

Note of decisions taken and actions required

Title:	LG Group Safer and Stronger Communities Programme Board
Date and time:	Monday 14 March 2011, 11.30am
Venue:	Civic Centre, Sunderland

Attendance

Position	Councillor	Council
Chair	Cllr Mehboob Khan	Kirklees MBC
Deputy Chair	Cllr Duwayne Brooks	Lewisham LB
Members	Cllr Tom Fox	Scarborough BC
	Cllr Joanna Spicer	Suffolk CC
	Cllr Ian Gillies	City of York
	Cllr Ann Lucas	Coventry City
	Cllr Mark Burns-Williamson	Wakefield MDC
	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle City
Substitutes	Cllr Henri Murison	Newcastle City
	Cllr Paul Porgess	Stockport MBC
Present:	Cllr Iain Malcolm	South Tyneside Council / LGR Company Board
	Cllr Lucy Hovvels	Durham CC
Apologies	Cllr Les Lawrence (Vice Chair)	Birmingham City Council
	Cllr Goronwy Edwards (Deputy Chair)	Conwy
	Cllr Brian Coleman	Barnet LB / LFEPA
	Cllr Paul Bettison	Bracknell Forest
	Cllr Nilgun Canver	Haringey LB
	Cllr Daisy Benson	Reading BC

Officers: Helen Murray, Derek Allen, Mark Norris, Liz Hobson, Paul Johnston (all LG Group); Sue Kellie, Stuart Douglass (Sunderland City Council)

Item	Decisions and actions	Action by
-------------	------------------------------	------------------

1 Sunderland – Local Innovation Award

The Board received a presentation from Stuart Douglass, Sunderland City Council, on the work that the Safer Sunderland Partnership had done in delivering the Local Innovation Award programme.

Members asked what work had been done to develop and support ward Councillors as part of the programme. Stuart replied that certain problem solving activities were based at the ward level, and that problem solving budgets had also been delegated to ward level, so ward Councillors were actively involved in the delivery of the programme.

Sue Kellie, Safer Sunderland Partnership, said, in response to a Member's query, that work was being undertaken to examine how to best continue the Programme's work in light of the reduced budgets in going forward.

Members thanked Stuart and Sue for their presentation.

Decision

Members agreed that the LG Group would enter into a conversation with Sunderland City Council about utilizing the remaining £180,000 of the Local Innovation Award.

Action

Officers to discuss with Sunderland the use of the remaining funds from the Local Innovation Award.

2 Community safety funding

Officers introduced the report, stating that the reductions in funding available for councils under the Community Safety Fund were disappointing.

Members expressed concern about the detrimental impact on community safety that other funding cuts, such as grants to address youth substance misuse, would have cumulatively

Item 8

with the cuts in the Community Safety Fund. Members expressed similar concern that such cuts in local authority funding were indicative of a Government position that envisaged a reduced role for local government in delivering community safety.

Members said that the Government needed to better communicate its proposals for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to local government to allow councils to prepare appropriately, particular in two-tier areas. Members said that the Local Government Group also had a role in communicating the implications of the move to PCCs to member authorities. Members also said that there needed to be further clarification on proposals for “payment by results” funding for PCC areas.

Members said that further lobbying efforts should be made at the House of Lords stage of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill to reflect local government concerns.

Officers said that payment by results proposals had been put together by the Ministry of Justice, and that further clarification was being sought. Officers added that LG Group lobbying work was at this stage focussing on the need to strengthen the powers of the Police and Crime Panels to hold Commissioners to account.

Decision

Members agreed that the LG Group produce a leaflet about Police and Crime Commissioners to raise awareness about what they will do and how they will work with Councils.

Members agreed the LG Group’s current lobbying activities in this area.

Action

Officers to prepare a draft leaflet about Police and Crime Commissioners, their responsibilities and how they will work with Councils.

3 More effective responses to antisocial behaviour

Officers said that the Home Office had recently issued a consultation document setting out how they propose to

Item 8

streamline tools and powers available to practitioners to tackle antisocial behaviour, and that Members' views were sought to inform the LG Group response to that consultation.

Members stated that the proposed Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) toolkit proposed by the Home Office was largely unsatisfactory. Particular concerns were expressed about the Criminal Behaviour Order, which Members felt largely mirrored the court awarded Anti-Social Behaviour Orders that they were designed to replace; the Crime Prevention Injunction, which Members felt was too weak and that the definition of "risk of harm" within the injunction was not easily defined; and the community trigger, which Members felt would not protect vulnerable members of the community and could lead to duplication of work.

Members discussed whether Councils should be given more discretionary powers to tackle social housing tenants who had repeatedly engaged in ASB, with some Members arguing that Councils had an important mediating role in resolving neighbourly disputes in communities.

Members said that the LG Group response should acknowledge the very important role that neighbourhood management groups and Joint Action Groups had played in tackling ASB and make reference to the importance of sharing data on ASB. Members said that the response should also refer to the beneficial impact that preventative schemes, such as the Government's Free Swimming programme, had had in reducing ASB, and that councils needed to be supported by Government in continuing to deliver these preventative schemes.

Decision

Members agreed that the submission to the Home Office consultation should focus on the practical application of the powers for Councils to tackle antisocial behaviour;

Members agreed that the Chair would meet the Chair of the LG Group Environment Programme Board to discuss housing-related ASB;

Members agreed that an article on the Government's proposed ASB toolkit be included within a future edition of First magazine.

Item 8

Action

Officers to draft the submission to the Home Office consultation for Lead Members' agreement;

Officers to arrange a meeting between Cllr Khan and the Chair of the Environment Board;

Officers to draft an article on the Government's proposed ASB toolkit for inclusion within *First* magazine.

4 Prevent review

Officers said the Government had launched a review of PREVENT and that Members' views were sought on the content of the response.

Members said that the positioning of the proposed response was appropriate. Members said that it was disappointing that the Government had not to date taken the opportunity to set out their approach to community cohesion, and over the broader issues such as what it meant to be a British citizen.

Decision

Members agreed the proposed response to the PREVENT review set out within the report.

Action

Officers to draft the response to the PREVENT review.

5 Board Regional Engagement Programme

This item was noted in conjunction with item 8.

6 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

Members said that the LG Group had long held opposition to proposals within the Bill to introduce Police and Crime Commissioners and suggested further lobbying should be done at the Lords stage of the Bill.

Item 8

7 Business Plan priorities

Members noted the priorities for the Board within the Business Plan.

Decision

Members agreed that an item on 2012 resilience would be on the agenda at the July Board meeting.

Action

Officers to invite LFB officers to attend the July Board meeting to discuss local government resilience work on 2012.

Paul Johnston

8 Getting Closer – changes to the LG Group

Members noted that the changes in the LG Group and the potential implications for the work of the LG Group Boards.

9 Update on regulatory services

Members noted the report. Officers said that they were disappointed that the Government had not accepted LG Regulation (LGR) proposals on the future of the Local Better Regulation Office. LGR would also be pursuing cost recovery issues within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

10 Notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.

Decision

Members agreed that Special Constables be raised as an item at the July Board meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 11 July 2011