

Bills Announced in the Queens Speech

The Bills listed in the Queen's speech which may impact on the work of the Board are listed below. Accompanying notes highlight the ways in which any new measures introduced relate to community safety concerns.

1. Charities Bill

Proposed changes in legislation are intended to support charitable organisations in administration and funding. Responsibility for granting permits and enforcement will remain with local authorities (except in London, where it will be transferred to the Metropolitan Police).

2. Childcare Bill

This paves the way for additional support for families. Some childcare options will provide information and easy access to wider support for children and their parents, e.g. Surestart and Children's Centres. Education and support in the early years are vital to boosting young people's opportunities and form part of a wider preventative approach to crime and disorder.

3. Child Contact and Inter Country Adoption Bill

This legislation aims to protect against child trafficking and to ensure that immigration laws are complied with in these circumstances. There are important links between child trafficking and illegal immigration and issues such as prostitution.

4. Education Bill

Good quality education is vital to the life opportunities of young people. This bill will introduce measures to boost performance of schools and involve parents in monitoring their child's progress through pupil profiles.

Some local authorities will be given the freedom to design school travel schemes to meet the needs of their communities. This may have a positive impact on road safety and provide reassurance against crime for children travelling to school.

5. Equality Bill

This Bill proposes the creation of a new Commission for Equality and Human Rights. Equalities concerns need to be incorporated into preventative approaches to crime reduction. It is also important to note that crime and disorder can be motivated by tensions between different groups in our communities.

6. Housing Benefit Bill

By improving access to housing benefit and decent housing, this Bill should help to provide stable accommodation for individuals. For those released from prison, a speedy resettlement service may help bring down levels of re-offending.

7. Identity Cards Bill

The introduction of identity cards may have a positive impact on fraud. It will also be a further form of ID which can be used, for example, at point of sale to prevent sales of alcohol to underage people.

8.. Incapacity Benefit Bill

This bill aims to facilitate a return to employment, and long-term support for those unable to work. Access to benefits may impact on levels of crime committed. For ex-offenders, a speedy service on release from prison may help reduce levels of re-offending.

9. Management of Offenders Bill

This bill has been brought forward from the last Parliamentary session. It underpins the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) which bring together probation and the prison service into a single body. The bill aims to provide a 'seamless' offender management service. The LGA have met Home Office Officials to discuss this Bill, in particular, the important contribution which local government can make in reducing (re)offending. An improved service for ex-offenders, assisting reintegration and rehabilitation within the community is likely to help reduce the currently high rates of re-offending.

10. Mental Health Bill

Some offenders, particularly those with substance-misuse problems, may have mental health difficulties. If these can be tackled more effectively, offending may be reduced.

11. Natural Environment Bill

This aims to implement the "Rural Strategy" which looks at how to ensure effective service delivery in rural areas. Some crime issue may differ in rural communities – and local authorities in rural areas may need to respond to Government agendas differently.

12. Regulatory Reform Bill

Regulatory services provide safeguards across a range of activity, all contributing to the well being of communities and individuals

13. Road Safety Bill

Road safety can be considered within the umbrella of community safety. There are no new powers for local authorities, within this Bill, however. The focus is on 'enforcement' measures which aim to reduce road deaths through tackling speeding, drink driving laws, and drivers who use mobile phones. Legislation will also encourage stronger penalties to be considered for offences.

14. Transport (Wales) Bill

This Bill will focus on the planning of transport strategies at sub regional level. Transport is significant for moving people away from town centres following weekend drinking, football matches etc.

15. Violent Crime Bill

The measures in the Bill will be useful for Councils in addressing alcohol related violence. Measures will also be introduced to reduce crimes involving guns and knives.

