

19 November 2018

## **Update Paper**

### **Purpose of report**

For information.

### **Summary**

The report outlines issues of interest to the Board not covered under the other items on the agenda.

### **Recommendation**

Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board note the update.

### **Action**

Officers to progress as appropriate.

**Contact officer:** Mark Norris  
**Position:** Principal Policy Adviser  
**Phone no:** 020 7664 3241  
**E-mail:** [mark.norris@local.gov.uk](mailto:mark.norris@local.gov.uk)

3 September 2018

## Update Paper

### Serious Violent Crime

1. At the Conservative Party Conference, the Home Secretary Sajid Javid MP [announced](#) the Government would be launching a consultation on new legal duty to underpin a public health approach to tackling serious violence. He also [announced](#) the Government would be investing in a new £200 million youth endowment fund aimed at 10 to 14 year olds who are most at risk of youth violence. There will also be an [independent review of drug misuse](#). These announcements were discussed at the Serious Violence Taskforce meeting which Cllr Blackburn attended. Officers are taking forward discussions with the Home Office.
2. The LGA also submitted [written evidence](#) to the Home Affairs Committee as part of their inquiry on serious violence.

#### Meeting with Redthread

3. Cllr Blackburn met with the Chief Executive of Redthread, a youth work charity based in London that supports young people aged 11–25 in their personal and social development. Their projects look at health-based interventions and support for younger people at the ‘teachable moment’ to help steer them away from a life of crime. We will continue working together as members of the Serious Violence Taskforce.

#### Knife Sales

4. With the latest official figures showing a 40 per cent rise in knife crime in England and Wales in the past two years, we [called](#) for plans in the Government's Serious Violence Strategy to fund councils to prosecute retailers for breaches of knife sale laws to be brought forward as soon as possible. This is alongside our wider campaigning for councils' vital work in early intervention and public health to be recognised and properly funded.

#### Enhancing Community Safety Conference

5. In October, LGA Vice-Chairman of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board Cllr Morris Bright spoke at the Inside Government Conference on enhancing the relationship between the police and local authorities. He spoke about the importance of strong partnerships and multi-agency working to tackle crime. On serious violent crime, he said that early intervention and prevention would be key to tackling the root causes of serious violence.

#### MHCLG Fund: Supporting Families Against Youth Crime

6. On 20 October 2018, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) [announced a new fund](#): Supporting Families Against Youth Crime. The fund is designed to be used flexibly to enhance the existing package of support provided by local Troubled Families Programmes to enable a greater focus on preventing youth and gang

3 September 2018

crime. The fund is open for councils to submit their bids until the deadline on 8 December 2018.

#### Serious Organised Crime Strategy

7. The Government released its new [Serious Organised Crime Strategy](#), which sets out how it will target and undermine crime networks and protect victims from its impacts. As we said in [our response](#), long-term investment in local services is crucial to enabling us to identify signs of exploitation and intervene at an early stage. Only with the right funding and powers can councils continue to make a difference to people's lives, by supporting families and young people, and helping to tackle serious violent crime in our local communities.

#### Moped, Motorcycles and Scooters Roundtable

8. The Home Office held its final roundtable on moped, motorcycle and scooter related crime in October. This follows the [announcement](#) that moped offences in London have halved as a result of targeted police operations, according to Metropolitan Police figures. The Home Office group will now focus on other types of vehicle crime.

#### **Unauthorised Encampments and Developments**

9. The LGA is convening a private roundtable with council officers who have responded to unauthorised developments and encampments in their local area. We are keen to speak to planning, environmental health and community safety teams about their experiences. The roundtable is taking place on Monday 17 December, 10:00 am until 12:00 pm at our LGA offices in Westminster. If you would like further information or would like to attend, please contact [Rachel.Phelps@local.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.Phelps@local.gov.uk).

#### **Domestic Abuse**

10. The Home Affairs Committee has published its [report](#) into domestic abuse. Cllr Simon Blackburn [gave evidence](#) to the inquiry to highlight councils' role in tackling abuse and providing support to victims. [Responding](#) to the report, we reaffirmed how seriously councils are taking this issue, and the work many are doing to invest in more early intervention and prevention schemes.

#### **Violence Against Women and Girls**

##### National FGM Centre

11. Following the successful launch of the National FGM Centre's FGM risk assessment tool in Manchester and London earlier this year, Cllr Anita Lower and lead officers of the NFGMC hosted a consultation event in Cardiff in October aimed at showcasing the tool to relevant members of Welsh government and local government with an aim to making it relevant under Welsh legislation.

#### **Gambling and Licensing**

##### Children and Young People's Access to Gambling

3 September 2018

12. Cllr Kate Haigh will update the Board on recent discussion with Tim Miller, Executive Director at the Gambling Commission on children and young people's access to gambling.

### **Modern slavery**

13. We are continuing to take forward work to support councils on tackling modern slavery. To build on the publication of our council guidance earlier this year, we have recently commissioned the development of a series of good practice case studies. We are also holding a workshop on disrupting modern slavery later this month; more than 80 delegates are due to attend.
14. Colleagues in the LGA's productivity team (who lead the LGA's work on commissioning) are leading our work to support councils on the issue of transparency in supply chains. Although not a mandatory requirement for councils, more than 60 have published transparency statements; this figure is expected to rise to 100 by the end of the year. The independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which is being led by Frank Field and Maria Miller MPs, and Baroness Butler-Sloss, is looking at the issue of transparency in supply chains, and may propose extending the Act's mandatory requirements to public authorities including councils.
15. At the end of last month, the Responsible Car Wash scheme was launched. The scheme is aiming to increase compliance among franchise car washes operating on the site of supermarkets and other major businesses, thereby enabling enforcement activity to be targeted at rogue operators where modern slavery may be present.
16. Officers have been engaging with the Home Office on their National Referral Mechanism reform programme. The Home Office will shortly be launching a consultation on the role of first responders (who can refer suspected victims of slavery into the NRM), including councils.
17. Cllr Rhodes has recently held discussions with the National Crime Agency regarding promoting council involvement in weeks of activity targeting specific areas of modern slavery. Additionally, the LGA Chairman Lord Porter recently attended the Prime Ministerial taskforce on Modern Slavery.

### **Taxi / PHV Updates**

18. The Ministerial task and finish group, set up to look at taxi and PHV licensing which the LGA was part of, has now published a [final report](#). The report, which is a report of the Independent Chair Professor Mohammed Abdel el-Haq rather than the group, picked up on a number of longstanding LGA asks including the urgent need for new legislation.
19. On 12 November Cllr Anita Lower will be attending a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Taxis to discuss the LGAs view on the report's findings and urge Government to move swiftly to respond to the report and bring forward a Taxi and PHV Licensing Reform Bill. A Westminster Hall debate on the Task and Finish Group's recommendations is due to take place on the 13 November.

3 September 2018

### **Prevent, Counter Extremism and Integration**

20. In October, the LGA's Chief Executive met Tom Hurd, the Director General at the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism to discuss Prevent. They discussed the progress of MAC and Dovetail pilots. There will not be a uniform roll out of MAC, but that in six months' time the Home Office will have a better idea of the direction for the next two years. Given this timescale, it was agreed that that it would be a good idea to have a session on Prevent at the LGA Annual Conference in July 2019. It seems unlikely that Dovetail will be rolled out in 2019-20 but this will depend on the results of the pilots, which were expected to be available in early 2019. We hope to be involved in discussing these results.
21. The meeting also covered the effect of Prevent de-prioritisation on councils and discussed the possibility of meeting this by varying the approach. This work is being taken forward at officer level.
22. The Chair of our Safer and Stronger Communities Board will be meeting Baroness Williams later this month to discuss our ideas for developing further our joint work to counter extremism.
23. Following another successful Prevent Leadership Essentials course in Coventry in October, we are continuing with preparations for forthcoming events on cohesion and integration, and counter extremism. There are a limited number of spaces left on these free residential courses for elected members, on 11-12 December (cohesion and integration), and 17-18 January (counter extremism). Please see [the LGA website](#) for further details and book information.
24. Alongside this, as part of our work to support the Special Interest Group for Countering Extremism ([SIGCE](#)), chaired by Leeds and Luton councils, we are hosting the SIGCE's next seminar, on 29 November. The seminar will focus on local leadership in countering extremism. For further information and to book a place, please visit the booking site [here](#).

### **Civil Resilience**

25. We have finalised the text for the updated LGA councillor guide on civil resilience and a new document, developed in conjunction with Solace, on the life cycle of an emergency. These will be completed in time for the first of our planned councillor masterclasses on civil resilience, the first of which takes place in Leeds on 22 November. We are also proposing to hold two further events for councillors in March, in the North East and in Liverpool.

### **Airside Licensing**

26. The Home Office have launched [a call for evidence on airside alcohol licensing](#) at international airports in England and Wales for the period of three months.
27. The aim of this call for evidence is to allow the government to assess the true scale of the problem of drunk and disruptive passengers at international airports in England and Wales, the extent to which airports and airlines use effectively the existing statutory

3 September 2018

powers and other measures to address the problem, and the impact the proposed extension of the Licensing Act 2003 to airside premises that sell or supply alcohol could have in reducing drunk and disorderly behavior. We are also interested in understanding the impact, if any, a decision to maintain or remove the exemption, could have on your respective organisation as well as customers.

28. The LGA have contacted all local authorities with international airports in their areas, in order to gather views that will feed into our response.

### **Dangerous Dogs Legislation**

29. The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee's report *Controlling Dangerous Dogs* is calling for a full-scale review of current dog control legislation and policy to better protect the public.
30. The inquiry was launched to investigate Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) and wider dog control, amid concerns that the current approach was not protecting the public adequately. The Committee said an alternative dog control model should be developed that focused on prevention through education, early intervention, and consistently robust sanctions for offenders. Among its recommendations to Government, the inquiry is calling for:
  - 30.1 An independent review into the factors behind dog aggression and attacks, and whether banned breeds pose an inherently greater threat. The Committee raised serious concerns about the robustness of the Government's evidence base on BSL, and highlighted evidence showing that some legal breeds can pose just as great a risk to public safety as illegal breeds.
  - 30.2 Mandatory dog awareness courses for owners involved in low to mid-level offences. A compulsory training course, similar to speed awareness courses for drivers.
  - 30.3 Awareness campaigns to encourage responsible ownership and improve childhood education on staying safe around dogs.
  - 30.4 A new Dog Control Act to consolidate the existing patchwork of legislation and provide enforcement authorities with new powers.

### **Brexit**

31. Officers have been working with the LGA's Brexit policy leads on two issues falling within the SSCB's remit:
  - 31.1 The implications of Brexit, and specifically a no-deal exit, on councils' regulatory functions, particularly at ports of entry.
  - 31.2 Civil resilience planning to support councils and wider local resilience forums in responding to the implications of a no-deal exit.

3 September 2018

32. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) recently held a series of workshops to map out the implications of a no deal scenario on regulatory functions, and the steps required to be taken to plan for these. Feedback from councils suggested that while the impact on specific regulatory responsibilities may be limited (depending on the approach taken at ports of entry), the cumulative impact of changes to underpinning legislation and guidance, need to advise and support businesses and different transitional arrangements could be significant. We are urging government to continue its dialogue with councils, but to do so by engaging with existing regulatory panels at meetings which are already scheduled.
33. On resilience, Government departments have been engaging with local resilience forums since the summer, to encourage them to think about how civil contingencies plans and procedures could support local areas in the event of a worst case outcome (for example, backlogs at ports or disruption to supply chains). To support this process, we are encouraging Government to ensure that all LRF members and councils are given consistent access to clear information about the Government's own planning assumptions for Brexit.

#### **Public Safety and Festivals**

34. Cllr Kate Haigh met with Chief Constable Harrington, National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) Lead for Events to discuss how the LGA could work with the NPCC to develop a consistent approach to the management of large events, such as festivals.
35. CC Harrington has asked whether the LGA could provide representation on the NPCC National Working Group on Event Safety, which he Chairs. The LGA is exploring representation of this group.