

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

### **Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Conference**

1. In October 2019, Chair of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board Cllr Simon Blackburn chaired the LGA conference on tackling anti-social behaviour. We had some excellent local government speakers, including contributions from the Home Office and the new Victim's Commissioner Dame Vera Baird. Discussions focused on the use of 2014 ASB powers, the community trigger process, the challenges of Public Spaces Protection Orders and Injunctions. Attendees also discussed the cross-over with serious violent crime and county lines issues, particularly how to tackle cuckooing.

### **Taking a public health approach to serious violent crime conference**

2. In November 2019, Chair of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board Cllr Simon Blackburn chaired the Local Government Associations' conference on taking a public health approach to serious violent crime. The conference focused on sharing best practice and case studies of how local government is working in partnership to tackle serious violent crime. A number of our speakers reflected on the importance of investing in an early intervention and preventative approach, particularly highlighting the importance of strong partnerships with health and education services.

### **FGM**

#### National FGM Centre Advisory Group

3. Cllr Anita Lower chaired a meeting of the National FGM Advisory Group in December. The meeting brought together LGA members and experts from a variety of sectors to support the Centre as it works to develop a sustainable business plan for the next financial year. The Group heard from Leethen Bartholomew, the Head of the Centre, about possible future models for the Centre. The Group will meet again in late January.

### **Water safety**

4. In November Cllr James Dawson attended the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) annual water safety conference. Examples of work being done by local water safety partnerships were shared as well as an update on the review commissioned by the Maritime and Coast Guard Agency (MCA) into responsibilities for beach safety. The publication of the review has been delayed but is expected early in 2020.

### **Gambling**

5. Cllr Eric Allen and Cllr Kate Haigh attended two gambling related events. The Gamble Aware annual conference focused on keeping children and young people safe from gambling harms whilst Bacta's conference explored the contribution of arcades to the seaside economy.

## **Fire Services Management Committee**

### NFCC People Engagement Forum

6. The Forum met in November and was attended by Cllr Roger Price. The meeting focused on three main programmes relevant to the Forum (1) Tools and Guidance on risk, (2) Digital Tools and Change, and (3) the People programme. In NFCC Inclusion Strategy and Succession-planning toolkit were also discussed.

### Fire Standards Board

7. The Board met in November and was attended by Cllr Nick Chard. The meeting mainly considered the work plan for the Central Programme Office around delivering the first set of standards and for the continuing activities framework and timetable.

### LGA/NFCC Joint Meeting in January

8. The Lead Members of the FSMC met with the Chair and senior officer of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) in early January. Key areas of discussion were the ongoing joint working arrangements between the LGA and NFCC and key sector announcements like Her Majesties Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services final national report and the publication of the Phase 1 report of the Grenfell Inquiry.

### Strategic Resilience Board

9. On 15 October Cllr Ian Stephens, Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, and Cllr Les Byrom attended the Strategic Resilience Board. A range of topics were discussed including business continuity and industrial action and Brexit.

## **Media Roundup**

10. Since the last Forum, I have given comments in the following press releases on behalf of the Board:
- 10.1. [Taxi reforms urgently needed as licensed driver numbers hit record high](#)
  - 10.2. [LGA responds to ACTSO report on local trading standards services](#)
  - 10.3. [LGA responds to latest domestic abuse figures](#)
  - 10.4. [Christmas shoppers warned against dangerous, fake toys](#)
  - 10.5. [Lives at risk from unlicensed festive lifts, councils warn](#)
  - 10.6. [Dangerous fake alcohol warning to New Year's Eve revellers](#)
  - 10.7. [Child abuse linked to faith and belief rises by a third, councils reveal](#)

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