

Other Board/committee/task group round-up

Fire update

- 1. The Fire Services Management Committee agreed its priorities for the year ahead at its last meeting on 10 September. Items discussed included Contingency Planning, co-responding and the future governance of the New Dimension Programme. The Fire Services Forum met on 19 October and discussed sprinklers and fire suppression systems. The Forum received a report on the work of the Fire Suppression and sustainable Buildings Task group which has successfully lobbied government for sprinklers in new and refurbished schools. The task group is now looking to add value to the campaign to fit sprinklers in accommodation for vulnerable people and sustainable buildings more generally. The next meeting of the forum is taking place on the 30th November where discussions will focus on consultations on the Centre of Excellence, the National Framework and the Equality and Diversity Strategy. The fire Central Local Partnership met on 8 November and leading fire members had the opportunity to discuss key strategic issues with the minister.**
- 2. Following the tragic loss of four firefighters in Warwickshire on 2 November, the LGA has called for a fundamental review of building regulations to explore the need to have fire suppression systems put in place to prevent future incidents and reduce the possibility of further fire service personnel loss of life**

Children in Trouble Project

- 3. The Children in Trouble Task Group met again on 20th September, and the lead member from 2 of the pilot areas attended. The meeting discussed progress in all of the pilot areas since the group last met in May. Pilot projects are progressing slowly at present, though that was largely thought to be related to the fact that there was a lot of preparation being undertaken, and that the pace of work would begin to pick up very soon. Political engagement between elected members from the LGA's Task Group and the elected member responsible for each pilot is considered an important part of ensuring that there are strong connections between the local and national, and visits by members to pilot authorities were ongoing.**
- 4. The Task Group was keen for stronger project management arrangements to be put in place, and each pilot was to consider whether what it had in place currently was robust enough. Further discussion was also agreed to look at whether each pilot could benefit from a targeted piece of work looking at custody reduction in a wider sense; it was felt that each area may have areas of practice that could be improved in this respect.**
- 5. The next meeting is due to be held in January, at which time the work for the initial phase of evaluation would be about to begin.**

Lifting the Burdens Task Force – review of Home Office burdens

6. The Lifting the Burdens Task Force is an independent practitioner body that has been set up to review the bureaucratic and performance management burdens imposed on local government by central requirements and to agree packages of burden reduction with Government. The Task Force is chaired by Michael Frater, Chief Executive of Nottingham City Council. Home Office requirements are currently being reviewed by the Task Force and the scope of the review is focused around:

- a. The core Home Office business of crime and disorder reduction and community safety and therefore Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) - particularly within the context of making the new LAAs work better.
- b. Ensuring that efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour are efficiently integrated with other community safety work and in particular avoid duplication of community engagement (covers the Respect agenda)
- c. Youth Offending Teams' burdens, including contradictory priorities between the YJB and the Police and the complexity of reporting and monitoring of performance and funding.
- d. How current arrangements may hinder partners in tackling domestic violence and alcohol abuse.

7. The overriding objective of this review is to reduce duplication and to facilitate greater coordination and flexibility at the local level for the variety of local partnerships working in this field. The deadline for councils to make submissions to the review is 7 December and the Task Force is aiming to publish a report in the New Year.

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