

Safer & Stronger Communities Board– Councillor Simon Blackburn (Chair)

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Conference

1. In October, I chaired a LGA conference on tackling anti-social behaviour. The event focused on sharing best practice with officers and elected members and discussing different approaches to tackling anti-social behaviour locally. We had a wide range of local government speakers, as well as representatives from the Home Office, and we were joined by our guest speaker Dame Vera Baird, the new Victim's Commissioner. The LGA will continue to promote best practice examples and case studies and we continue to update community safety teams regularly.

Fire Services Management Committee

Strategic Resilience Board

2. Cllr Ian Stephens, Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, and Cllr Les Byrom from the Committee, attended the Strategic Resilience Board. A range of issues were discussed including Brexit, industrial action and flooding.

LGA/NFCC Awaydays in July and October

3. The Lead Members of the FSMC met with the Chair and senior officers of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) in July and October to discuss issues affecting the service, including the Spending Review and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services recommendations for the service. These are informal meetings and will be happening regularly throughout the year.

Senior Sector Group

4. Cllr Ian Stephens, Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, Cllr Nick Chard, Deputy Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, and Cllr Richard Chattaway, member of the Fire Services Management Committee, attended the Senior Sector Group where the spending round and the future Spending Review were discussed.

Her Majesties Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Chiefs and Chairs event

5. Cllr Nick Chard, Deputy Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, attended the events where results and recommendations from the second tranche of inspection reports were discussed. The State of Fire and Rescue report was also discussed and is expected in December.

HMICFRS External Reference Group

6. Cllr Ian Stephens, Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, and Fiona Twycross, Vice-Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, attended the Group. Key issues for the sector were discussed including the second cycle of inspections expected next year.

National Fire Chiefs Council Strategic Engagement Group

7. Cllr Ian Stephens, Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, attended this meeting with senior NFCC officials and officers from across the devolved services. The Group discussed up-coming programmes for improvement and some projects for sign-off.

FGM

National FGM Centre Advisory Group

8. In October, Cllr Anita Lower on behalf of the SSCB chaired the National FGM Centre's Advisory Group. The Group heard from the Centre on the issues facing the Centre on funding. The Centre's funding from DfE is due to end in March 2020, members made a number of suggestions for further work on this issue and have called for an extraordinary meeting on the 3 December to discuss this further.

Licensing, Regulation and Water Safety

Trading standards

9. In October I met with Lord Toby Harris, Chair of National Trading Standards (NTS) to hear about key issues for the organisation. Discussions focused on the forthcoming consumer White Paper, funding for NTS's work at ports as well as priorities for the next year.

Mental Health in the Community

Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Steering Group

10. The Board, alongside the Community Wellbeing and Children & Young People Boards have set up a cross-board steering group on children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing, which has now met twice. Their role will help to shape and develop a strong position for the LGA on how councils can improve the mental health of our younger generations. ISOS Partnerships have been commissioned to undertake the research, including carrying out field visits to councils up and down the country. We hope to see the findings launched at this year's National Children and Adult Services Conference.

Media Roundup

11. Since the last Forum, I have given comments in the following press releases on behalf of the Board:

- 11.1 [LGA responds to introduction of Domestic Abuse Bill to Parliament](#)
- 11.2 [LGA responds to new legal duty to tackle serious violent crime](#)
- 11.3 [800 per cent increase in child modern slavery referrals made by councils](#)
- 11.4 [Queen's speech: LGA responds to serious violence bill](#)
- 11.5 [LGA responds to Domestic Abuse Bill and new statutory duty on councils](#)
- 11.6 [LGA responds to report recommending new approach to tackling extremism](#)

31 October 2019

- 11.7 [Toxic skin lightening creams warning amid industry boom](#)
- 11.8 [LGA responds to CIEH environmental health campaign](#)
- 11.9 [LGA responds to Prime Minister's pledge to include Domestic Abuse Bill in Queen's Speech](#)
- 11.10 [LGA responds to latest knife crime figures](#)

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