

Notes of Decisions Taken and Action

Safer Communities Board

Item 6

15 January 2007

at Local Government House

Present

In the Chair:	Cllr Hazel Harding CBE (Lancashire CC)
Vice Chair	Cllr Andy Sutton (Isle of Wight UA) (Conservative)
Deputy Chairs:	Cllr Caroline Seymour (Hambleton DC) (Liberal Democrat) and Cllr Graham Brown (Powys CC) (Independent).
Conservative	Cllr Les Byrom (Sefton MBC); Cllr David Smith (Lichfield); Clare Whelan (Lambeth LB); Cllr Roland Domleo (Congleton BC); Cllr Robert Light (Kirklees MBC).
Labour	Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson (Wakefield MDC); Cllr Mehboob Khan (Kirklees MBC); Cllr Ann Lucas (Coventry City Council).
Liberal Democrats	Cllr Christina Jebb (Staffordshire CC); Cllr Audrey Jones (Gtr Manchester FCDA); Cllr Paul Porgess (Stockport MBC).
Apologies	Cllr Audrey Lewis (Westminster City Council); Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Wolverhampton City Council)
Substitute	Cllr Teresa Heritage (St Albans DC) (Conservative); Cllr David Lancaster (Salford City Council) (Labour)

1. LGA Work Programme – cross-cutting themes

David Williams (Programme Director) introduced the capping paper and explained that there was a renewed emphasis on Members and officers engaging in joined-up working between boards. Cllr Sir David Williams (Vice Chair, Improvement Board) set the context for wider discussion, explaining that the DCLG White Paper presented an opportunity for the LGA, through its Boards, to shape the improvement agenda. Boards had a key role to play in offering views on the and in identifying and tackling under-performance.

In discussion on cross-cutting themes, the Board noted the importance, in addition to those areas set out in the papers presented, of a Safer Communities input into work on place-shaping and on licensing/gambling issues. There was a role for Board champions to take forward individual cross-cutting issues and to lead interaction with other LGA policy boards; there was also a role for cross-cutting task groups with membership

drawn from a number of boards. On questions of performance improvement, the Board discussed challenges in, and approaches to, gaining an understanding of levels of performance in councils and partnerships; of reflecting into LGA discussions the experience and concerns of frontline councillors; and of spreading out to elected Members in councils, headline messages for the sector as a whole.

Decisions

The Board reconfirmed the importance it attached to the role of individual Member champions and to develop their role in terms of interaction with other policy boards.

The Board also agreed to contribute to the performance and improvement challenges facing the sector as outlined in the paper for discussion.

Action

Officers to circulate a list of current Board champions and to work with office holders and individual champions to develop a 'job description' for these roles. .

Officers to facilitate improved awareness of work undertaken by other LGA boards; and to frame as far as practicable work on the Safer Communities Board interventions around the cross-cutting themes of Performance and Improvement, Governance, Place Shaping, Transforming Public Services, Community Cohesion and Resources for the remainder of the policy cycle.

DW/LH/CH

2. Domestic Violence Project – final report and presentation

The Board welcomed Anthony Wills (Chief Executive) of Standing Together against Domestic Violence to the meeting.

Anthony Wills gave a presentation setting out what had been achieved by the LGA's domestic violence project. He illustrated the significance of domestic violence both in

terms of its impact on society, on families and children and cost to the economy locally and nationally. The Board discussed the need for local authorities to continue play a leading role in combating domestic violence. The need for a co-ordinated and 'mainstreamed' community response was emphasised. Discussion also centred around questions of funding, partnership working and how best to measure the effectiveness of policies and practices in this area.

Decisions

The Board approved the final report and conclusions and agreed that the project's achievement should be exploited by the LGA, in conjunction with the IDeA, to ensure that examples of best practice are widely shared and continue to inform community safety and other areas of policy development, including safeguarding children and housing. Councillor Hazel Harding thanked Councillor Ann Lucas, Anthony Wills and colleagues for all of their work on the domestic violence report.

Action

Officers to take forward the good work achieved, in conjunction with the IDeA, in order to maintain contact with networks of practitioners and advisers and to continue to support Councillor Ann Lucas in her role as domestic violence champion.

LH/MW

3. Fire and Rescue in 2017: Rising to the Challenge

Councillor Les Byrom updated the board on the progress made by the Fire Services Management Committee and supporting Task Group in developing the ten year vision, focusing on issues of leadership, partnership, funding. Discussion covered issues relating to the role of employees, relationships with other uniformed services and the need for good information sharing, and the increasing role of new technology.

Decisions

The Board thanked Councillor Les Byrom for the update and welcomed the opportunity for engagement of the full Board. The Board looked for the subsequent route map to be ambitious in its vision for the future

Action

Officers and Task Group members to continue with the work on the route map for the delivery of the ten year vision.

CC/Task Group

4. Notes of Decisions of Previous Meeting

The Board agreed the note of the last meeting but sought updates on the SCB away day, Respect Agenda action or a survey on reducing re-offending. David Williams (Programme Director) informed the Board that a variety of proposals for the away day were being considered, and progress would be reported back at the next meeting. The Respect Agenda work was similarly in hand and would also be reported back at the next meeting.

Action

The Board asked that the timescale within which actions would be reported back to the Board should routinely be included in the note of the meeting. Officers also propose to include updates on outstanding actions in papers circulated for Board meetings.

DW/LH/CH

5. Any Other Business

Councillor Ann Lucas and David Williams (Programme Director) updated the Board on the LGA's response to the serial murders in Ipswich in December. The LGA had liaised with councils in Ipswich and Suffolk to offer any help that was required. The murders raised the profile of policies and attitudes towards prostitution, and this has provided an opportunity to look, with central government, at the policy framework surrounding this issue. There would also be benefit in drawing out lessons for the preparedness of councils to deal with incidents of this sort.