

Safer and Stronger Communities Board

Agenda

Monday, 7 December 2015
11.00 am

Rathbone Rooms 1&2, 7th Floor, Local
Government House, Smith Square, London,
SW1P 3HZ

To: Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board
cc: Named officers for briefing purposes

www.local.gov.uk

This meeting is



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Safer & Stronger Communities Board
7 December 2015

There will be a meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board at **11.00 am on Monday, 7 December 2015** Rathbone Rooms 1&2, 7th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

A sandwich lunch will be available at 1.00pm.

Attendance Sheet:

Please ensure that you sign the attendance register, which will be available in the meeting room. It is the only record of your presence at the meeting.

Political Group meetings:

The group meetings will take place in advance of the meeting. Please contact your political group as outlined below for further details.

Apologies:

Please notify your political group office (see contact telephone numbers below) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Conservative:	Group Office: 020 7664 3223	email: lgaconservatives@local.gov.uk
Labour:	Group Office: 020 7664 3334	email: Labour.GroupLGA@local.gov.uk
Independent:	Group Office: 020 7664 3224	email: independent.group@local.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat:	Group Office: 020 7664 3235	email: libdem@local.gov.uk

Location:

A map showing the location of Local Government House is printed on the back cover.

LGA Contact:

Ciaran Whitehead
0207 664 3107 / ciaran.whitehead@local.gov.uk

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Safer & Stronger Communities Board – Membership 2015/2016

Councillor	Authority
Conservative (7)	
Cllr Morris Bright (Vice Chairman)	Hertsmere Borough Council
Cllr Nick Daubney	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council
Cllr Thomas Fox	Scarborough Borough Council
Cllr Joanna Gardner	Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council
Cllr Ian Gillies	City of York Council
Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Marc Jones	Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr Tunde Ojetola	Thurrock Council
Cllr Lucy Botting	Mole Valley District Council
Cllr Chris Pillai	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Labour (7)	
Cllr Simon Blackburn (Chair)	Blackpool Council
Cllr Mike Connolly	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
Cllr Janet Daby	Lewisham London Borough Council
Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
Cllr Tony Page	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Sophie Linden	Hackney London Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council
Cllr Joy Allen	Durham County Council
Independent (2)	
Cllr Philip Evans JP (Deputy Chair)	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Goronwy Edwards	Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr Clive Woodbridge	Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Liberal Democrat (2)	
Cllr Lisa Brett (Deputy Chair)	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Substitutes	
Cllr Christopher Coleman	Cheltenham Borough Council

LGA Safer & Stronger Communities Board Attendance 2015-2016

Councillors	14/09/15				
Conservative Group					
Morris Bright	Yes				
Jo Beavis	Yes				
Nick Daubney	No				
Tom Fox	Yes				
Joanna Gardner	Yes				
Ian Gillies	Yes				
Nick Worth	Yes				
Labour Group					
Simon Blackburn	Yes				
Mike Connolly	Yes				
Michael Payne	Yes				
Janet Daby	No				
Kate Haigh	Yes				
Tony Page	Yes				
Sophie Linden	Yes				
Independent					
Philip Evans JP	Yes				
Colin Mann	Yes				
Lib Dem Group					
Lisa Brett	Yes				
Anita Lower	Yes				
Substitutes/Observers					
Kay Hammond	Yes				
Lucy Botting	Yes				
Chris Pillai	Yes				

Agenda

Safer & Stronger Communities Board

Monday 7 December 2015

11.00 am

Rathbone Rooms 1&2, 7th Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 22 February 2016, 11.00 am, Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ



Counter-Extremism Strategy

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

In the summer the Prime Minister set out how the government would look to tackle the threat posed by extremism through a Counter Extremism Strategy. One strand outlined in the Prime Minister's speech was the need to build a more cohesive society so people were less vulnerable to extremist ideology. To identify what action needed to be taken the Prime Minister announced that Louise Casey has been commissioned to carry out a review of how to boost opportunity and integration. Since then the government has also published the Counter Extremism Strategy.

Neil O'Connor, Director of the Cross-Departmental Review, DCLG, is attending the Board to explain what the review will cover and how it is gathering evidence.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Note the publication of the Counter Extremism Strategy Respond and the announcement about the review by Louise Casey; and
2. Discuss and direct any further activity.

Action

Officers to take note of and action members' comments and direction.

Contact officer: Mark Norris
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Counter-Extremism Strategy

Background

1. In July this year, the Prime Minister set out the government's intention to publish a Counter Extremism Strategy in the autumn to address the threat posed by extremist ideology. This followed a year in which the number of people arrested for terrorism-related offences climbed to record levels, with 299 suspects detained in the twelve months to March 2015. This is the highest number since officials started to collect data in September 2001. More than three quarters of those detained considered themselves to be of British or dual British nationality, compared with a little over half in the 2010/11 figures.
2. The figures do not of themselves explain why there have been such an increase in the number of arrests. Various commentators however attribute it to the conflict in the Middle East and North Africa (and Syria and Iraq in particular), pointing out that the number of arrests has climbed steadily since the Arab Spring in 2010 and 2011. They also argue that this increase is in part the result of radicalisation, and the use of the internet to spread extremist ideology and to recruit people to extremist causes. The rise in the proportion of 18-20 year olds and women being arrested is cited as evidence for this, as are the recent attacks in Paris, where those so far identified as carrying them out have all been European Union nationals.
3. At the same time there has been an increase in Islamophobic attacks and religious hate crime. Figures from the Metropolitan Police showed that anti-Muslim attacks in London had increased by 70 per cent in the year to July, while those from the Home Office showed a 43 per cent increase in religiously motivated hate crimes in 2014/15 – though such crime remains rare. Tell MAMA, an organisation that monitors anti-Muslim attacks, reports these attacks spike after 'trigger' events such as the Charlie Hebdo shootings and the terrorist attacks in Tunisia. Following a government decision all police forces will adopt uniform recording mechanisms on anti-Muslim hate crimes to build up a more comprehensive picture of Islamophobic crime going forward.

The national context and role of councils

4. Councils have worked closely over the last decade with the police, schools, voluntary sector organisations, religious institutions and others such as prisons and probation on community cohesion and preventing violent extremism. Since the national counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST, was updated by the government in 2011, this work has been shaped by the revised Prevent Strategy which aims 'to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism'. Local authorities' role in this area has been reinforced by the introduction of the Prevent duty since July, which requires councils to play their role in preventing people from being drawn into terrorism.
5. Until the general election councils' work around cohesion was influenced by the integration strategy 'Creating the Conditions for Integration', which was launched by DCLG in February 2012. Creating the Conditions recognised that integration is a vital local issue requiring a local response, with many references to localism and civic leadership, and it strongly encouraged local partners such as councils to take a lead.

DCLG's own focus over the same period was on championing British values, and it provided £50 million between 2011/12 and 2014/15 to fund a range of projects to contribute to this agenda. These projects were wide ranging, from promoting the Cornish language through to projects tackling female genital mutilation and honour based violence, to promoting the Big Iftar and remembering World War One.

Louise Casey's review

6. During his speech in July the Prime Minister set out the four pillars of the Counter Extremism Strategy and how these would help defeat extremism and extremist ideology. He explained that the fourth strand in the Strategy would be about building a more cohesive society, and that Louise Casey had been commissioned to carry out a review of how to boost opportunity and integration of the most isolated communities.
7. The Prime Minister's announcement covered the issues Louise Casey's review would look at. These included how government can ensure people learn English; how employment outcomes can be boosted, especially for women; and how state agencies can work with isolated communities to properly promote integration and opportunity. The Prime Minister said an interim report would be provided early in 2016, and this would be used to inform plans for funding a major new Cohesive Communities Programme in 2016. In the Spending Review announcement the government said that current levels of funding for community integration programmes would be maintained, but would be targeted to support the recommendations of the review - this suggests that there will be £11-14 million a year available (based on spend over the last parliament).
8. Neil O'Connor, the Director of Louise Casey's review team has agreed to attend the Board meeting and explain in more detail the work the review is undertaking, how it is going about gathering evidence and views, and the timescales to which it is working.
9. Given the long standing work by councils around building community cohesion lines of inquiry that members may wish to explore with the Director include:
 - 9.1. What role does the review team see for local government in promoting integration and opportunity, and who are the key local partners councils should be working with to build cohesion?
 - 9.2. Will the review be looking to identify good practice in promoting integration and opportunity, and will it also be identifying issues that local areas have been less successful at addressing so far?
 - 9.3. How important does the review team see economic opportunities as compared to shared values in building a cohesive society? Are there any other key factors that promote integration and build cohesive communities?
 - 9.4. Is the emphasis on addressing economic opportunity and isolated communities the right one when those who have been radicalised have tended to be well educated and not necessarily from deprived backgrounds?
 - 9.5. How important is it for local areas to tackle religious motivated hate crime such as Islamophobia and anti-semitism, and forms of right wing extremism?

- 9.6. How can local authorities promote opportunities and integration when public spending will continue to reduce over the Spending Review period, and when they have fewer levers when it comes to working with key local partners like schools, colleges and universities?

Counter-Extremism Strategy

10. The [Counter Extremism Strategy](#) itself was published on 19 October, and sets out how the four strands will be implemented to protect people from the harm caused by extremism. It builds on the new statutory Prevent duty and defines extremism as:
- 'The vocal or active opposition to our fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also regard call for the death of members of our armed forces as extremist.'
11. The strategy's four pillars are:
- 11.1. Countering extremist ideology;
 - 11.2. Building a partnership with all those exposed to extremism;
 - 11.3. Disrupting extremism; and
 - 11.4. Building more cohesive communities – the strand Louise Casey's review forms part of.
12. Although the Strategy aims to cover all forms of extremism, both violent and non-violent, it is almost entirely focused on Islamic and right wing extremism. It reports that the government has established within the Home Office the Extremism Analysis Unit to support all government departments and the broader public sector to understand wider extremism issues.
13. In discussing the threat of extremism the strategy makes clear that local authorities have a key role to play in protecting communities against extremism, but quoting Birmingham, Tower Hamlets and Rotherham, states that in some areas more needs to be done to address concerns in a decisive and effective way.
14. Because Peter Clark's Birmingham Trojan Horse report highlighted that there is an inadequate understanding of the way institutions can be targeted by extremists, the government will carry out a full review to ensure all institutions are safeguarded from the risk posed by entryism. This is when extremist individuals, groups and organisations consciously seek to gain positions of influence to better enable them to promote their own extremist agendas. A report looking across the public sector, including schools, further education colleges, local authorities, the NHS and the civil service, will be published in 2016.
15. In order to counter extremist ideology, the government will implement a counter-ideology campaign focused on:
- 15.1. Contesting the online space;

- 15.2. Strengthening our institutions;
 - 15.3. Supporting individuals at particular risk of radicalisation; and
 - 15.4. Building partnership with all those opposed to extremism.
16. As part of the strengthening institutions agenda the government will keep under review those institutions that have a duty under the new Prevent agenda and expand the list if necessary. Because of the Trojan Horse issue in Birmingham, the Department of Education has strengthened the government's ability to identify extremism and entryism into schools. This includes major reform of the regulations on governor appointments, so that all appointments must now be made on the basis of skill. Governing bodies can take action to suspend or potentially remove governors if they are not upholding the ethos of the school, including fundamental British values. The Department of Education will also introduce a new system to enable intervention in unregulated education settings.
 17. The strategy recognises that councils have a powerful role to play in combating extremism, but again quoting Birmingham states that some authorities have failed to encounter extremism as fully as they could have done. The government intends to ensure that local authorities have clear guidance on the full range of tools available to them to tackle extremism. The government will also review the powers available to enable it to intervene where councils fail.
 18. Following on from the Channel programme the Home office will develop by spring 2016, a new de-radicalisation programme for individuals further down the path of extremism.
 19. The strategy makes clear the government's determination to support individuals and groups, who have credibility and experience of fighting extremism within their communities, by amplifying their voices and helping them where required. As part of this the Home Office will develop a new network, linking individuals and groups around Britain, who are already standing up to extremists in their communities. Working with local partners, including councils, the government plans to identify the most impactful and relevant groups already doing important work to protect communities. In so doing, they will set out publicly the principles that will guide the whole of government when deciding whether to engage with individuals and groups in this country.
 20. In order to disrupt extremists the government will amongst other things introduce new powers to:
 - 20.1. Ban extremist organisations that promote hatred and draw people into extremism;
 - 20.2. Restrict the most harmful activities of the most dangerous extremist individuals;
 - 20.3. Restrict access to premises which are repeatedly used to support extremism.
 21. They will also produce guidance for the police, prosecutors and local authorities which will clearly set out the exceptional nature of the powers and the circumstances in which they can be used.
 22. In order to help the public report extremism, the government will introduce a new Extremism Community Trigger, similar to the anti-social behaviour trigger introduced last

year, to guarantee that concerns about local extremism will be taken seriously. A new legal duty will ensure that the police and local authorities fully review any complaints about extremism. They will be expected to work in partnership to tackle local extremist issues and keep the public informed about their actions.

23. To protect vulnerable people the role of the Disclosure and Barring Service will be strengthened to enable employers to identify extremists and stop them working with children and other vulnerable groups. This will mean that it will be possible to bar the most harmful extremists from working with vulnerable people.

13 November Paris attacks

24. The attacks in Paris on 13 November have emphasised the importance of building community cohesion and integration, as well as in preventing people being radicalised and drawn into terrorism. There is clearly an increasingly important role for ward councillors, using their knowledge and relationships in a local area to promote inclusion, particularly in those areas where isolated and vulnerable communities are most concentrated. Councillors can also use their authority and legitimacy to challenge the narratives of radicalisers and extremists and put forward positive alternatives, working with the wider community to condemn the activities of extremists who misrepresent local community views.

Next steps

25. Work is already underway to assist councils implement the Prevent duty. We have commissioned a number of case studies that highlight how councils have engaged with their communities to address the threat posed by radicalisation, and these will be published at the annual Safer Communities conference. Other areas that have been identified by practitioners as areas where councils would benefit from assistance include building the capacity and skills of frontline staff such as around tension monitoring; assistance and support around engaging with schools, colleges, and universities; and how can councils support communities address extremist ideology and prevent people being radicalised.
26. It has also been pointed out that councils have developed and delivered programmes to make people and communities aware of the threat from extremist ideology, and also to safeguard individuals once they are identified as being vulnerable to radicalisation. However councils and other partners have less understanding of the pathways that individuals follow that lead them into extremist activity. It is therefore proposed that we look at the pathways into radicalisation and what makes one individual vulnerable to extremist messages and another more resilient to them. This would then assist councils in intervening earlier in the journey individuals undertake to becoming extremists.
27. In addition officers have been in discussion with Home Office officials about the support package that will be provided to councils, and how the LGA might compliment it this rather than duplicate it. The Home Office is for example looking to provide a peer support team to advise councils around Prevent related matters. An area where it was thought the LGA would be able to add value was in supporting councillors around this agenda. It would therefore be helpful to have members' views on what they would find most useful in carrying out their role in their wards and within their authority around preventing terrorism and preventing extremism.

28. Following the discussion with Neil O'Connor the Board's views will be submitted to the Casey Review team on how the government could facilitate integration and community cohesion, based on the points raised by members. Alongside this a programme to assist councils to counter extremism and which links into the support to prevent terrorism will be drawn up.

29. Members are asked to:

- 29.1. Note the publication of the Counter Extremism Strategy Respond and the announcement about the review by Louise Casey; and
- 29.2. Discuss and direct any further activity.

Financial Implications

30. The work set out in this paper will be carried out using existing resources and budgets.

Alcohol's harm to others: An Institute of Alcohol Studies report

Purpose

For discussion.

Summary

Katherine Brown, Director of the Institute of Alcohol Studies, has been invited to present on the Institute's latest report into the wider impact of alcohol on society. This report was first presented at the Alcohol Leadership Network attended by Cllr Page in his role as LGA licensing champion; Cllr Page recommended that it be presented to the board.

Recommendation

The Board should consider the presentation in light of the LGA's existing workplan and policy positions on managing the supply of alcohol and identify if there is a need to amend or adapt the work.

Action

Officers to progress as directed.

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Position: Adviser (Regulation)
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Alcohol's harm to others: An Institute of Alcohol Studies report

Background

1. The Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS) is a registered charity aiming to educate, preserve and protect the good health of the public by:
 - 1.1. promoting the scientific understanding of beverage alcohol and the individual, societal and health consequences of its consumption; and
 - 1.2. promoting measures for the prevention of alcohol-related problems and to promote, for the public benefit, research into beverage alcohol and to publish the useful results.
2. Although originating within the temperance movement, the IAS does not take a view on whether people should or should not drink.
3. The IAS employs academic researchers to investigate key policy issues around alcohol consumption. Recent papers include a review of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 over the 10 years that it has been in place, the impact of alcohol on the emergency services, and the impact of the public health responsibility deal for alcohol.
4. Katherine Brown is Director of the IAS, responsible for representing the IAS in the media and at key strategic meetings. She sits, along with the LGA, on the Home Office Health and Enforcement Alcohol Forum (HEAF) and presents at licensing conferences.

Issues

5. 'Alcohol's harm to others' was produced for the IAS by the University of Sheffield's School for Health and Related Research (SchARR). The research interviewed 2,000 people in the North West of England and Scotland to answer two questions:
 - 5.1. Who experiences harm from other peoples' drinking?
 - 5.2. How do different types of harm from others' drinking cluster?
6. The research showed that the prevalence of harm from another person's drinking is high, with respondents in the North West of England reporting higher incidences of harm – 78.7% of respondents had reported at least one of 20 harms in the past 12 months, compared to 51.4% of Scottish respondents.
7. Most respondents reported experience of two or more harms, with harm being predominantly experienced by younger age groups. The disparity by age was more significant than differences by gender or social class, which did not show statistically significant differences.
8. There is evidence for clustering of some types of harm, including being harassed, threatened or feeling afraid in public spaces. Household financial difficulties also showed some correlation with other harms.
9. Harms surveyed included: people killed by drink driving; foetal alcohol syndrome; intimidation and harassment; feeling unsafe in a public place; and being kept awake at

night. The report estimates that these harms collectively cost £15.4 billion, excluding costs to families.

10. The report identifies a number of measures that could be taken to reduce these levels of harm. These included:

- 10.1. introducing a minimum unit price
- 10.2. restricting the density of outlets
- 10.3. restricting permitted hours of sale
- 10.4. providing brief advice to risky drinkers
- 10.5. tougher drink driving laws.

Suggested lines of enquiry for the Board

11. **Geographic divergence** - The report identifies a significant difference in the level and types of harms experienced in the North West, compared to those experienced in Scotland. Members could explore if the survey identified any reasons for this, such as the existence of a public health objective in Scottish licensing legislation.

12. **Restricting the density of outlets** - Members may wish to explore the extent to which IAS believes that cumulative impact policies are effective in reducing the density of outlets and whether more could be done to assess the impact of this work.

13. **Restricting permitted hours of sale** – Members may wish to explore whether the IAS feels that licensing authorities are making effective use of their powers to restrict operating hours. Councils have recently been criticised for being ‘too responsive to residents’ when imposing shorter hours on premises - a notion the LGA rejects.

14. **The impact of licensing statements** – Each licensing authority is required to draft a licensing statement. A separate study recently determined that areas with policies considered to be ‘tough’ also experienced a 5% reduction in alcohol-related admissions to A&E compared to areas where the policies were viewed as weak. Members could explore whether the IAS research has revealed any examples of good practice or effective types of intervention.

LGA workplan on alcohol

15. The LGA’s workplan for alcohol licensing in 2015 includes:

- 15.1. building the evidence base for locally-set licensing fees under the Licensing Act 2003
- 15.2. lobbying for a public health objective in the Licensing Act 2003
- 15.3. publishing a new councillor handbook on the Licensing Act 2003
- 15.4. lobbying for a strengthening of councils powers around Temporary Event Notices
- 15.5. running the annual licensing conference on 23 February 2016.

16. Alcohol harm is also the responsibility of the LGA’s Wellbeing Portfolio. The Portfolio’s workplan includes making the financial case for continuing investment in preventative services, such as alcohol treatment and brief interventions.

17. The LGA does not have a position on the introduction of a minimum unit price.



**Safer and Stronger
Communities Board**

7 December 2015

Financial Implications

18. None.

Alcohol's Harm to Others



IAS report by Lucy Gell, Abdallah Ally, Penny Buykx, Ann Hope, Petra Meier

Summary findings presented by Katherine Brown, IAS Director,
to LGA Safer & Stronger Communities Board, 7 December 2015



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

IAS
Institute of Alcohol Studies

IAS: Who we are, what we do

“The core aim of the Institute is to serve the public interest on public policy issues linked to alcohol, by advocating for the use of scientific evidence in policy-making to reduce alcohol-related harm.”

- Independent charity
- Supported by board of scientific advisors
- Strong links to NGO networks and policy makers in UK, Europe and globally



Alcohol's harm to others in the UK

Alcohol's impact on people other than the drinker:

- Physical violence
- Drink driving accidents
- Relationship problems/domestic abuse
- Financial difficulties
- Feeling intimidated in public places
- FASD/negative impact on children
- Burden on employers/colleagues

Alcohol's harm to others in the UK

Research questions:

1. Who experiences harm from others' drinking?
1. How do different types of harm from others' drinking cluster?
2. What evidence is there to support effective policies that reduce harm from others' drinking?

Alcohol's harm to others in the UK

Methods:

- Literature review (peer reviewed/grey lit/national statistics)
- Survey data:
 - 1,020 adults (18+) North West England
 - 1,007 (16+) Scotland
- Special thanks to Drinkwise North West and Alcohol Focus Scotland for data provision

Key findings

1. Prevalence of harm to others



Key findings

In North West England:

- 78.7% respondents had experienced one of 20 harms identified, 67.7% had experienced two or more harms
- Older people (65+) significantly less likely to report harm from another's drinking
- Women more likely than men to experience unwanted sexual attention
- High income groups more likely to be annoyed by vomiting/urinating in street
- Younger people (16-34) more likely to experience 11 types of harm

In Scotland:

- 51.4% had experienced one of 16 harms, 35.6% had experienced two or more harms
- Older people (65+) significantly less likely to report harm from another's drinking
- Men more likely to have been a passenger in a car of a drunk driver
- Low income groups more likely to be harmed physically, have family problems or marriage difficulties and report problems with neighbours/friends
- Younger people (16-34) more likely to experience 8 types of harm

Survey results

Scotland		North West England	
Harm	n (%)	Harm	n (%)
Has someone who has been drinking harassed or bothered you on the street or another public place?	203 (20.1%)	I have been harassed, insulted or humiliated in the street, a pub or nightclub, or in another public place.	232 (22.7%)
Has someone who has been drinking made you afraid when you encountered them on the street?	165 (16.4%)	I have felt threatened, afraid or unsafe in the street, a pub or nightclub, or in some other public place.	365 (35.8%)
Have you felt unsafe in a public place because of someone else's drinking?	193 (19.2%)		
Have you felt threatened or afraid because of someone's drinking at home or another private setting?	82 (8.1%)	I have felt threatened, afraid or unsafe in my home or the home of friends or family.	98 (9.6%)
Have you been harassed or bothered at a party or some other private setting due to someone else's drinking?	119 (11.9%)	I have been harassed, insulted or humiliated at a private party or in some other private setting.	115 (11.3%)
Has someone who has been drinking harmed you physically?	49 (4.9%)	I have been harmed physically.	79 (7.7%)
Has someone who has been drinking been responsible for a traffic accident you were involved in?	12 (1.2%)	I have been involved in a traffic accident.	52 (5.1%)
Have you been kept awake at night by drunken noise?	304 (30.2%)	I have been kept awake at night by drunken noise.	504 (49.4%)
Was your house, car or property damaged because of someone else's drinking?	70 (6.9%)	I have had my house, vehicle or other property damaged or broken.	124 (12.2%)
Have you had family problems or marriage difficulties due to someone else's drinking?	56 (5.6%)	I have experienced marital problems or had a relationship breakdown.	110 (10.8%)
Have you had financial troubles because of someone else's drinking?	15 (1.5%)	I have had not enough money for household expenses or experienced other financial problems.	103 (10.1%)
Was a child you are responsible for negatively affected by someone else's drinking?	36 (3.6%)	A child I am responsible for has been negatively affected by someone's drinking.	46 (4.5%)
Have you been a passenger in a car with a driver who had too much to drink?	35 (3.5%)	I have been a passenger in a car with a driver who had too much to drink.	104 (10.2%)
Have you had problems with someone you worked with or a boss due to their drinking?	36 (3.6%)	I have had to take on extra jobs or responsibilities or had other work problems due to a co-worker or boss's alcohol consumption.	48 (4.7%)
Have you had problems with a friend or neighbour due to their drinking?	119 (11.9%)		
Has someone who has been drinking called you names or otherwise insulted you?	190 (18.8%)		
		I have had to take on extra household or caring responsibilities to cover for a drinking family member.	56 (5.5%)
		I have felt emotionally hurt or neglected by a friend or family member.	227 (22.3%)
		I have been annoyed by people vomiting or urinating when they have been drinking.	439 (43.0%)
		I have been annoyed by people littering the street when they have been drinking.	554 (54.3%)
		I have been annoyed by people rough sleeping when they have been drinking.	224 (22.0%)
		I have had a serious argument or quarrel.	242 (23.7%)
		I have had unwanted sexual attention or someone behaved in a sexually inappropriate way.	155 (15.2%)

Clustering of harms

How do harms from others' drinking cluster?

Cluster 1 – North West England

I have been harassed, insulted or humiliated in the street, a pub or nightclub, or in some other public place.

I have felt threatened, afraid or unsafe in the street, a pub or nightclub, or in some other public place.

Cluster 1 - Scotland

Has someone who has been drinking harassed or bothered on the street or in some other public place?

Has someone who has been drinking made you afraid when you encountered them on the street?

Have you felt unsafe in a public place because of someone else's drinking?

Cluster 2 – North West England

I have experienced marital problems or had a relationship breakdown.

I have had not enough money for household expenses or experienced other financial problems.

Cluster 2 - Scotland

Have you been kept awake at night by drunken noise?

Have you had financial troubles because of someone else's drinking?

Cost of harm to others



£1.7bn NHS
£7.3bn crime & disorder
£6.4bn workplace
- *excludes costs to families & social networks*
(2004)

International comparisons

Harm item	Scotland	North West England	Australia*	New Zealand*	Ireland*
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Someone who has been drinking harmed you physically.	5	8	5	3	8
Someone who has been drinking was responsible for a traffic accident you were involved in.	1	5	1	1	3
Your house, car or property was damaged because of someone else's drinking.	7	12	10	10	10
Have been a passenger with a driver who had too much to drink.	4	10	2	3	10
Have felt threatened, afraid or unsafe in a public place because of someone's drinking.	-	36	35	25	-
Have felt threatened or afraid because of someone's drinking at home or another private setting.	8	10	8	5	-
Have had a serious argument or quarrel because of someone's drinking.	-	24	22	17	-
Someone who has been drinking called you names or otherwise insulted you.	19	-	19	19	-
Have taken on extra household or caring responsibilities to cover for a drinking family member.	-	6	6	5	-
Have been emotionally hurt or neglected by a friend or family member.	-	22	16	9	-
Have been kept awake at night by drunken noise.	30	49	37	34	-
Have been annoyed by people vomiting or urinating when they have been drinking.	-	43	28	44	-

*Percentages use post weights for Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. - No equivalent item asked.

Wording of questions differs slightly between surveys, but are approximately equivalent (sometimes combining two items). Note that some percentages for New Zealand and Ireland vary from published reports because of combining items, weighting, and percentaging on the whole sample rather than subsamples.

Evidence for policy response



<https://vimeo.com/132729869>

Thank you for your time

Any questions?

kbrown@ias.org.uk



Fire Services Management Committee Update

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

The Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) reports to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board. The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Jeremy Hilton, is taking this opportunity to update the Board on the principal issues concerning the FSMC and the fire community at large.

Recommendation

The Board is recommended to note the update.

Action

Officers to note members comments and take action where required.

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Fire Services Management Committee Update

Background

1. The role of the Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) is to represent, as an LGA body, the views and concerns of the fire community, ensuring that local circumstances have a voice in the national context. It takes the lead on behalf of the LGA on:
 - 1.1. The future direction of the fire and rescue service.
 - 1.2. Improvement within the sector.
 - 1.3. All other day-to-day issues (e.g. technical or operational matters) affecting fire authorities.

FSMC work programme

2. At its 25 September meeting the FSMC agreed the following priorities for work over the next year:
 - 2.1. **Funding.** It was agreed to promote two key messages with government. First the need for the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) to be funded on the basis of risk rather than activity in order to maintain the required resilience to meet the latent risk, both national and local. Second the need for further transformation funding, but without this being funded through a topslice of the government grant to Fire and Rescue Authorities. These messages were at the heart of the joint LGA/Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) spending review submission to the Treasury.
 - 2.2. **Fire and Rescue Service Transformation.** The FRS has made good progress in transforming the way it delivers services to the community, but to mitigate the impact of the funding challenge, fire service transformation needs to continue apace. Within this context the FSMC agreed to focus on:
 - 2.2.1. Further and wider blue light collaboration;
 - 2.2.2. Continued promotion of collaboration with health partners;
 - 2.2.3. Working with the Community Wellbeing Portfolio to explore areas where the FRS can contribute to the LGA's health and wellbeing priorities;
 - 2.2.4. Emphasising the contribution the FRS makes to the wider community safety agenda;
 - 2.2.5. Reviewing progress on the delivery of transformation.
 - 2.2.6. Reviewing work to rationalise procurement across the FRS and put its weight behind efforts to get full Fire and Rescue Authority buy in to a more collaborative approach to procurement.

- 2.3. **Governance.** Following the Conservative manifesto commitment to examine a greater role for PCCs in the governance of the FRS and the launch of a consultation on Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services, the FSMC were unanimous in agreeing that there was no need for a new duty to foster collaboration between the emergency services and that governance should only change where there was across the board local support, including from the general public. This widely held view was reflected in the LGA response to the consultation and will if necessary be used in lobbying when legislation to implement the government's proposals are brought before Parliament.
- 2.4. **Prevention.** In addition to promoting, supporting and monitoring the growing role of the FRS in community health and wellbeing, the Committee has agreed to consider how individual FRSs can ensure their work better meets local priorities identified in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments through Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) having greater involvement in the work of local health and wellbeing boards. Associated with this are issues around the future role of fire fighters and the evolution of more flexible terms and conditions.
- 2.5. **Events.** The FSMC will continue to support the annual Fire Conference (8 & 9 March 2016 in Bristol) and two Fire Leadership Essentials programmes the first of which took place in October.

National Audit Office Reports

3. At the beginning of November the NAO published two reports; [Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services](#) and [Impact of funding reductions on fire and rescue services](#). The first report examines whether DCLG understands the impact of funding reductions on the financial sustainability of FRSs. The second provides detailed comparative analysis of changes in income, spending and financial and service sustainability across the sector.
4. The financial sustainability report concludes that FRSs have managed funding reductions since 2010 well, with fire incidents continuing to fall and with no financial failures. It expresses an expectation that DCLG would have a fuller understanding both of the continued financial and service sustainability and of the appropriate funding level to sustain this. It is also critical of the assurance systems in place to ensure the FRS delivers value for money and remains effective. Notably from an LGA perspective, it questions the robustness of the peer challenge process, which, despite intervention from the LGA at the drafting stage to correct this view, it sees as an assurance tool rather than what it is - a tool for sector-led self-improvement.
5. The impact of funding reductions on the fire and rescue services report advises that having coped well with funding cuts and absorbed significant drops in funding since 2010, there are now indications that some FRAs are beginning to experience greater challenges in continuing to manage cuts. It warns that were funding reductions to continue, the sector would be faced with twin challenges: to implement new cost-reduction measures, and to manage increased risks, for example to fire fighter safety.
6. The two reports were considered by the Public Accounts Select Committee on 26 November. In his session before the Committee Cllr Hilton gave an initial view of what the funding reductions in the Spending Review might mean for FRAs, set out the LGA's



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views on the government's proposals for changes in fire governance and explained the purpose of the LGA and CFOA's fire peer challenges.

Next steps

7. Members are asked to:
 - 7.1. Note the update.

Financial Implications

8. None.

LGA review of trading standards services: summary and report

Purpose

For discussion and decision.

Summary

This report updates the Board on the LGA's review of trading standards and seeks members' views on a draft report and next steps.

Recommendation

That the Board approves a short report on trading standards and the next steps identified.

Action

Officers to progress as directed.

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LGA review of trading standards services

Background

1. At its meeting in September, the Board provided early input to a short piece of work considering the future of trading standards services. The review followed on from the earlier Remodelling Public Protection report, as well as responding to the Chartered Trading Standards Institute's (CTSI) proposal for the creation of strategic trading standards authorities.
2. This paper seeks the Board's views on a draft report from the review and next steps, and should be read alongside the draft report attached at [annex 1](#).

Review objectives and activities

3. As the Board will recall, the objective of the review was to understand local government's requirements from trading standards services and to explore the options for how the service can most effectively deliver this in future.
4. Although the review has intentionally focused solely on local government's expectations for trading standards, officers have been involved in ongoing discussions with officials leading the central government review of trading standards that has been running concurrently.
5. As part of the review, the following activities have taken place:
 - 5.1. A survey of heads of trading standards in England and Wales. This received a 41% response rate.
 - 5.2. Review of trading standards statutory duties and changing patterns of activity.
 - 5.3. Interviews with members of the review's stakeholder group (listed at annex 2).
 - 5.4. Attendance at various professional workshops set up to enable TSOs to contribute to the local and central government reviews.
 - 5.5. Based on earlier activities, production of a short [discussion paper](#) outlining key issues for debate at a stakeholder group workshop held in late October.

Key themes and proposed LGA response

6. As outlined in the draft report, a number of key issues emerged from the review:
 - 6.1. Building on from the Board's original response to the CTSI vision, the review has indicated a strong commitment among local councillors and senior officers to trading standards' place within local government. Trading standards are seen as a valuable, flexible local resource that can support a range of local priorities through utilising a wide range of different statutory tools and responsibilities.

- 6.2. There are important links between trading standards and other local government services which would be significantly weakened if trading standards were to move out of local government. In the majority of unitary authorities represented in the review, trading standards was joined in a team with at least one other regulatory service (for example, licensing) or within a complete regulatory services unit. County councils involved in the review emphasised the importance of links between trading standards and other services such as social care, public health and economic growth in particular.
- 6.3. Trading standards has put in place mechanisms that appear to successfully manage the different tiers of trading standards work. Regional working is embedded across the country, and, through the National Trading Standards (NTS) framework, local services are funded by central government to tackle regional and national trading standards issues. NTS has also provided a route for central government or its agencies (notably the Food Standards Agency) to specifically commission local work which may not otherwise be a priority for local teams.
- 6.4. Larger trading standards services provide greater resilience and appear to offer a more sustainable future for the services trading standards provides, as evidenced by a number of long-standing and more recent joint services. Services managed at scale can cover a wider range of consumer protection activity / business support, and can benefit from having the resources to fully utilise local intelligence, develop commercial approaches etc.
- 6.5. Larger services may help to ameliorate the challenges created by funding cuts; they do not solve them. There is a need for much greater honesty, particularly centrally, about what services will be resourced to deliver following a new round of spending cuts.
7. The attached draft report proposes that the LGA accepts these messages, and in particular the suggestion that fewer, larger trading standards services would offer greater resilience. With some services down to just two or three officers (or even less, in one or two places), it is proposed that the LGA should encourage its individual members to consider what the alternative options for service provision may be for these councils. **The Board's view of this recommendation and section of the draft report would be very welcome.**

Proposed next steps

8. In contrast to the trading standards bodies, the LGA clearly does not support any form of mandatory reorganisation of trading standards services: it should be left to local places to configure services most appropriate to their areas. This will inevitably mean services and structures that look different in different places – as they already do and always have done.
9. However, we are keen to back up the report with actions to support its recommendations. We therefore propose two separate strands of work:

- 9.1. Development of a short document to help illustrate the potential benefits of larger trading standards (or wider regulatory services) units, including highlighting case studies of existing joint services.
- 9.2. Commissioning external support to provide to councils to kickstart discussions about joints services or other alternative models.

10. The Board is asked to both provide a view on the suitability of these activities and make any alternative suggestions of how this work could be followed up.

Outcomes of the BIS-BRDO review

11. The final report from central government's review has yet to be published, but is expected at any time. From discussions with officials, our expectations are that the report is also likely to emphasise the role of larger units in helping to sustain trading standards services: separately, BRDO are beginning very early work with the new combined authority areas to explore the case for regulatory services being managed at that level.
12. Although it initially appeared that the central review may recommend that some very technical trading standards responsibilities be moved away from councils, government now appears to have moved back from this. However, we are anticipating that it may propose some form of mechanism for further review of specific areas of trading standards over a longer period.
13. A note of the outcomes from the central review will be circulated to the Board once the final report has been published, in particular outlining any implications for the LGA's recommendations and next steps.

Trading standards in Wales

14. The review is limited to trading standards services in England, although we are liaising closely with colleagues at WLGA and will share the survey and other findings with them.

Financial implications

15. The review is being supported through normal staff budgets. External support will be commissioned through existing improvement and / or devolution budgets.

Annex 1 – Draft report of the LGA Trading Standards review

Introduction

In summer 2015, the Local Government Association (LGA) launched a short and high level review into the future of local government trading standards services. The review followed on from the LGA's [Remodelling Public Protection](#) report, which sought to highlight the challenges faced by council trading standards, licensing and environmental health teams following significant budget cuts. The review also responded to the outline vision for the future of the trading standards published by the professional body, the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI). CTSI's vision proposed the creation of new strategic trading standards authorities and urged government to undertake further work to explore the proposal. The LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board (SSCB) had expressed and received a number of concerns about the proposal, and therefore committed to undertaking a local government led review of the service. The LGA review ran alongside a review undertaken by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) focusing on central government's requirements from the service.

The objective of the LGA review was to:

- understand what local government needs from its trading standards services
- consider the options for the future of the service, with a view to outlining a series of recommended next steps to further explore and take forward.

To deliver this, the review:

- undertook a short survey of English trading standards authorities
- established a stakeholder group comprising councillors, council chief executives and directors, and representatives of the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO), CTSI and National Trading Standards
- ran a series of interviews with members of the stakeholder group
- held a stakeholder group workshop to discuss key issues identified in a project discussion paper
- reported back to the LGA SSCB in early December with key findings.

This summary report outlines: the key points emerging during the review; the LGA's response; and how the LGA intends to take this work forward.

Context

The review was largely conducted in the run up to the 2015 spending review, and it is helpful to start by providing some broader local government context. Over the course of the 2010-2015 Parliament, local government funding from central government was cut by 40%. Between 2016-2020, there will be a further 24% cumulative reduction in real terms government funding, although government projections suggest this will be partially offset by locally raised income to give an overall reduction of 6.7%. Government has committed that by 2020 local government will retain the total sum it raises through business rates; it remains

to be seen whether the details of this as they are worked through will have any specific impact on business-facing services such as trading standards and other regulatory functions.

Figures suggest that over the 2010-2015 period, the average cut to trading standards budgets in England was 40%, mirroring the overall cut. However, as was clear from the LGA survey of trading standards services, this average figure masks a wide variation in changes to trading standards budgets in individual councils, with some teams cut by significantly more than 40%, and others by significantly less.

Although the 2016-2020 central funding reduction has proved to be less than the 2010-15 reduction, the clear reality is that most trading standards (and other) services can expect further cuts in funding over the next four years given ongoing spending pressures in areas such as social care. The £533m reduction in public health funding over 2015-2020 is also likely to have a particular impact on trading standards, given that public health has supported a number of trading standards posts in recent years, notably on work to tackle illegal alcohol, tobacco and under-age sales.

Alongside local government finance, devolution is the other dominating issues for local government in 2015. With a number of areas already having devolution deals agreed, and others in development, the implications for trading standards and regulatory services have thus far been limited. Some devolution bids have mentioned regulatory services (although the focus appears to be on licensing issues) but at the current time, regulatory services are not playing a role in or being factored into devolution discussions, despite their role in supporting businesses and local economic growth, key themes for the new combined authorities.

Key messages from the review

Trading standards should remain fully integrated within local government

The LGA review indicated a strong commitment to trading standards remaining fully integrated within local government. Without exception, trading standards was seen as a valuable service able to support local priorities, communities and businesses.

Councillors and senior officers consistently highlighted the links between wider regulatory services (in unitary authorities), but also with other services such as public health, social care and economic growth. There was concern that creating strategic trading standards authorities that were separate to current local government structures would create additional costs and weaken the important links with other council services. While it was acknowledged that there may be a case for removing certain specific or isolated trading standards functions from local government if there were other appropriate homes for them, there was no appetite to see major changes in how trading standards services are managed.

In terms of answering the question 'what does local government need from its trading standards services?' there was a clear steer that councils value trading standards as a flexible and responsive resource that can be targeted to achieve different outcomes depending on local priorities. The service offers a range of different tools to support local priorities, whether that is tackling under-age sales or anti-social behaviour, engaging and supporting rural communities, providing support to local businesses or a combination of all of

these. From a local perspective, this means that trading standards may look very different in different places, depending on the local area.

This local diversity can create some challenges in reflecting the role of the service, given that trading standards covers a wide range of responsibilities which have little in common (eg, cybercrime and animal health) beyond the overarching, historic and very broad objective of protecting consumers, businesses and local communities. However, one of the strengths of the service is that it has proved to be flexible and adaptable, with priorities evolving over time to reflect new issues (such as under-age sales or cybercrime) or downgrade others (such as pricing). There was a clear message that local leaders valued the flexibility of this resource, and wanted to retain that.

However, it must be acknowledged that trading standards isn't simply about addressing local issues and priorities; as was noted at the stakeholder group workshop, trading standards operates at individual, local, regional and national levels depending on the issues it is dealing with. This differs from the typical situation in other services, which often have a narrower focus than trading standards and where local and government priorities are more likely to be aligned rather than effectively competing for limited resources.

There are clear challenges associated with using local services to deliver national responsibilities when overall funding has fallen to the extent that it has. Local authorities will inevitably lean towards prioritising scarce resources on local issues that have a visible impact on their communities over national ones which may not do, particularly when government can provide no indication of what funding it is providing for trading standards, or any clear sense of what its overall priorities for the service are. This calls for two responses; firstly, greater clarity about what capacity there is to address both local and national priorities, and secondly, action to ensure that services are set up in a way that enables them to address a wide range of activity and the right balance between local and national priorities.

The mechanisms already in place for managing local, regional and national trading standards work can provide a solid foundation for future management of different levels of trading standards work

Trading standards has already put in place mechanisms for managing cross-border regional and national work. Alongside locally led trading standards work led by individual council teams, joint working through regional trading standards groups is well established, and the creation of National Trading Standards (NTS) has provided a mechanism for managing work on national trading standards issues.

Existing structures have the potential to provide a solid foundation for the future, and there is no obvious or immediate need for new structures to tackle cross-border trading standards issues arising at regional and national level. NTS provides a sensible model for using local services to tackle national issues. As demonstrated by the Food Standards Authority's decision to use NTS to coordinate regional feed activity, it also offers a pragmatic route for commissioning specific areas of work that must be locally led but may not always be local priorities, and therefore a way of addressing the inherent challenge of balancing competing local / national priorities.

However, alongside a possible reduction in BIS funding for NTS (following the department's 17% funding cut in the spending review), the major challenge to the future of NTS is that its

local foundations are being weakened. For example, as trading standards teams reduce in size, it will become harder for NTS to find local services that can host NTS teams. The local intelligence on which NTS is reliant may become degraded without local resource to support it. Heads of service are increasingly stretched (often across multiple services) and may be less able to dedicate the time required to support the Board. Therefore, to ensure that the current regional and national working structures can provide a sustainable way of working in future, the key priority should be to ensure that the local foundations of the model are strengthened.

Services managed at scale offer the most sustainable future for local trading standards services

There was a clear steer in the stakeholder group discussions that there is a minimum level of resilience (and service) for trading standards, and that larger services are considerably better placed looking ahead to the future. It is notable that the strongest rejection of CTSI's suggestion that the current system is broken came from those services that have created larger joint services operating across two or more authorities. Even following the cuts, these services retain relatively large staff bases, are able to cover a range of specialisms, and believe that that they are sustainable and resilient. Conversely, it was suggested that some services had already reduced to the point where they could not be said to be sustainable, and that there was a need for local government to be much more robust about the need to provide a minimum level of service.

A range of advantages to larger services were cited. Larger services are able to resource activity across a wider range of specialisms than their smaller counterparts, leaving them better placed to manage not only a range of local priorities, but also competing local and national priorities. Larger services will have the capacity to be more flexible and responsive to emerging issues, redeploying resources more easily as required. Additionally, larger services will also have the capacity to support key areas of expertise - such as the use of intelligence, new commercial services, and financial investigators who can help secure funds through the Proceeds of Crime Act – that can ensure existing resources are targeted appropriately, as well as helping to generate additional income.

There may be understandable concerns that larger or joint services can weaken the link with local decision making, could lead to less dedicated local resource for participating councils or could be perceived as being subsumed within a larger neighbouring authority. However, a number of joint services – for example, the established West Yorkshire Joint Service (WYJS) covering the five West Yorkshire unitary authorities, or the newer two-county joint services in Devon / Somerset and Surrey / Buckinghamshire – appear to have overcome these concerns, and appear to indicate that there is considerable scope for individual council areas to benefit from being part of a larger service.

There would also be national benefits to having larger local trading standards services. As well as providing firm foundations for an NTS led model of national trading standards work, and the capacity to support it, larger, more sustainable services are likely to help ensure national resilience in key specialisms. There would be scope for larger services to act as centres of excellence in different types of work, in contrast to significant concern about dwindling specialist expertise in important areas as local teams reduce in size.

It is also important that councils continue to draw from a sustainable pool of trained, competent officers, with new recruits being drawn into the service through a range of different routes. An issue highlighted in discussions outside the review highlighted some challenges in finding placements for academic graduates to develop their skills in a real world environment. This risks leaving councils with expertise concentrated in an ageing workforce, with potential newer recruits lacking the experience needed to assume duties effectively. It is clear that there is some need to incubate and nurture new offers to regulatory professions, and larger services are more likely to be able to support this role.

Whatever the future model, there is a need for much more honesty about what is deliverable

A clear message from the review has been that although larger services are likely to prove more sustainable in the long term, there is a need for more honesty – locally, but especially nationally – about the fact that no service can deliver what it used when it experiences cuts of the order trading standards has, whatever size it was to start with or is now. Put simply, current level of resources cannot sustain the same level of protection, across the same number of areas, as previously.

That being the case, there is a need for openness about what is being delivered and what isn't; locally, there should be clear governance and political accountability for these decisions. WYJS was held up as a good example of a service with a significant level of member oversight due to its joint committee structure. In other places, it has been suggested that there is less political oversight and involvement with the service than might previously have been the case.

As we said in Remodelling Public Protection, there is a need for a more realistic approach from government about the extent to which regulatory services can absorb new responsibilities given the pressures they are under. Trading standards already have well over 200 statutory responsibilities, and over the course of the review, three new ones came into force or were introduced into Parliament:

- reporting responsibilities in relation to the display of Energy Performance Certificates (thereby attaching new burdens to a low priority responsibility)
- enforcement responsibilities for new plastic bag charges
- enforcement responsibility for the new apprenticeship brand.

Government must do more to acknowledge that capacity at local level is already fully stretched, and shift away from its default approach of making trading standards responsible for all manner of enforcement activity.

It would also be helpful if government could provide greater clarity about the prioritisation of existing statutory responsibilities which have more of a national dimension than a local one. Trading standards services are already prioritising different types of activity based on intelligence, levels of detriment and local priorities: a clear steer from central government about which of its policy areas it needs local teams to prioritise – and which it doesn't – would be helpful. The two trading standards reviews have generated discussion about the shift away from undertaking work in the area of pricing, for example, as well as weights and measures. A clear statement from government as to whether it considers such examples to

be acceptable, in the context of limited resources and other priorities, would be an extremely useful outcome from the central government review.

LGA response to the key messages

The key message to emerge from this review is that, in order to ensure the future sustainability of trading standards services, councils should explore the options for merging their services to create larger units. The LGA accepts the view that having fewer, larger trading standards services, many of which will serve more than one council but which sit fully within local government structures, would help to ensure greater long term resilience of trading standards services.

Although we note that a clear picture of what a minimum service looks like does not exist, we also acknowledge that wide disparities in trading standards resourcing in similar authorities raise question marks about the extent to which levels of protection are consistent in different areas. Such disparities between often neighbouring authorities – which cannot realistically be accounted for by greater efficiency, or differing local circumstances – can ultimately pose significant reputational challenges for local government as a whole.

There is therefore a strong argument for individual councils where services have reduced to a very small size, or where they are significantly out of line with other similar authorities, to risk assess their services and consider any alternative options for accessing and providing expertise across a range of different areas.

However, we do not share the view that there is an appropriate, one size fits all approach to creating larger models of trading standards. There will be justifiable reasons why structures ultimately look different in different places and we therefore do not believe it is appropriate to try to mandate a new approach. We believe that larger services could be formed that fit within the new combined authority areas, but this may not be the case everywhere, and certainly some existing arrangements differ from emerging devolution arrangements: what matters most is that councils are able to develop the approaches that most suit their areas and local priorities, and can make these work within the changing map of local government.

A key LGA concern in relation to trading standards has been its relationship with wider regulatory services: the LGA has consistently argued for councils and officers to make appropriate links between trading standards, environmental health and licensing. While specialist work in trading standards and environmental health is ultimately very different and will remain distinct, the LGA believes that there is nevertheless crossover in these business-facing roles and that it is beneficial for officers at a more junior, less specialist level to be able to recognise and advise on a range of issues across all three areas (and more widely), rather than just a single profession.

We are aware that in many councils (although clearly not all), trading standards currently forms part of a joined up regulatory services unit. The LGA does not believe it would be beneficial to pull trading standards out of this type of unit in order to create larger trading standards units operating across council boundaries. In contrast, we believe that there is scope for exploring the role that larger regulatory units including trading standards and other regulatory services could provide in the future. This might be of particular interest in some of the new combined authorities where regulatory services sit within the same tier of local government.

Taking this work forward

In Remodelling Public Protection, the LGA argued that there is a pressing need to address the decline in local regulatory services as a result of cuts to local government funding. Since then, the publication of the CTSI vision and central and local reviews of trading standards have drawn further attention to the issues facing trading standards services (although many of the conclusions will apply across other regulatory services as well), and reinforced the need for action. The challenges faced are not of local government's own making, and they are not its most pressing issue: however, this is a moment to take advantage of the current focus from both central and elements of local government. Failing to action now risks harming the reputation of local government; more seriously, it risks harm to individuals, communities and the economy in the event of a service failure in a critical area of trading standards.

Although we do not necessarily support the idea of a minimum level of service, we believe that there is a need for greater clarity about the benefits larger services can offer, particularly for a non-professional audience less familiar with the diversity of trading standards work. The LGA therefore intends to commission further work looking at the potential benefits of larger trading standards or regulatory services, including case studies of existing joint services, to share with its members and encourage councils to give serious consideration to this approach. We would reemphasise that this work should be supported by a much clearer set of visible trading standards policy priorities from central government, without which there is a weaker rationale for moving away from very small local teams focusing to a much greater extent on local issues.

At the same time, we will consider what individual support we can give to councils in exploring the options for the future of their service, and in particular to heads of service in trading standards (and wider regulatory services) who we would encourage to take the initiative in developing proposals for new arrangements. We recognise the arguments that larger services are difficult and time-consuming to establish, and that heads of service do not have sufficient seniority to take this forward. However, we note that some of the recently established joint services have been created remarkably quickly and believe that local authority chief officers and members would welcome the impetus of proposals for improving and sustaining services.

This applies in particular to those areas with an established route forward for devolution. As set out above, regulatory services are not on the agenda in devolution discussions, but there appears to be considerable scope to redesign local services in line with the maps of new combined authorities, and a strong rationale for doing so; both in terms of trading standards / regulatory services business support / economic growth role, and the likely cohesiveness of joined up services operating in larger areas that nonetheless have a distinct local identity (as already demonstrated in West Yorkshire). We urge officers and councillors in those areas to be proactive and forward thinking about what a local trading standards or regulatory service that's right for their area should look like in fifteen years' time.

Finally, we will look to provide further support to councils in specific areas such as commercialisation (following on from our successful commercialisation in regulatory services conference this summer). Several councils have set themselves the objective of achieving a zero cost service to ensure the sustainability of future services; while not all councils will be able to do this, there is considerable scope to learn from councils and services that have already made significant progress in this regard.



**Safer Stronger Communities
Board**

7 December 2015

As stated above, these approaches will not offset the reduction in local trading standards capacity; but they have the potential to better manage the impact of it. These are hugely challenging times, and no single body has all the answers to address them; therefore, councils, the LGA, professional bodies and government must work jointly to help councils find the most appropriate local solutions for their areas

Annex 2 - Stakeholder group

Name	Representing / Role
Cllr Nick Worth, Cllr Anita Lower, Cllr Sophie Linden	LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board
Cllr David Burbage	LGA Conservative group (Leader, RB Windsor)
Cllr Paul Convery	LGA Labour group (Exec Member CS, LB Islington)
Cllr Adele Morris	LGA Lib Dem group (LB Southwark)
Cllr Graham Whitham	LGA Independent group (LB Sutton)
Cllr Bronwen Behan	Deputy Leader, Malvern Hills DC / Worcs Regulatory Service
Lord Toby Harris	Chair, National Trading Standards
Nathan Elvery	SSCB CEX rep (CEX LB Croydon)
Robin Tuddenham, Susan Betteridge	SOLACE Rep (Dir of Communities & Service Support, Calderdale) / Lead Officer West Yorkshire Joint Service
Phil Norrey	CEX Devon (CCN)
Richard Flinton	CEX North Yorkshire (CCN)
Steve Robinson	CEX Cheshire West and Chester (CCN)
Diana Terris	CEX Barnsley
Steve Jordan	Exec Director / Head of Paid Service, South Hams / West Devon DC
Mike Hainge	Service Director, Public Realm Milton Keynes
Yvonne Rees	Strategic Director, Customers and Communities Surrey
Richard Webb	ACTSO (Trading Standards and Comm Safety Mgr Oxfordshire)
Stuart Benson	ACTSO (Ass Head Public Protection and Business Support Cornwall)
Rob Gardner	ACTSO (Trading Standards Manager - Lambeth)
Leon Livermore	Chartered Trading Standards Institute - CEX
Melissa Dring	Chartered Trading Standards Institute - Policy Director



Legislative Update

Purpose

For information and discussion.

Summary

Following the last Board meeting a number of Bills have been introduced into Parliament in which the Board has an interest including the Enterprise Bill, Immigration Bill and Investigatory Powers Bill. In addition the Psychoactive Substances Bill continues its passage through Parliament. This paper updates members on these Bills.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the Bills and the LGA's work in relation to them.

Action

Officers to progress as directed.

Contact officer: Mark Norris/Ellie Greenwood
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Legislative Update

Background

1. Since its last meeting a number of new Bills have been introduced by the government where the Board has an interest including the Enterprise Bill, Immigration Bill and the draft Investigatory Powers Bill. The Psychoactive Substances Bill that the Board has supported the introduction of has also continued to make its way through Parliament.

Enterprise Bill

2. The Board has been involved with other LGA Boards in lobbying around the Enterprise Bill, which is currently completing its passage through the House of Lords. The Bill proposes to expand the primary authority scheme (where one authority agrees a contract with a business to act as the lead regulatory authority for that business, and other councils have to have regard to the plan agreed between the primary authority and the business) to cover for example single site businesses, and to involve other regulators. Having looked at the proposals the LGA has taken the view local government can in principle support these changes; although we note that much of the detail will be dealt with through secondary legislation, which we would expect the LGA to be consulted on.
3. One area where we felt the Board could usefully seek to amend the Bill was around the statutory basis for charging for the primary authority scheme. Currently, the legislation states that primary authorities should charge fees on the basis of 'the costs reasonably incurred in the exercise of functions' under the primary authority scheme. An amendment was therefore tabled in the House of Lords at the committee stage of the Bill which would have enabled primary authorities to charge on the basis of reasonable fees agreed by the primary authority and business.
4. This would mean councils could charge at less or more than cost recovery rate as long as the fee was agreed with the business. Councils would therefore be able to support their local economic development strategies by offering reduced primary authority fees to specific sectors or start-up businesses. It would also ensure that councils were not forced to charge at less than the market rate for some of the services provided, as is the case at the moment. 45 per cent of businesses surveyed by the Better Regulation Delivery Office recognised that the level of service they received was worth more than the amount they paid for it. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in amending the Bill, but will consider whether we can make the case for greater flexibility in charging in other ways. .

Immigration Bill

5. The Immigration Bill was introduced into the House of Commons in late September. It contains a range of provisions designed to tackle illegal migration into the UK by making it harder to live and work illegally in the country. As the government believes that a significant proportion of illegal working happens on licensed premises, there are changes in the Bill to the Licensing Act 2003 which would mean it is not possible to issue a licence to an illegal worker, and the employment of legal workers will become a factor that can be taken into account when issuing or revoking a licence. Licensing authorities will have to make additional checks on applicants for personal and premises licences.

6. While illegal working does occur in some licensed premises, it more commonly involves sales staff or auxiliary workers and almost never involves someone licensed to run the premises. The LGA's joint work with the National Fraud Initiative in the Cabinet Office during the past year did not reveal any illegal workers licensed to run an alcohol premises. These points were made in meetings with Home Office officials, which resulted in the measures being refined so they could be targeted more effectively.
7. Proposals were also brought forward at Committee Stage to introduce comparable checks into the taxi and private hire vehicle licensing regime, although they do not currently apply to Plymouth. Licensing authorities inform us that there are more instances of illegal working discovered when checking applicants to be a taxi driver, with around 330 applicants revealed to have no right to work by the National Fraud Initiative during the last year. The additional checks set out in the Bill should provide an additional tool for councils in ensuring that applicants are 'fit and proper' people to be driving licensed vehicles.
8. As the new licensing provisions are not burdensome for councils we have not opposed them, but have stressed that additional requirements around alcohol and taxi licensing remain light touch and do not run counter to the requirement for councils to accept all applications for alcohol licences online. In addition we have highlighted the need for the Home Office to provide licensing staff with training on identifying forged documents.
9. The main focus of the LGA's work around the Bill has been and will continue to be the changes in the Bill to the asylum support system and the implications this has for local authorities if they are faced with an increase in referrals of families who have been refused asylum. The LGA's workforce team will also be working with the Cabinet Office to assess the implications of the provisions in the Bill and the draft code of practice that require customer-facing public authority staff to speak fluent English.

Investigatory Powers Bill

10. In early November, the Home Office published the draft Investigatory Powers Bill, which is intended to overhaul and update existing legislation relating to the use of communications data and surveillance powers. The draft Bill builds on recommendations made by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation (IRTL) in his report earlier this year.
11. The draft Bill maintains councils right to access communications data and is on balance broadly positive. Councils will have powers to access a slightly wider range of communications data as the data classifications are amended, although not IP addresses (which trading standards bodies had lobbied for access to as they believe it will help them tackle crime perpetrated through on-line social media sites such as Facebook) as councils will be excluded from accessing internet connection records. Councils will also still be subject to the requirement to get magistrates authorisation before accessing communications data, in spite of the IRTL's recommendation that the requirement be scrapped.
12. We expect the joint committee of both Houses that will be scrutinising the Bill to issue an invitation for evidence shortly, and will work with advisers and the National Anti-Fraud Network to develop a draft response. Pre-legislative scrutiny is due to complete by 11 February. We are also working with the media team to correct some of the more extreme

and factually incorrect coverage of councils' powers and abilities to access data in this area, following a stream of negative coverage focusing on councils when the Bill was published.

Psychoactive Substances Bill

13. Since the last Board meeting the Bill has continued its progress through the House of Commons. We have continued to provide briefings for MPs in relation to the key stages of the Bill such as Second Reading, and with the assistance of colleagues in the public affairs team continued to monitor amendments as the Bill went through Committee stage. A date has yet to be set for the final stage of the Bill in the House of Commons, after which it will pass back to the House of Lords for peers to consider the amendments made in the Commons. It may be that the Bill receives Royal Assent early in 2016.
14. Officers have already been in discussion with Home Office officials about the implementation of the legislation, and how best the LGA can support member authorities in the introduction of the new provisions once they become law. The Home Office is looking to hold workshops to provide the police, trading standards officers and community safety practitioners with an understanding of the Bill and what it means. The LGA will therefore be looking to adapt guidance produced for the police to assist trading standards and community safety officers and also publishing a guide for councillors to the new legislation and the powers councils will have.

Next steps

15. Members are asked to:
 - 15.1. Note the Bills and the LGA's work in relation to them.

Financial Implications

16. There are no financial implications arising from this work, as the work is being conducted from existing resources.



Update paper

Purpose

For information and direction.

Summary

This report provides an update on LGA policy work and developments affecting the priorities agreed by the Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the activities outlined and provide views on the future of work on illegal moneylending (ref. paragraphs 21-26).

Action

Officers to progress as directed by members.

Contact officer: Mark Norris
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Update Report

Coroners

1. The Ministry of Justice has announced a post-implementation review of the coroners reforms contained within the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. The Coroners and Justice Act made a number of changes to coroners services including:
 - 1.1. The creation of the statutory guidance booklet, “Guide to Coroners Services” for bereaved people
 - 1.2. A requirement that coroners disclose information that bereaved people request during an investigation, free of charge
 - 1.3. A requirement for all inquests to be recorded (and elimination of the requirement that notes be taken during inquests)
 - 1.4. A requirement that coroners be available at all times to address matters which must be dealt with immediately
 - 1.5. A requirement that bereaved people and other interested parties be notified of inquest arrangements and any changes within a week of the arrangements or changes being made
 - 1.6. Flexibility of inquest and post-mortem examination locations, which may now be held anywhere in England and Wales rather than being restricted to the coroner’s area (and, for post-mortem examinations, a neighbouring area)
 - 1.7. New requirements for councils to provide accommodation, coroners officers and staff, where these are not already provided by the police.
2. The LGA has previously stated that the coroners’ service should be a national service rather than remaining within local authorities. It is the only part of the Justice system that still sits within local authorities, however, councils have limited opportunities to scrutinise the costs of the service. Councils have no interest in undermining the independence of coroners and we believe that bereaved people deserve to have a service that meets their needs. However, a service that meets their needs is also a cost-effective and consistent one, which may be best achieved through a national service. The LGA will be responding to the review, in consultation with Lead Members and the Board’s Champion for Bereavement Services, Cllr Ian Gillies. The review’s call for evidence ends on 10 December.

BRDO Business Reference Panel

3. In September, the LGA hosted the Better Regulation Delivery Office’s (BRDO) Business Reference Panel, which provides a forum for updating business representatives on regulatory developments. Cllr Linden gave a short introduction providing a local government perspective on the challenges facing regulatory services, and how they could work with businesses going forward. One of the themes in the following discussion was devolution and what that meant for regulatory services.

LGA-HMRC memorandum of understanding on data sharing

4. An update LGA-HMRC memorandum of understanding (MoU) on data sharing was finalised and circulated among all councils. The MoU updates a previous Inland Revenue – LACORS MoU and provides a mechanism for councils to access HMRC data which they are legally entitled to receive.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) select committee – air quality

5. The EFRA select committee recently announced an inquiry into air quality. Officers coordinated environmental health input to the submission the LGA is making to the inquiry, which is being led by the Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board.

Supporting businesses, sustaining regulatory services – free member conference

6. On Wednesday 27 January, the LGA is hosting a free member conference on the theme of how regulatory services can support local businesses. All Board members are invited, and encouraged to share details of the conference with councillor colleagues.

Victim's Code

7. Having been in discussion with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) over whether councils should be included within the scope of the Victim's Code, and persuaded government to listen to our concerns, the MoJ asked for assistance in identifying councils to 'trial' the Code and map its impact on councils. Several members of the Board responded to this request for councils to assist the MoJ. We understand that the MoJ has been in touch with York, Scarborough, Surrey and Blackpool councils, although work has yet to start. The MoJ has now published the update Code; councils are not named as being subject to the Code.

Licensing fees

8. CIPFA has been working to design and conduct the survey on behalf of the LGA, and an initial design has been circulated to the LGA's licensing forum for comment and testing. The planned launch of the survey has now been delayed until January, in order to ensure the survey is robust as possible and to avoid the Christmas period. The LGA's updated guidance on the setting of licensing fees has been finalised and cleared by external counsel, and will be disseminated alongside the survey.

Child sexual exploitation

9. The LGA hosted a Home Office/Council roundtable on using licensing to tackle child sexual exploitation. The Home Office are using this to develop a detailed work programme, and to inform an expected new draft of best practice guidance in licensing taxis from the Department for Transport.

Licensing presentations

10. LGA officers have presented on devolution and the implications for licensing at the Institute of Licensing's annual training event; on the future of licensing at the National Association of Licensing and Enforcement Officers' AGM; and on the future of gambling

regulation at the AGM of BACTA, representing the amusement arcades industry. On 3 December, Officers will be co-hosting a workshop on simplifying gambling regulation with BRDO, as part of Government's commitment to simplify licensing in the Autumn Statement 2014; a similar workshop has been held for the Licensing Act and others are planned for taxis and housing licensing.

Taxi conference

11. The LGA held a successful conference on taxi legislation on 16 October, chaired by Cllr Blackburn. Cllr Evans provided the keynote speech outlining key issues affecting licensing teams, including the implementation of new clauses introduced by the Deregulation Act. Feedback from the event has been positive. The session included presentations on improving disabled access to taxis and private hire vehicles, which was later explored as an issue by the House of Lords Equalities Act and Disability committee on 24 November.

Annual licensing conference

12. Preparations are underway for the annual licensing conference on 23 February. A number of speakers have been confirmed, including: Cornwall council on their piloting of Rewiring Licensing; CIPFA on the setting of licensing fees; the Home Office on the new Community and Ancillary Sales Notices; BRDO on licensing simplification; and the Institute of Alcohol Studies on their report on the 10 years of the Licensing Act.

The Spending Review

13. A number of measures of interest to the Board were announced by the Chancellor in the Spending Review:
 - 13.1 Police spending is to be protected in real terms over the Spending Review period to maintain strong frontline policing, with an increase of £900 million in cash terms;
 - 13.2 Police and crime commissioners (PCCs) will be offered greater flexibility in their local funding decisions by rewarding areas that have historically kept council tax low, allowing them to raise income from council tax by £5 rather than 2 per cent. This could allow those forces affected to raise an additional £12 million a year;
 - 13.3 There will be a new fund to assist the police in making savings by driving down the cost of procurement and encouraging greater collaboration with other public and emergency services.
 - 13.4 The government will be investing £700 million to modernise and fully digitise the courts to ensure the courts and tribunal system is fit for purpose and delivers swifter and more certain justice.
 - 13.5 The creation of a Single Farm Inspection Taskforce aiming to cut farm inspections by 20,000 by 2019-20.

14. The LGA's on the day briefing about the Spending Review can be found [here](#).

Domestic Abuse

15. Among the announcements made in the Spending Review, the Chancellor stated that the government would be providing £40 million for victims of domestic abuse, tripling the dedicated funding compared to the previous four years. As this figure is included within

the Spending Review settlement for the Communities and Local Government (CLG) budget it suggests that CLG will for the first time be funding domestic abuse services alongside the Home Office. However no detail has been provided on how this funding will be used. This may be clarified when the government's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy is published, which is due out this autumn.

16. An additional announcement by the government was that while it makes the case in the EU for a zero rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) for sanitary products, a new £15 million annual fund equivalent to the VAT raised each year on sanitary products will support women's charities. The Chancellor said an initial donation totalling £5 million would be made to support four charities including SafeLives and Women's Aid. These two organisations will receive £2 million to develop an early intervention project, 'Sooner the Better'.
17. The aim of the project is to support victims and their children at an earlier stage. The joint initiative will work across 10 sites in England to: speed up the identification of domestic abuse and ensure victims and their families receive earlier help; provide proactive support to the whole family in the round; understand and meet the needs of victims of domestic abuse, working towards long term recovery and independence; ensure better evaluation of what works to make families safe, and keep them safe; and listen to women experiencing abuse, learning from their experiences and capturing the full costs of late intervention. This work will then result in the development of a model that will be rolled out nationally from 2018.

Consultation on reforming the powers of police staff and volunteers

18. The Board responded to the Home Office consultation on allowing chief constables to designate a range of powers to police staff and volunteers, while keeping a core of powers that can only be used by constables. In the response we broadly welcomed the proposals noting that they built on provisions like the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, but noted that this had led to increasing demands on council staff and resources. Our response did however stress that police and crime commissioners and chief constables would need to clearly publicise what powers had been given to which staff, so the public would know for example what powers a Police Community Support Officer had.

National FGM Centre

19. The LGA's joint work with Barnardo's on the National FGM Centre is continuing. On 20 October the Centre held its first conference, attracting over 100 delegates. The Minister for Preventing Abuse and Exploitation Karen Bradley attended, along with a number of other experts including National Police Chiefs' Council lead for FGM, Commander Mak Chishty; Psychotherapist and leading anti-FGM campaigner, Leyla Hussein and the Royal College of Midwives' Professional Policy Advisor, Janet Fyle. Karen Bradley MP used the conference to announce that the new mandatory reporting requirement for FGM would take effect from 31 October. The discussion focussed around the new duty and what it would mean in practice for councils as well as other professionals. Councillor Lisa Brett, the Board's Champion against abuse and exploitation, spoke at the conference on the work the LGA has done to tackle FGM and the importance of the Centre as resource of information and expertise for councils.

20. The Centre is now working with three local authorities, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, and has social and project workers supporting each of those areas. They have already started to work with families and community groups in each of the three areas. The Centre is looking to work with at least three other pilot areas soon. Consultancy and training is also now being delivered.

Discussions on the future of the national Illegal Moneylending Team

21. As the Board may be aware, the national illegal money lending team (IMLT) operating out of Birmingham City Council is currently funded by BIS as part of the National Trading Standards framework (a separate Welsh team also exists). The objective of this approach, introduced in 2011, is to provide a more centralised approach, with national management and a specialist central team undertaking functions that largely remain the responsibility of individual local authorities.
22. NTS's 2015-6 business plan states that it will:
- 22.1. Provide NTS Illegal Money Lending Teams for England and Wales to tackle consumer detriment caused by illegal moneylenders, ensuring those engaged in criminal activities are punished, victims are supported, and vulnerable consumer and communities are educated and supported not to use illegal moneylenders.*
23. Prior to the spending review, NTS had been asked by BIS to model a range of budget options up to and including cuts of 25-40%.¹ NTS's stated approach in the event of a significant cut is that a "salami slice" approach of reducing each team by a little would not be workable, so it is anticipated that whole areas of work could cease. As part of its scoping work, NTS has therefore been exploring options for the future of the IMLT.
24. NTS is aware that if the work of the IMLT ceased to exist or were significantly scaled back, the impacts would be felt by local citizens, and therefore potentially by other locally delivered services, including trading standards (which have a legal responsibility for the enforcement of unlicensed consumer credit lending activities). They have therefore sought the views of the LGA (and others) to ensure that the potential impact on local government and their citizens of any reduction to the funding of the IMLTs are properly taken into account.
25. To enable us to feedback, the Board's experience of issues relating to financial inclusion and illegal money lending in their council areas would be very helpful, as well as any views or knowledge about possible alternative provision.
26. Separately, following correspondence with a councillor concerned about the prospect of cuts to the IMLT and discussions with the NTS, there is the option for the LGA to support NTS's call for the Financial Conduct Authority to use a proportion of the bank levy to make up any future shortfall in funding for illegal moneylending activities. NTS had lobbied both the FCA and Treasury about this last year, but have yet to be successful in securing a commitment for this. Subject to the Board's views, officers propose to seek to resume discussions with the FCA on this point.

¹ In the spending review, BIS received a 17% funding cut; NTS has been advised that its budget is unlikely to be known until the new year.



Next steps

27. Members are asked to note and comment on the issues above.

Financial Implications

28. None.

Document is Restricted

Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

Title:	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
Date:	Monday 14 September 2015
Venue:	Smith Square 1&2, Ground Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
1	Apologies for absence & Declarations of Interest	
	<p>The Chair welcomed new Members to the Board and thanked the work of previous Members of the Board. Cllr Haigh asked that the Board make a particular note of thanks to Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE for her work on the Board.</p>	
	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Officers to write to Cllr Spicer thanking her for her service.</p>	
	<p>Decision:</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2	Membership, Terms of Reference and Outside Body Appointments	
	<p>Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, informed Members that there had been a change in relationship with some outside bodies. Members agreed to remove the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association, Better Regulatory Outcomes Group and Better Regulation Delivery Office Steering Group from the list of outside bodies. Engagement would continue at officer level with input from Members when required.</p>	
	<p>The following representatives to outside bodies were agreed by the Board:</p> <p>Advisory Board for Female Offenders – Cllr Janet Daby Criminal Justice Council – Cllr Joanna Gardner National FGM Centre Advisory Group – Cllr Lisa Brett HMIC’s interim Police Efficiency Effectiveness and Legitimacy crime inspection advisory group – Cllr Sophie Linden</p>	

Members also agreed the following Member Champions:

Domestic Violence – Cllr Sophie Linden and Cllr Tom Fox
Abuse & exploitation – Cllr Lisa Brett
Licensing – Cllr Tony Page
Regulatory Services – Cllr Nick Worth
Prevent and Counter-Extremism – Cllr Simon Blackburn
Community Cohesion and Integration – Cllr Janet Daby
Bereavement Services – Cllr Ian Gillies
Anti-social behaviour – Cllr Anita Lower

Action:

Officers to inform outside bodies of the changes or continuation of LGA representatives.

Decision:

Members agreed the Membership and Terms of Reference, appointments to outside bodies and Member Champions.

3 Board Policy Priorities for 2015-16

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, introduced the report and set out the programme of work over the next year. The Board were informed of the cross-cutting priorities the Leadership Board had identified and which Boards were requested to contribute: Devolution and the future shape of local government; Housing; Finance; and, Promoting health and wellbeing.

Members welcomed the report and made a number of comments:

- The Board should respond to the Home Office consultation, 'Reforming the powers of police staff and volunteers'.
- The need to include some proactive campaigning work recognising the social value of work done by local authorities where they are not the direct beneficiaries of the financial savings, which are often experienced by other public sector partners.
- The importance of making the case of locally set fees and charges such as the Late Night Levy.
- Views on the proposals to increase bluelight collaboration should be feed into the LGA.
- The need to include work on modern slavery.
- There was an opportunity to look at the role of the voluntary sector and smaller services in the context of devolution deals.
- Highlighting the increase in violent and knife crime, and the contribution community safety could make to tackling child sexual exploitation.
- The cost of long coroner's inquests and their pay were having an impact on councils.

- Including cybercrime on the programme.

Action:

Officers to amend the Board Policy Priorities to reflect the Members comments and suggestions.

Decision:

Members agreed the priorities for the next year.

4 The future structure of trading standards

Ellie Greenwood, Senior Advisor, introduced the review of trading standards services and detailed how the review will operate. The review will look at what local government needs from trading standards. The government are also looking at this area and this review will inform any discussions arising from its conclusions. A short research report will go to the stakeholder group for discussion, and will also be copied to the Board for comment.

Members welcomed the report and made a number of comments:

- The review should look at the wider regulatory services and interworking between trading standards and other enforcement officers.
- The removal of statutory responsibilities can have a subsequent impact on local authority budgets.
- The variation in cost between different areas should be reflected in the level of fees able to be charged.
- The differences in priorities between urban and rural areas.
- The need to look at where local authorities have the biggest impact and cost efficiency.
- Concern about a loss of local accountability in new governance models.

Cllr Nick Worth and Cllr Anita Lower volunteered to be representatives on the stakeholder group.

Action:

Officers to progress the report, taking into account Members' comments.

Decision:

Members noted the report.

5 Crematoria and Coroners report

Lucy Ellender, Advisor, introduced the paper and noted a range of issues affecting councils' crematoria provision and the work of coroners. The paper also set the proposed work programme to respond to the three reviews related to crematoria and coroner provision announced by Government.

Members welcomed the report and made a number of comments:

- There is a lack of land and space available for traditional burials. This was becoming critical, especially as planning policies had an impact on the opening of new cemeteries and crematoria.
- The provision of burial services to local communities is an area where local authorities can provide good quality services. There had already been a number of reviews undertaken by councils to look at the provision of these services that the LGA could draw on.
- The increase in private provision of cremation services had, in some areas, added pressure to council's ability to cover costs as well as invest in and maintain facilities.
- The interaction between the health and care systems and coroners was creating delays in the issuing of death certificates.
- There was concern about the length of time coroners inquests can take. Members noted that there were differences in approach between coroners and that this can have an impact on the bereaved. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard changes were also affecting the number of cases coroners had to deal with.
- There were concerns that the introduction of the Chief Coroner for England and Wales to oversee the coroner system had introduced a new level of bureaucracy when sharing local best practice could be an alternative.

Actions:

Officers to progress as appropriate.

Decision:

Members agreed officers should produce a short guide for councillors to support them in scrutinising cremation provision. Members also agreed the LGA responds to the Government's consultations on crematoria and coroner provision.

6 Other Business Report – update on Regulatory Services and Community Safety Issues

Mark Norris, introduced the report updating Members on LGA policy work and developments.

Members discussed the following activities within the report:

- Licensing – Alongside the proposed amendments to the Late Night Levy being proposed by the Home Office, Members asked officials to continue to make the case for the inclusion of public health as an objective.
- Members also argued that the LGA should put forward proposals to stop Temporary Event Notices being used to by licenced premises to circumvent licensing rules, eg by allowing councils to impose conditions, and for licences to cease if fees are outstanding
- Newham SCA application - Members agreed to chase the groups that had yet to provide nominations for the LGA's selector panel.
- Part of any Counter-Extremism and Prevent should be to understand why some communities were not as integrated as others into British culture.
- Taxis and private hire vehicles – Members requested an update before the conference.
- Members flagged concern around the activities and licensing of pedlars.
- The need to strengthen the powers of police and crime panels.

Members also asked to be provided with an up-to-date list of consultations announced and those that are ongoing in future update reports.

Action:

Officers to take forward the work programme in line with Members direction.

Decision:

Members noted the report.

7 Notes of the Previous Meeting

Members agreed the notes of the meeting held on 8 June 2014 as correct.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chair	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council

Vice-Chair
Deputy-Chair

Cllr Morris Bright
Cllr Lisa Brett
Cllr Philip Evans JP

Hertsmere Borough Council
Bath & North East Somerset Council
Conwy County Borough Council

Members

Cllr Mike Connolly
Cllr Michael Payne
Cllr Kate Haigh
Cllr Tony Page
Cllr Sophie Linden
Cllr Lucy Botting
Cllr Joanna Gardner
Cllr Ian Gillies
Cllr Thomas Fox
Cllr Nick Worth
Cllr Anita Lower
Cllr Colin Mann
Cllr Jo Beavis
Cllr Chris Pillai

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Gloucester City Council
Reading Borough Council
London Borough of Hackney
Mole Valley District Council
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
City of York Council
Scarborough Borough Council
South Holland District Council
Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Braintree District Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Apologies

Cllr Nick Daubney
Cllr Janet Daby

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council
London Borough of Lewisham

In Attendance

Cllr Kay Hammond

LGA Officers

Mark Norris
Ellie Greenwood
Ian Leete
Lucy Ellender
John Wright
Ciarán Whitehead
Carl Cheevers



Board Work Programme 2015/16

Purpose

For discussion and direction.

Summary

Following the discussion of priorities at the last Board meeting, this paper sets out the work programme for the Board over 2015/16.

Recommendation

Lead Members are asked to consider and comment on the balance and prioritisation of activity in the work programme.

Action

Officers to amend the work programme in light of Lead Members' comments.

Contact officer: Mark Norris
Position: Principal Policy Adviser
Phone no: 020 7664 3241
Email: mark.norris@local.gov.uk

Board Work Programme

Background

1. At its meeting in September the Board considered its priorities for 2015/16 and agreed six overarching themes:

- 1.1. Regulation;
- 1.2. Blue light services collaboration;
- 1.3. Public Protection;
- 1.4. Policing and Community Safety;
- 1.5. Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion; and
- 1.6. Crematoria and coroners.

During the discussion members also raised a number of additional issues to be considered for inclusion in the Board's work including the social value local authorities provide and the impact their work has on the cost pressures faced by other public services, making the case for locally set licensing fees and charges, tackling modern slavery, addressing the increase in violent and knife crime and the costs of coroners' services.

2. These additional issues have been incorporated into the work programme for the Board set out below. As Fire Services Management Committee agreed a work programme at its meeting on 25 September which details the work it will be undertaking to increase collaboration with the other emergency services and health, the table does not include the detail of work being undertaken on blue light services collaboration.

Work Programme

Theme	Project	Outcomes	Timescales
Regulation	LGA review of Trading Standards to inform discussions about the future delivery of the service.	The review informs the LGA's response to the review of trading standards being conducted by BIS and BRDO.	Workshop held in October. Report to December Board.
	Build the evidence base for the localisation of licensing fees and use this to make the case for locally set fees.	Make the case to the Home Office to implement the provisions in the PRSRA 2011 allowing locally set fees.	CIPFA commissioned to survey councils – report expected in December. Updated guide on fee-setting for councils by December.
	Take forward our proposals in Rewiring Licensing to reform the licensing process including working with Cornwall.	Councils are able to implement the changes proposed in Rewiring Licensing.	Ongoing.
	Make the case for the	The government brings	Ongoing.



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	reform of taxi and PHV licensing.	in legislation to reform taxi and PHV licensing.	
	Continue to support councils around licensing.	Councils are better placed to implement effective licensing regulation.	Taxi and PHV licensing event in October. Home Office/LGA tax workshop in November. Updated e-learning module for councillors by December. Roll-out of E-CINS database for scrap metal licensing over 2016. Annual licensing conference February 2016. New Licensing Act 2003 handbook for councillors by February 2016.
	Continue to support councils around gambling licensing.	Support councils to implement locally appropriate gambling regulation.	Support the LGA Selector Panel's consideration of Newham's SCA application - November 2015. Disseminate the findings of LGA sponsored gambling research led by Westminster and Manchester – Spring 2016.
	Open for Business vision for regulatory services.	Councils are better placed to support the growth agenda and the case for better regulation as against deregulation is made to BIS and BRDO.	Enterprise Bill amendments tabled at Committee stage in October/November on primary authority fees. Free member conference on supportive regulation scheduled for January 2016.
	Investigatory Powers Bill.	Councils retain the ability to access communications data.	Draft Bill published in November.

Public Protection	Support the National FGM Centre established with Barnardo's.	Councils' response to FGM cases reported to them is strengthened and cultural practices around FGM change.	Joint conference on mandatory reporting in October. Develop plans for financial sustainability of the Centre.
	Domestic abuse and VAWG.	Influence the refreshed VAWG Strategy and DCLG review of domestic abuse services so they support locally determined packages to assist victims. Provide councils with examples of good practice of pooling budgets and joint commissioning of services.	The draft VAWG strategy has been commented on and views submitted to the DCLG review of domestic abuse services. Some examples have been gathered, with further examples gathered to enable case studies to be published in Spring 2016.
	Child Sexual Exploitation and modern slavery.	Councils are supported in tackling CSE and modern slavery through best practice guidance and events.	Taxi and PHV licensing event in October. Home Office/LGA taxi workshop in November. Best practice guidance to be produced in Spring 2016.
	Improve the public protection response from councils.	Explore how councils can better identify common issues and features across public protection cases and the role of community safety partnerships in this.	Paper produced for early summer 2016.
	Respond to the Victim's Code consultation.	Councils are able to provide proportionate and targeted support to victims of crime.	MoJ working with four trial councils to consider the impact of the Victim's Code on councils.
Policing and Community Safety	Continue to support police and crime panels.	Panels are able to effectively scrutinise and influence police and crime commissioners.	e-training package for panel members available in December. Event for panel members and officers in February 2016.
	Cyber and cyber facilitated crime.	Councils are supported with best practice	Currently developing proposals for guidance



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		guidance to prevent and tackle cybercrime across a range of areas.	and best practice. Expected Spring 2016. The LGA's Productivity team will be holding an event on reducing councils' exposure to cyber attacks in Spring 2016.
	Violent and knife crime.	Councils are able to address increases in violent and knife crime.	Currently developing proposals to assist councils. Expected Spring 2016.
	Support the Psychoactive Substances Bill, and participate in Home Office preparations for implementation of the legislation in 2016.	Councils are provided with the powers they need to be able to address the sale of new psychoactive substances, and are well placed to use them once they are available.	The Bill is expected to get Royal Assent at the end of 2015, with implementation in the Spring.
	Hold three regional seminars on dealing with extreme weather events for senior figures in councils.	Councils are better placed to respond to extreme weather events.	Workshops booked for February 2016.
Prevent, counter-extremism and cohesion	Make the case for councils to receive the funding they need to address Prevent, counter extremism and promote integration.	Government makes funding available for councils to deliver counter-terrorism and counter-extremism work.	The matter has been raised with the Security Minister and OSCT and further representations will be made.
	Support councils implement the new Prevent duty through a support package that compliments support from the Home Office and DCLG.	Councils in non-priority areas are assisted in implementing the duty.	Elements of a programme are under development. Expected Spring 2016.
	Support councils in responding to the Counter Extremism strategy and influence implementation of new provisions in the Extremism Bill.	Councils are better placed to counter extremist activity in their communities and smoothly implement the Extremism Community Trigger.	A report on the Strategy will be brought to the December Board, and the Bill is expected before the end of the Year.
	Engage with Louise Casey's review of opportunities and integration.	Influence the recommendations and conclusion of the interim and final reports, and	Casey review discussed at the December Board meeting.

		the design of the Cohesive Communities Programme.	Interim review report expected early in 2016.
Crematoria and coroners	Produce guidance for councillors on scrutinising the provision of funeral services.	Local authority cremation practice for infant and fetal remains addresses the issues raised in the review of the Emstrey crematoria in Shropshire.	April 2016.
	Respond to the MoJ and CLG reviews of coroners' services, infant and fetal remains cremation and provision of crematoria facilities.	Influence the conclusions of the three reviews to ensure that the cost pressures associated with providing these services are not increased.	Dates for the reviews have yet to be announced – though we have already provided comments to CLG on issues related to crematoria facilities.
	Respond to media stories on cost of funerals and the increase in public health funerals.	Explain the cost pressures behind the increase in the cost of local authority funerals.	Ongoing.
	With the Community Wellbeing Portfolio respond if necessary to proposals to transfer social fund funeral grants to local authorities.	Ensure that there is not a transfer of costs from DWP to local authorities.	Respond to any proposals from DWP.

Next steps

3. Lead Members are asked to:

3.1. Consider and comment on the balance and prioritisation of activity in the work programme.

Financial Implications

4. None.

LGA location map

Local Government Association

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 Smith Square
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 Website: www.local.gov.uk

Public transport

Local Government House is well served by public transport. The nearest mainline stations are: Victoria and Waterloo: the local underground stations are **St James's Park** (Circle and District Lines), **Westminster** (Circle, District and Jubilee Lines), and **Pimlico** (Victoria Line) - all about 10 minutes walk away.

Buses 3 and 87 travel along Millbank, and the 507 between Victoria and Waterloo stops in Horseferry Road close to Dean Bradley Street.

Bus routes – Horseferry Road

- 507** Waterloo - Victoria
- C10** Canada Water - Pimlico - Victoria
- 88** Camden Town - Whitehall - Westminster - Pimlico - Clapham Common

Bus routes – Millbank

- 87** Wandsworth - Aldwych
- 3** Crystal Palace - Brixton - Oxford Circus

For further information, visit the Transport for London website at www.tfl.gov.uk

Cycling facilities

The nearest Barclays cycle hire racks are in Smith Square. Cycle racks are also available at Local Government House. Please telephone the LGA on 020 7664 3131.

Central London Congestion Charging Zone

Local Government House is located within the congestion charging zone.

For further details, please call 0845 900 1234 or visit the website at www.cclondon.com

Car parks

Abingdon Street Car Park (off Great College Street)

Horseferry Road Car Park
 Horseferry Road/Arneway Street. Visit the website at www.westminster.gov.uk/parking

