

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.

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Meetings with outside bodies

Member activity

Meeting with the Probation Association

Board members indicated at the Board Away Day in January that they would like to see greater Board activity around the reducing re-offending agenda. The Board chairman, Cllr Lawrence, therefore had a meeting with the Probation Association Chair and Chief Executive in mid-March. The Probation Association represents the 42 probation boards and trusts. The main item for discussion was the Probation Association's development strategy, which seeks to ensure that probation trusts and boards build up links with local partners in CSPs, in particular local authorities. They were particularly interested in getting the LGA's advice on how to engage with councils at a regional and local level, further information on local government funding and Total Place, and working on performance management issues. A meeting to follow up on these issues will be arranged with the Probation Association after the general election.

Joining up at the frontline conference

Cllr Lawrence chaired the successful joint IDeA and National Police Improvement Agency 'Joining up at the frontline' conference at the end of March. This conference marked the end of the year long exemplar programme established to identify existing good practice on integrating the work of neighbourhood policing teams with local authorities and other partners, and was full well before the conference took place. In addition to hearing from the Policing Minister David Hanson, delegates heard from Chief Constable Peter Neyroud, the Chief Executive of the NPIA, from the 12 exemplar sites and from abroad, with speakers from Brazil, Hungary, Poland, France and Slovakia telling the conference about their experiences of neighbourhood partnerships.

Joint Safer Communities and Children and Young People's Boards Lead Members' meeting

The Board's lead members met the lead members of the Children and Young People's in mid-March to discuss a number of areas of mutual interest. These included working with the Youth Justice Board about the transition of youth offenders from youth offending institutions to adult institutions and over the resettlement of youth offenders, the potential transfer of youth custody to local authorities, and the involvement of young people in anti-social behaviour.

Lead members' meeting with the APA

The Board's Lead Members had their second meeting with the APA's Lead Members on 20th April. The meeting covered a number of areas of mutual concern including the joint guidance from the APA and LGA on what the new police authority member

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appointment regulations mean, and the competency framework to accompany it. Other issues discussed were the future funding of PCSOs, the APA's work on complaints and redress and the possibility of joint conferences between the APA and LGA. A further meeting has been scheduled for mid-July.

Officer activity

Public Confidence and Satisfaction Delivery Board

This Home Office Board is responsible for ensuring that the police confidence target is met. The March meeting heard about the work the Home Office has been doing in establishing why some forces have seen a significant improvement in their confidence scores, and the reasons why the public will say that they have no opinion on whether the police and local council are tackling the crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter locally. The Home Office will be using this research to provide forces with further actions that can be taken to improve their confidence scores. The Board also heard about some focus group work, which the Home Office has commissioned Ipsos MORI to do, on what would make members of the public more confident. The reports from Ipsos MORI are being worked up but an initial conclusion from the work was that there was low awareness of partnership working on crime and anti-social behaviour, and that there was little awareness in particular of the role of councils. The Home Office will therefore be going back to the results of the work to see what can be done to raise awareness of councils and their role in tackling crime.

Anti-social behaviour Casework Management

Following on from the Pilkington case and the announcement last autumn by the government of minimum standards for dealing with anti-social behaviour, the Home Office is keen to ensure that anti-social behaviour cases are dealt with by the Police, councils and other partners together, especially where they affect the vulnerable or a risk is posed. It is therefore investigating the establishment of an end to end casework management system covering a case from the initial call to the resolution of the case to the victim's satisfaction, and has invited the LGA to participate. Work has already begun on setting up a number of pilots which feature a call handling system, the ability to bring together all anti-social behaviour and calls in one place, a risk assessment process and some principles to guide practitioners.

Probation Association Partnership Development Strategy Steering Group

As mentioned in relation to the meeting between the Board's chair and the Probation Association, the Probation Association has a strategy to assist probation trusts and boards build links with a range of local partners. It has therefore convened an officer level stakeholder group to help with delivery of the strategy, with the LGA being invited to participate alongside the Home Office and Ministry of Justice. The first meeting at the end of April looked at areas where partner bodies could assist the Probation Association on specific elements in the strategy.

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London MAPPA Protocol

The London boroughs, through London Councils, have agreed good practice guidance with the Metropolitan Police and London Probation alongside the London Regional MAPPA memorandum of understanding. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a duty on various organisations, of which councils are one, with the MAPPA the responsible authority. The good practice guidance deals with the roles and responsibilities of councils as housing authorities, with a particular issue being the sharing of the burden of housing UK citizens returning to the country and who are subject to MAPPA arrangements. Given the focus on housing issues the matter has been referred to the Environment team in the LGA.

Public Protection Network toolkit

In 2007 Sir Ian Magee was asked to conduct a review into the recording and sharing of information about criminality within the UK and other countries in the interests of public protection. The review reported in 2008 and suggested that the many organisations involved in gathering and sharing criminality information should be viewed as a network. The Home Office is now looking to develop a 'toolkit' which will provide guidance and examples of good and effective practice on what information can be shared about crimes and criminality for the range of organisations covered in the Magee review's network, including local authorities. The LGA has therefore been invited to participate in this work.

Coroner Stakeholder Forum

In preparation for the implementation of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is reviewing arrangements for the Coroner Stakeholder Forum to facilitate communication between the Ministry and interested stakeholders, including local government. With the reform of the coroner system due to be implemented from April 2012, alongside the introduction of medical examiners under new death certification arrangements, there will be some significant changes to the way the system operates and in how services are delivered. The MoJ is looking to widen participation in the Forum to include local authority managers with responsibility for the coroner service.

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