free to attend (including accommodation for residential courses). For further details and to book a place, please contact Grace.Collins@local.gov.uk

National FGM Centre

8. Cllr Anita Lower chaired a meeting of the National FGM Advisory Group in December. The meeting brought together LGA members and experts from a variety of sectors to support the Centre as it works to develop a sustainable business plan for the next financial year. The Group will meet again in late January.

Modern slavery

9. Officers continue to engage with a range of different stakeholders interested in how they can work with councils to disrupt modern slavery in their areas, including the Office of the Director of Labour Market Enforcement and the Responsible Car Wash Scheme. The Home Office's Modern Slavery Unit has also sought LGA support for a bid for Treasury funding to pilot two schemes on collaborative working to tackle labour exploitation in nail bars and hand car washes.
10. Officers also attended a British Red Cross event seeking council input into a research report they are developing on reception centres for suspected victims of modern slavery. This is expected to be published in Spring 2020.

Mutual aid protocol – South Yorkshire flooding

11. In November, the LGA was asked to provide support to Doncaster Council, which was seeking 20,000 sandbags to help deal with the serious flooding affecting a number of local communities.
12. Earlier this year, the LGA agreed a protocol with MHCLG's Resilience and Emergencies Division, agreeing that in exceptional emergency response circumstances, when local mutual aid processes had been exhausted, the LGA will use its wider networks to try to source support for a council that has identified gaps in its capability.
13. The Doncaster flooding was the first time the protocol has been activated, and helped ensure that Doncaster was able to source the resources it needed. Officers are now reviewing the use of the protocol to help strengthen its future use.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum – councillor training event

14. In early December, the LGA co-hosted a version of our emergency planning and resilience councillor masterclass with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum. More than fifty delegates at the event heard from Baroness Scott, former leader of Wiltshire Council,

about the novichok attack in Salisbury, and from Cllr Lashbrook about a local flooding incident in Hampshire.

15. Running a shorter version of the event within a specific LRF area appeared to be successful, with very positive feedback from delegates, and is a format we may look to replicate with other LRFs in 2020-21.

Taxi licensing fees

16. Following a judicial review of Wakefield council by the local taxi and private hire association, the Court of Appeal has ruled that councils can recover the costs of monitoring and enforcing driver conduct as part of the fees they charge for taxi driver licences. This ruling is particularly significant as lack of clarity in the legislation has meant that many councils have not been recovering these enforcement costs and instead have subsidised them through other funds. The LGA intervened in the case given the wider sector impact and we are pleased that a clear legal basis has now been established. A copy of the judgement is available [online](#). Officers are developing an advice note for councils on the implications of this ruling.

Water safety

17. In November Cllr James Dawson attended the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) annual water safety conference. Examples of work being done by local water safety partnerships were shared as well as an update on the review commissioned by the Maritime and Coast Guard Agency (MCA) into responsibilities for beach safety. The publication of the review has been delayed but is expected early in 2020. The MCA and RoSPA will be presenting at the next SSCB meeting in March and members are invited to visit tower lifeboat station afterwards. Please contact [Rebecca Johnson](#) for more details about the visit.

Gambling

18. Cllr Eric Allen and Cllr Kate Haigh attended two gambling related events. Gamble Aware's annual conference focused on keeping children and young people safe from gambling harms whilst Bacta's conference explored the contribution of arcades to the seaside economy.