Local Government Association

Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

Title:	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
Date:	Monday 6 June 2016
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 Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Cllrs Michael Payne, Sophie Linden & Mark Connolly. Joanna Gardener has stood down from the Board and Cllr Chris Pillai was substituting for the meeting.

Fire Services Management Committee member, Cllr Nick Chard, observed the meeting.

Decision:

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Westminster / Manchester / Geofutures gambling research project - overview and outcomes

Ellie Greenwood, Senior Advisor, introduced Mark Thurstain-Goodwin of Geofutures and provided some background information about the LGA's work with Geofutures.

The LGA 'Betting Commission' acknowledged a general lack of reliable data relating to issues and concerns linked to betting shops. The LGA provided a grant to Westminster Council to commission a project with Manchester City Council looking at this issue. The project was led by Geofutures, a firm specialising in spatial data analysis and mapping.

Mr Thurstain-Goodwin explained the overall objective of the project was to develop an approach that helps to understand local area vulnerability to gambling related harm.

The first stage of the project was a review of existing literature and data on gambling harm to identify groups where there was evidence showing they were more vulnerable to experiencing harm from gambling. The project also engaged with the industry as part of the first stage. The second stage identified datasets that could be used to map those at risk in terms of local areas. This data was used to identify hotspots where there

may be greater numbers of people who are potentially more vulnerable to harm from gambling.

The Chair thanked Mr Thurstain-Goodwin for his presentation and invited members to ask questions. The following points were made in the ensuing discussion:

- Data for individuals with low IQ (one of the groups identified as being at greater risk of harm from gambling) should be available in a local authority area however, the difficulty can be that it covers the whole area and is therefore not detailed enough for mapping purposes.
- Westminster and Manchester councils have used the model to shape their local area profile and the conditions that will apply to new betting shops opening in at risk areas.
- There has been no substantive criticism of the model or its methodology, partly because Geofutures took a very open approach in making the methodology available and engaging with industry and others, and the evidence is seen to be robust.
- Finding and obtaining permissions to use the required data has been an issue in developing the model however, once agreements are in place data can be gathered quickly.
- The LGA is having discussions about making a version of this model available to members using available national datasets depending on the cost implications.

Decision:

The Board noted the discussion and agreed to monitor the extent the model is used by Westminster and Manchester councils, and for officers to provide an update on licensing and planning issues in relation to betting shops, including when shops close.

Action:

Officers to progress in line with members comments and to update the Board on licensing and FOBTs, with options to consider for further work.

3 Managing the Evening and Night-time Economy

Ian Leete, Advisor, introduced the paper looking at the links between managing the evening and night-time economy and how councils are using licensing to encourage a more positive usage of evening and night time hubs. The Board was invited to contribute ideas for inclusion in a forthcoming best practice handbook for councillors.

There was a short discussion, during which members made a number of comments:

- Licensing should be finessed to differentiate between the types of premises and the type of drinking, particularly in cumulative areas.
- In many areas the problems of antisocial drinking happen before the evening – for example, from mid-afternoon in relation to stag and hen parties. This should be taken into account when

considering the ‘night-time’ economy and licensing.

- It would be interesting to see what came from London’s Night Time Commission, and greater flexibility in the system would be helpful. Test purchasing of sales to drunks was also a problem area, though Conwy had made use of an actor to conduct the tests.
- Councils are not trying to stop people enjoying themselves but are trying to prevent the antisocial aspect of the evening and night-time economy.
- There was some concern that public protection orders simply move the relevant problem onto other areas.
- It is important to understand what was learned from the first round of local alcohol action areas.
- The Purple Flag scheme could be better promoted.

Decision:

The Board agreed to review the findings of the London Night-Time Commission.

Action:

Officers to progress in line with members comments and to arrange a meeting for Cllr Page, as Licensing Champion, with the Night Time Industries Association.

4 Queen's Speech/Legislative update paper

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, introduced the paper which sets out the details of the five bills in the Queen’s Speech of interest to the Board.

The Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill is deferred from the last parliamentary session and the government is expected to consult on introducing powers to intervene where councils fail to tackle extremism.

Fire Services Management Committee member, Cllr Nick Chard, highlighted the provision within the Policing and Crime Bill to allow a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to be represented on a Fire & Rescue Authority (outside of London) with voting rights, where the FRA agrees. Cllr Chard was concerned in some areas this could tip the balance of power and also had implications for voting on precepts.

Members raised the Criminal Finances Bill in relation to the Proceeds of Crime Act, in particular changing the proportion of the money recouped that is returned to the local area. Officers would update members on the outcome of the Home Office consultation on the allocation of proceeds of crime funding.

Cllr Beavis proposed that there could be work around aspiration, wellbeing and life skills if the Prison and Courts Reform Bill had an impact on local authorities.

Decision:

The Board noted the bills in the Queen’s Speech of interest.

Action:

Officers to incorporate members' comments into the work going forward.

5 Improving the community safety response from councils

Rachel Duke, Advisor, introduced the report which sets out proposals for a review of the challenges facing community safety partnerships (CSPs), councils' community safety roles and functions, and invited comments on a number of issues.

There was a discussion during which a number of comments were made:

- The question was posed whether there is a need for a broader debate on whether councils should still be involved in community safety following the creation of Police and Crime Commissioners.
- More integrated partnerships and place-based budgets are preferable to silo working, but it can be challenging to remove hurdles between different organisations.
- Local Strategic Partnerships should be engaged with the work of the CSP in order to prevent duplication and rationalise the landscape.
- Local areas have different experiences of CSPs, and they are at different stages depending on the area. If the CSP's plans are aligned with those of the PCC then there can be significant opportunities for accessing PCC funding – the police have made significant progress in regard to partnership working.
- It would be useful to draw out some examples of different models as part of the review.

Decision:

The Board agreed the review's methodology, the range of suggested stakeholders and the following appointments to the review group: Cllrs Simon Blackburn, Jo Beavis, Lisa Brett and Independent Group Member to be confirmed following 2016/17 appointments.

Action:

Officers to progress in line with members' comments.

6 End of Year Report 2016

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Advisor, introduced the report which provides an overview of some of the key work done by the Board over the last year. In addition to the work outlined in the report, the Board has also produced over 30 proactive press releases responding to issues which have arisen.

Decision:

The Board noted the achievements in 2015/16 and the priority areas for 2016/17.

Action:

Officers to action as appropriate.

7 Update paper

Mark Norris introduced the report which provides an update on policy work and developments affecting the Board's priorities.

Some members of the Board expressed an interest in becoming Prevent champions. This can be done through the peer mentoring process and officers would make necessary arrangements.

Members raised a number of points about funeral poverty and medical examiners. Some areas are having difficulties in issuing death certificates and concerns have been raised about the distances people are having to travel to declare a death. The LGA should continue to lobby for increased funding and recruitment of medical examiners.

Members were disappointed by the Home Office's initial feedback on their recent consultation on complaints about PCCs conduct. Members will continue to highlight the problems in the system which do not allow Police and Crime Panels to properly investigate complaints about a PCC's conduct.

Cllr Worth raised concerns about the risk of contamination of food carried in lorries transporting migrants. Members felt it was worth exploring the extent to which this is an issue to councils and what support the LGA can offer.

Decision:

The Board noted the update report and agreed to investigate concerns around contamination of food in vehicles transporting migrants.

Action:

Officers to progress in line with members comments.

8 Notes of previous meeting

Members agreed the notes of the meeting held on 22 February 2016 as correct.

Appendix A -Attendance

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Simon Blackburn	Blackpool Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council

	Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
Members	Cllr Jo Beavis	Braintree District Council
	Cllr Nick Daubney	King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council
	Cllr Thomas Fox	Scarborough Borough Council
	Cllr Ian Gillies	City of York Council
	Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Chris Pillai	Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
	Cllr Janet Daby	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Tony Page	Reading Borough Council
	Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Apologies	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Sophie Linden	Hackney London Borough Council
	Cllr Mike Connolly	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council

In Attendance

LGA Officers