

Safer Communities Board work programme update:

Appendix 1

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
Fire Modernisation Project	<p>Ensuring that fire authorities successfully implement fire service modernisation.</p> <p>Continuing to develop policies that will lead to continuous improvement and modernisation of the fire service, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regional control rooms • Move fire service personnel from 'rank to role' • Encouraging the wider use of sprinklers • Develop core values for the Fire Service • Establish new Pension arrangements 	<p>15th & 16th March – LGA annual Fire Conference in Portsmouth</p> <p>Work continues on supporting fire authorities in the ODPM FiReControl project, implementing integrated risk management system and integrated personal development system.</p>	<p>Effective representation of fire authorities during modernisation process, particularly in relation to development of regional control rooms; and the introduction of Integrated Risk Management Planning and Integrated Personal Development System</p>	<p>Derek Robertson</p>

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
Police Reform Project	<p>Participate in the review of crime and disorder reduction partnerships</p> <p>Demonstrate how local authorities will make the improvements in accountability and effectiveness proposed on the white paper 'Building Communities: Beating Crime' and encourage the government to bring forward the necessary legislation.</p>	<p>January: Response to review of Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Meeting of CDRP review group.</p> <p>February Response to police reform white paper</p> <p>March: Develop plans for next phase of the project.</p>	<p>Agreement of common principles with APA.</p> <p>Development of key LGA messages that local government should play lead role in crime reduction and local communities should set policing priorities.</p> <p>Submitted a LGA and joint LGA/APA response to the Home Office 'Building Communities: Beating Crime' White Paper.</p> <p>A joint LGA-APA workshop will be held on 21st March to discuss future areas of joint working.</p> <p>March meeting with HO on specific aspects of White Paper e.g proposed single emergency number</p>	John Ransford

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
Ahead of the Game (Prostitution) Project	Development of LGA policy on prostitution. Encourage debate on this important issue within local government.	<p>February: Task Group meeting</p> <p>March: LGA research to be published; next stage of project to be developed</p> <p>July: annual conference session</p> <p>Post Election – Government to publish results of ‘Paying the Price’ consultation.</p>	<p>Adoption of LGA policy on prostitution; response submitted to Home Office consultation; conference with Minister; commissioning of research to inform next stage of project.</p> <p>Raising awareness of issues surrounding prostitution and relevance for local government services.</p>	Trish O’Flynn

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
<p>Going Straight: Reducing re-offending in local communities project</p>	<p>Developing local government capacity to reduce re-offending and closer collaboration with correctional services.</p>	<p>February: Final report and recommendations launched at ‘Going Straight’ round table</p> <p>February/March Development of the second phase of the project to raise the profile of the key message within this report and encouraging the commitment by local/ central government to the councils role in reducing re-offending</p> <p>March/June Discussion with senior civil servants of development of supported local government programme aimed at reducing re-offending</p> <p>March Development and agreement on key messages and lobbying strategy for second phase of project</p> <p>22 March LGA/Smith Institute Seminar ‘Tackling Re-offending: The role of Local Government’.</p>	<p>Government welcome of local government commitment to working to reduce re-offending, following publication of ‘Going Straight’. Development of key recommendations for local government</p> <p>Development of the second phase of the project</p>	<p>Jeni Bremner</p>

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
<p>A New Deal for Emergency Planning project</p>	<p>Ensure an effective LGA influence in the Civil Contingencies Bill Acceptance by the government of a new baseline figure for emergency planning funding at the current level of service, and of the new for new burdens to be adequately funded.</p> <p>Improve resilience and emergency preparedness across all local authorities</p>	<p>March Facilitate development of support programme for local authorities to assist with implementation</p> <p>March Response to draft regulations and guidance</p> <p>April Consider final drafts of Regulations and Guidance (brief consultation with stakeholders).</p> <p>April / May Obtain information from member authorities as to what money has been allocated for emergency planning / civil contingencies work – as opposed to what was identified by the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the RSG – to inform LGA’s work on SR2006.</p>	<p>Additional £40m funding for civil contingencies responsibilities</p> <p>Improved relationship with voluntary sector</p> <p>Representation of local government in response to draft regulations and guidance</p> <p>Raising standards in the provision of the emergency planning service</p> <p>Ensuring that local authorities’ emergency planning / civil contingencies funding at least remains at the same level as for 2005-06</p> <p>Finalised draft concordat agreement with the voluntary sector, to be endorsed at General Assembly</p>	<p>Trish O’Flynn</p>

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
Domestic Violence project	Provision of consultancy for partnerships	<p>1 February: joint statement with ADSS on change to the definition of harm – witnessing abuse</p> <p>14 February: article highlighting key role of elected members in tackling domestic violence.</p> <p>30 February: domestic violence case studies onto IDeA Knowledge</p> <p>April: complete of phase 1 of consultancy programme with local partnerships</p> <p>April: publish guidance on implementation domestic violence BVPs</p>	<p>Successful support consultancy for domestic violence partnerships.</p> <p>Incorporation of domestic violence issues into key policy areas, such as the children’s agenda</p> <p>Raising awareness of domestic violence issues generally amongst local authorities and elected members.</p>	Kate Mulley

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
Licensing Act	Represent local authorities in implementation of Licensing Act. Ensure that fees are set at a level that will allow local authorities to cover their costs.	<p>February: DCMS to set up Independent Review Panel to take forward the fees review.</p> <p>January Regulations published in January 2005.</p> <p>7 February - Authorities able to accept applications to convert or vary existing licences</p> <p>March LGA aspect of project completed; LACORS continues with support work.</p>	Effective representation of local authorities in relation to licensing fees. We have suggested persons who would be acceptable to us to sit on the Panel. Cooperation with DCMS in assessing realistic fee level.	Trish O'flynn
Raising the profile of regulatory services. Priority work area	<p>Ensuring a more coherent approach to regulatory services by central government.</p> <p>Raising the profile of regulatory services</p> <p>Participating into the Hampton Review of the administrative costs of regulatory services</p>	<p>February: Philip Hampton meets LGA Chairman. Second stage of Hampton Review, aimed at local authorities, begins.</p> <p>March: final report published with Budget</p> <p>March Agreement by Safer Communities Board of project plan for raising the profile of regulatory services</p>	<p>Development of case for continuing local government control of regulatory services in response to Hampton Review.</p> <p>Prepare to make immediate response to Hampton announcement and in the longer term to the government's response</p> <p>Further development of this in second stage of the project.</p>	Trish O'Flynn/Wendy Martin (LACORS)

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
Reducing youth crime	Developing policies that will assist local authorities to support the reduction of youth crime through positive prevention action. Project being developed in collaboration with children and young people team	<p>March Agreement of project plan by SCB, including proposal for conference in September 2005</p> <p>w/e 11 March Meeting with DfES to discuss practical implications of Youth Green Paper for local authorities</p> <p>March LGA position on young peoples' services to be published</p> <p>24 March Publication of the Youth Green Paper</p> <p>1 June (provisional) Young Peoples' Conference</p>	<p>Held first Member Task Group on 25 Feb for the Young Peoples' Project Cllr Roland Domleo is the safer communities' representative.</p> <p>Agreed the three objectives of the project are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State a clear vision for the future of young peoples' services and local government's role as community leader; • To inform the development of the Youth Green Paper; and • To integrate the project into IDeA and National Youth Agency work <p>22 Feb Members of the Children and Young Peoples' Board met with Minister for Children and Young People Margaret Hodge MP to lobby on the projects key areas.</p>	Kate Francis/Suzanne Payne

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
Gambling Bill	Lobbying during passage of Bill through parliament to ensure maximum local discretion over the number of casinos and gambling premises and freedom for authorities to determine processes and fees.	January/March. Gambling Bill parliamentary stages – briefing papers circulated to Board members	Successful representation of the needs of local communities and local government during introduction and passage of Bill	Trish O’Flynn
Anti Social Behaviour (formerly Safer and Stronger Communities Shared Priority)	This work has been carried out as part of the safer and stronger communities shared priority project. This project has now ended. Lobbying work relating to anti-social behaviour will continue as necessary. The project has worked successfully to represent the LGA during the development of the CPA process. A small amount of work on this will continue in the early months of the year.	January to March. Watching brief for CPA consultation process. February onwards Maintaining liaison with Anti-Social Behaviour Unit including representations at ASBU event for Councillors (19 February)	Successful delivery of message that preventative action must take priority in tackling anti social behaviour. Continuing dialogue and liaison with Anti-social behaviour unit.	Noel Towe

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
Introduction of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and mini-Local Area Agreements	Working to ensure that the Fund meets the needs of local government for more flexible funding for work designed to meet local priorities	<p>January/February Regular consultation with members and advisers on progress with the introduction of the fund.</p> <p>February Monitoring experience of local authorities during introduction of the new arrangements, paying particular attention to two tier areas.</p> <p>April Introduction of Safer and Stronger Communities Fund by the Home Office</p>	<p>Representation of the interests of local authorities/Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships during introduction of the new arrangements.</p> <p>Ensuring that arrangements work successfully in two tier areas</p>	Simon Edwards/Deborah Meakings

Activity	Aim	February - May	Progress/outcomes	Lead officer
Building regulation	Representing local government on a continuing basis on the development of government policy for building control	<p>25 January Meeting with Phil Hope MP, Minister with responsibility for building regulation</p> <p>24 February HSE/DWP high level 'Construction and Health and Safety' Summit.</p> <p>Summer/Autumn Joint LGA/ODPM conference on future of building regulations and sustainability</p>	<p>Development of strong partnership with ODPM at both Minister/elected member and officer level</p> <p>Contributing to Government's agenda to continue to reduce the number of fatal accidents in the construction industry</p> <p>Setting the agenda for mapping the future of building regulations, particularly in relation to sustainability (energy conservation) and climate change.</p>	Trish O'Flynn

7 March 2005