

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

That members of the Board note and comment on the update.

Action

Officers to action any matters arising from the discussion as appropriate.

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Update Paper

Background

1. This paper updates Board members on non-Covid-19 activity undertaken by the team since last the Board meeting. As some Government work has been delayed by Covid-19 and most of our work has been focused on the pandemic and covered in the Covid-19 update, this paper is therefore shorter than usual.

Domestic Abuse

2. Cllr Simon Blackburn, Chair of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board, [gave evidence to the Domestic Abuse Public Bill Committee](#). In the session, Cllr Blackburn highlighted the need to reduce incidences of domestic abuse, the importance of offering a broad range of support packages for victims, interventions for perpetrators, and ensuring that services are fully funded and adequately resourced. The Bill will continue to be scrutinised by the Public Bill Committee over a series of evidence sessions, scheduled to last until 17 June. The Bill will then have Report Stage and Third Reading in the House of Commons, before passing to the House of Lords.
3. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs, has written an [article](#) on improving the response to domestic abuse, which features in our First Magazine (May edition).

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities

4. In March 2020, the LGA submitted its [response](#) to the Government [consultation](#) on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments.

Prevent, counter-extremism, and cohesion and integration

5. In March we hosted a meeting between local authorities and Jonathan Hall QC, who is leading a review of Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) for the supervision of offenders convicted of terrorism or terrorism-related offences, to feed in sector views.
6. On 4 June the LGA published a [statement](#) on local government's commitment to tackling racism, affirming that the LGA stands with councils in the UK and across the world in their work to tackle racism and that everyone must be part of the conversation on how to confront and end it.

Trading Standards

7. National Trading Standards' have published their [2019-20 Annual Report](#), which provides an overview of NTS's work on a broad range of issues including doorstep crime, eCrime, safety at ports, scams, animal health and feed, knife crime and regional investigations. NTS are also developing an infographic summarising their work, which we will share with the Board once it is available.

Gambling advertising and marketing and young people

8. At the end of March, GambleAware published the findings of [research](#) into the impact of gambling advertising and marketing on children, young people and vulnerable adults. The research, which was conducted by Ipsos MORI and the Institute for Social Marketing at the University of Stirling, found that gambling is now seen as part of everyday life for these groups and highlighted the following:
 - 8.1. Exposure to gambling advertising, including on social media, can have an impact on attitudes towards the prevalence and acceptability of gambling, and in turn the likelihood that a child, young person or vulnerable adult will gamble in the future.
 - 8.2. Children are regularly exposed to gambling advertising on social media platforms – researchers found that 41,000 UK followers of gambling related accounts on the social media platform were likely to be under 16.
 - 8.3. The attitudes and gambling behaviours of peers and parents are also critical in shaping gambling activity; they were significantly associated with both a young person's exposure to brands and advertising, as well as with current gambling amongst those aged 11-24. If a child or young person has a close friend or carer who gambles, that individual was found to be six times more likely to be a current gambler, than those without such a connection.
9. The report also identified a number of recommendations, including:
 - 9.1. the need for clearer safer gambling messages and campaigns
 - 9.2. a requirement to improve education initiatives
 - 9.3. a reduction in the appeal of gambling adverts to children
 - 9.4. improved use of advertising technology, to minimise the exposure of such content to children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Modern slavery guidance

10. In March, the Home Office finally published statutory guidance under section 49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. As modern slavery policy is continuing to evolve, the Home Office has established a Statutory Guidance Reference Group to provide a forum for ongoing discussions about amendments to the guidance, which the LGA has been asked to be a standing member of. It is expected that meetings will take place on a quarterly basis.
11. The Home Office is undertaking work to look at the intersection between modern slavery and homelessness/housing; with high needs groups, and to look more fundamentally at the long-term future of the NRM. Although engagement with councils on these issues was paused in March, we expect discussions on this to resume in the coming weeks and months.

Competition and Markets Authority Funerals investigation

12. The statutory deadline for the CMA investigation into the supply of crematoria services and the supply of services by funeral directors has been extended by 6 months, which is the maximum permitted. The new statutory deadline is 27 March 2021 to allow for consultation following the publication of the Provisional Decision report. Any further submissions or key point related to the investigation should be made by the 19 June 2020 ahead of the publication of the Provisional Decision report. For more information about the investigation please visit the [funerals market investigation page](#).