

Meetings with outside bodies

Summary

This paper is to inform the members of the Board of the activities that have been undertaken since the last meeting by Board members and officers.

Recommendations

Board members are asked to note the report.

Actions

Officers to progress as appropriate.

Contact Officer: Helen Murray
Phone No: 020 7664 3266
Email: helen.murray@lga.gov.uk

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Meetings with outside bodies

Member activity

TV debate on Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)

Councillor Taylor was asked at short notice to appear on the Politics Show on Sunday 22 November to talk about ASBOs. The programme centred on a mother who felt her child had been unfairly given an ASBO. Councillor Taylor provided a local government view on the use and need for ASBOs.

National Citizen Focus Policing Conference

Councillor Lawrence was invited to speak at this conference held in Liverpool on behalf of the LGA, and which was based around the theme of the police confidence target. The LGA was asked to outline how the police and councils could work in partnership to engage communities. In his speech Councillor Lawrence outlined local authorities' engagement with the confidence target, the experience councils have in trying to move public perceptions such as the LGA's own reputation campaign, and some areas of good practice. Other speakers at the conference included Chief Constable Julie Spence, the ACPO lead on the confidence agenda and speakers from the NPIA, HMIC and Ipsos MORI. One area the conference heard about was the difference in the confidence scores between looking at the police performance on their own and then asking about the police and local authority performance together.

Launch of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy

The LGA was invited to attend a celebration of the launch of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy by the Home Secretary and other departmental ministers. Councillor Spicer represented the LGA at the celebration along with Marianne Fellowes, MBE, the Domestic Abuse Team Manager for Suffolk Police and also a district councillor in Suffolk.

Association of Police Authorities Annual Conference

The APA's annual conference, which was held in Nottingham this year, included a panel session on partnership working at which the LGA were invited to provide a key note presentation. Councillor Lawrence attended the conference to represent the LGA at this session. In his speech Councillor Lawrence made reference to the close working relationship between the LGA and APA which has been strengthened by joint activity around the Policing Green Paper. One of the key points Councillor Lawrence was able to make was the LGA's view that police authorities could be strengthened both by better communications with councils and improving the skills of police authority members. Other speakers at this

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session included the Chief Executive of Nottingham Crime and Drugs Partnership and the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Police Authority.

Criminal Justice in Action

As is detailed elsewhere in the Board's papers Councillor Smith held an event in Lichfield at the start of December to bring local services responsible for preventing offending and reoffending together with the Criminal Justice Council. Councillor Lawrence was able to attend part of the event between commitments in Birmingham and provide the LGA's perspective on the issues of bringing crime reduction partnerships together with the various elements of the criminal justice system.

IDeA Leadership Academy - Community Safety Programme

The IDeA Leadership Academy hosted its first two day community safety programme at the start of December. The programme which was aimed at community safety portfolio holders or opposition spokespersons sought to inform the councillors involved in the latest thinking about community safety and tackling crime. The participants heard from Stephen Rimmer, the Director General for Crime Reduction and Community Safety at the Home Office, and speakers from the IDeA, Milton Keynes, Bracknell Forest and the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

Meeting with Baroness Stern

Baroness Stern was commissioned in September by the government to conduct an independent review of how public authorities respond to complaints of rape, with her review reporting in February 2010. As part of her review the Baroness wished to meet the LGA, and a meeting was arranged for early December at which Councillor Lucas represented the Board. Issues covered at the meeting were the role of local government in rape complaints, what the LGA thought the impact of localism would be on the way public authorities respond to rape complaints and whether there was any innovative work the Baroness should be aware of.

National Crime Reduction Board

The National Crime Reduction Board meeting in mid-December, which Councillor Lawrence attended, considered progress against the Home Office's Crime Strategy and also looked at emerging challenges. The Home Office has identified these challenges as being increases in acquisitive crime, the effect of the recession and youth unemployment on youth crime patterns and reducing crime by designing out crime - such as making the theft of mobile phones much less attractive. Increases in acquisitive crime are being addressed by Operation Vigilance, which as members heard from at the Board's last meeting includes peer challenges to the partnerships in the programme from the IDeA.

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Officer activity

National CCTV Strategy and CCTV Regulator

The National CCTV Strategy published in 2007 recommended the creation of a national CCTV regulator. In December the Policing Minister, David Hanson MP, announced the appointment of an interim CCTV regulator and a new oversight body. As well as including the new regulator the oversight body will consist of a board to deliver the strategy, and a new Independent Advisory Group. Officers have been lobbying for a place on the Advisory Group for the LGA to represent the interests of councils and feed their views into the new regulator, and though a final decision will not be made on the composition of the Advisory Group until later this month, the Home Office seems to be persuaded by the LGA's case. Officers also understand that the interim regulator's priority is to produce a report by the end of 2010 on whether the regulation of CCTV (including privately owned CCTV) needs legislation or can rely on voluntary compliance, whether a CCTV regulator is needed, and what standards are needed for CCTV equipment, its installation and operation.

Reducing re-offending

The Policing and Crime Act 2009 includes a statutory duty on CDRPs/CSPs to reduce re-offending and makes probation a responsible authority alongside the police, councils, the fire and rescue service, police authorities and the health service in CDRPs/CSPs. It is anticipated that this duty will come into effect in April 2010. Ahead of that the Ministry of Justice and Home Office have been developing guidance for CDRPs/CSPs on what the duty will mean and how they can go about reducing re-offending. The LGA and, through the Board's community safety advisers network, a number of local authorities, have been involved in workshops with the Ministry of Justice to comment on and help refine the guidance which is due out in early 2010.

APA business planning event

The LGA alongside HMIC, the IPCC, the NPIA, the Home Office and ACPO was invited by the APA to attend a stakeholder consultation meeting about the development of their strategic plan for 2010-2013 and business plan for 2009-2010. Part of the meeting involved consideration of a draft vision and mission statement for the APA. The LGA contribution was to ensure that work around some of the proposals in the Policing White Paper, the police confidence target and financing policing activity were included in the APA's work, which the initial drafts of the plans indicated they would be.

Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy

As is reported elsewhere on the Board's agenda the Home Office is developing a Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy. The LGA has been involved in the steering group developing the overall strategy and a number of sub-groups

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looking at particular elements of the strategy, seeking to ensure that the interests of local authorities are included in the final strategy.

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