

Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2020/21: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies

Purpose of report

For information and approval.

Summary

This report sets out how the Safer and Stronger Communities Board operates and how the LGA works to support the objectives and work of its member authorities.

Members are asked to note the Board's membership and agree its Terms of Reference and nominations to Outside Bodies for the 2020/21 year.

Recommendations

That the Safer and Stronger Communities Board:

- i. agrees its Terms of Reference (**Appendix A**);
- ii. formally notes the membership for 2020/21 (**Appendix B**);
- iii. agrees the Board's nominations to outside bodies (**Appendix C**);
- iv. notes the dates of the future meetings (**Appendix D**); and
- v. reviews the proposed approach to member champions and confirms roles for 2020/21 (**Appendix E**).
- vi. that the Board identify a member to be the Equalities Advocate for the Board.

Action

Any actions will be undertaken, as directed by Members.

Contact officer: Tahmina Akther
Position: Member Services Apprentice
Phone no: 020 7072 7444
E-mail: Tahmina.akther@local.gov.uk

Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2020/21: Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointments to Outside Bodies

Background

1. The LGA's Boards seek to lead the agenda for local government on the key challenges and issues within their remit and support the overall objectives of the organisation as set out in the [LGA's Business Plan](#).
2. They take an active role in helping to shape the Association's business plan through extensive engagement with councils and oversight of the programmes of work that deliver these strategic priorities.

2020/21 Terms of reference and membership

3. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board's Terms of Reference, Membership and future meetings dates are set out at **Appendix A, B** and **D** respectively for agreement and noting.

Safer and Stronger Communities Board Lead Members

4. The LGA seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board is politically balanced, and led by the Chair and three Vice/Deputy Chairs, drawn from each of the four political groups. This grouping of members – known as Lead Members – meet in between Board meetings, shape future meeting agendas, provide clearance on time sensitive matters, represent the Board at external events, meetings and in the media, as well as engaging with the wider Board to ensure your views are represented.
5. The Lead Members for 2020/21 are:
 - 5.1 Cllr Nesil Caliskan, Chair
 - 5.2 Cllr Katrina Wood, Vice-Chairman
 - 5.3 Cllr Bridget Smith, Deputy Chair
 - 5.4 Cllr Hannah Dalton, Deputy Chair

The Safer and Stronger Communities team

6. The Board is supported by a cross cutting team of LGA officers, with the safer communities policy team and a designated Member Services Officer being those which you are likely to have regular contact with.
7. The Safer and Stronger Communities team supports the LGA's work on the Board's priorities, and also a number of other issues which are within the Board's remit. The team works with Board Members, the LGA media team and political groups to maintain local government's reputation on community safety issues in the media, directs our lobbying work (according to Members' steer) in conjunction with the Parliamentary affairs team,

and works collaboratively with other Boards across relevant cross cutting policy and improvement issues.

8. The team supports Members in person or by briefing when they represent the LGA on external speaking platforms or at Ministerial or Whitehall events. We will provide briefing notes and/or suggested speaking notes as required in advance of each engagement.
9. The team also participate in a number of officer working groups and programme boards, representing the sector's interests and putting forward the LGA's agreed policy positions.

Communications and Events

10. There are a number of internal and external communications channels available to help the Safer and Stronger Communities Board promote the work it is doing and to seek views from our member authorities.
11. We have a dedicated section on the LGA website, regular e-bulletins with a personal introduction from the Chair of the Board, outside speaking engagements and interviews, advisory networks, features and news items in First magazine as well as twitter accounts which are used to keep in touch with our members.
12. At the current time, it remains to be seen whether it will be possible to run a programme of events in 2020/21, beyond the virtual webinars that we have been running since the summer. The Board will be kept updated on whether it is possible to run our annual licensing and fire events in early 2021, or our leadership essentials courses on cohesion and counter-extremism, fire and licensing, although the licensing course has been scheduled for February.
13. At the current time, we have the following webinars/events scheduled:
 - 13.1 Police and Crime Panels update – Tuesday 21 September 1030-1230.
 - 13.2 Tackling anti-social behaviour – Tuesday 28 September 1330-1530.
 - 13.3 Licensing leadership essentials course – Tuesday 23 - Wednesday 24 February 2021

Safer and Stronger Communities Board outside body appointments

14. The LGA benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies across all boards. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the Association to ensure that the aims and objectives of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA and accurately reflect its priorities.
15. A list of the organisations to which the Board is asked to appoint member representatives is attached at **Appendix C**. The Board are asked to nominate the appointments for this meeting cycle, which as far as possible are to be made in proportion with political representation across the LGA. As an LGA representative, Members appointed to these roles should speak for the Association, and not one particular political Group.
16. To maximise the value of attending regular or ad-hoc outside engagements, Members appointed to represent the LGA on an outside bodies are asked to provide regular feedback, either through the Board meetings, or alternative mechanisms.

Member Champions

17. For 2019/20, the Board appointed the following member champions:

17.1 Abuse, exploitation and modern slavery – Cllr Alan Rhodes

17.2 Anti-social behaviour – Cllr Bridget Smith

17.3 Bereavement services – Cllr John Pennington

17.4 Community cohesion and integration – Cllrs Farah Hussain and Mohen Iyengar

17.5 Licensing and regulatory services – Cllrs Kate Haigh and Eric Allen

17.6 Domestic abuse – Cllrs Lois Samuel and Jim Beall

17.7 Prevent and counter-extremism – Cllrs Simon Blackburn, Hannah Dalton and Dave Stewart

17.8 Drowning prevention – Cllr James Dawson

17.9 Scambassador – Cllr Hannah Dalton

18. A role description for member champions is set out at **Appendix E**. We recognise that in recent years, not all of the champion members have had a role to fulfil due to the nature of work in the relevant areas. For 2020/21, we are therefore proposing that we agree a streamlined list of champion roles where we believe that there will be work for the champions to undertake.

19. We propose the following broad champion roles:

19.1 Modern slavery

19.2 Serious violence and county lines

19.3 Cohesion, counter extremism and Prevent

19.4 Licensing

19.5 Domestic abuse and FGM

19.6 Drowning prevention

20. For other areas of work that we expect to prioritise as part of the work plan outlined in item 4 of the agenda, we propose that we will liaise with Board members/task and finish groups identified as necessary, or lead members, for aspects of the work where input is required outside of Board meetings.

Equalities Advocate

21. This year the Executive Advisory Board have asked each Board to identify a member to be an Equalities Advocate within each Board to raise the profile of any equalities issues within that Board's workstream. The advocates will work together to coordinate the messaging across the organisation and to report back to the Executive Advisory Board. We are proposing that equalities issues should be considered a part of each area of work represented by a member champion, with the Chair of the Board the overall lead for equalities.

Financial Implications

22. There are no substantial financial implications arising directly from this report. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA for expenses incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.