

Safer and Stronger Communities Board – Update report from Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Chair)

Serious Violence Reduction Orders consultation

- 1 The LGA has submitted a response to the Government's [consultation](#) on Serious Violence Reduction Orders (SVROs), a proposed new court order to target known knife and offensive weapon carriers. The proposed Serious Violence Reduction Orders would give the police personalised powers to target those already convicted of certain knife offences – giving them the automatic right to search those who pose the greatest risk. These searches could take place without suspicion so that these known criminals could be stopped at any time.

MHCLG workshops on domestic abuse accommodation support and services

- 2 The LGA also jointly hosted a second series of workshops with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to discuss the new statutory duty proposed in the Domestic Abuse Bill, which will be placed on Tier 1 local authorities to commission domestic abuse accommodation support and services. Officers working in housing, domestic abuse services and community safety joined the workshop sessions to share their views on the duty and discussed what the challenges and opportunities would be locally. There were also discussions about how the new [£6 million Building Capacity Fund](#) could be used leading up to the new statutory duty coming into place. If you would like any further information, please contact Rachel.Phelps@local.gov.uk

MHCLG consultation on allocation methods for the associated New Burdens Funding

- 3 The LGA has submitted a [response](#) to the Government's [consultation](#) on proposals for the allocation of new burdens funding to support the delivery of the new duty on local authorities to provide domestic abuse support in safe accommodation services in England. In our response we emphasised the new funding needs to fully account for any increases in demand for domestic abuse services. Additional funding is also required to provide wider community-based support.

Counter Extremism

- 4 In November, SSCB Chair Cllr Caliskan wrote to Baroness Williams, Lords Minister with responsibility for counter-extremism, setting out some of the extremism challenges for councils that have emerged over recent months; expressing concern about how these might continue to evolve; and urging Government both to continue to take seriously extremism threats and retain investment in measures to build resilience and prevent division and polarisation from taking hold. The letter was co-signed by co-Chairs of the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism (SIGCE), Cllr Hazel Simmons (Leader, Luton Council) and Cllr Debra Coupar, Deputy Leader, Leeds City Council).

Building Safety

- 5 The LGA has [published a briefing](#) aimed at any ward councillors supporting residents experiencing cladding issues in their local areas. It explains the background to cladding issues, highlights issues facing residents, and sets out ways in which councillors might support them.

HMICFRS fire and rescue service covid inspection

- 6 In November Cllr Ian Stephens, Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, provided feedback to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) regarding the fire and rescue service's activities during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Cllr Nick Chard also provided feedback to the inspection in his role as Chair of the Employers side of the National Joint Council for local authority fire and rescue services.

HMICFRS – Fire External Reference Group

- 7 Councillor Stephens also attended HMICFRS's Fire External Reference Group in December. The main discussion was centred on the initial findings from HMICFRS's inspection of the fire and rescue services activities during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Media work

- 8 Since the last report I have commented in relation to the following issues on behalf of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board:

8.1 Covid vaccine scams <https://www.local.gov.uk/spread-word-about-covid-19-vaccine-scam-protect-family-and-friends-councils-urge>

8.2 The risks of buying illegal and unsafe toys online
<https://www.local.gov.uk/christmas-shoppers-warned-about-risk-buying-illegal-unsafe-toys-online>

8.3 The dangers of fireworks <https://www.local.gov.uk/avoid-replacing-professional-displays-dangerous-fireworks-home-councils-and-fire-services-warn>

8.4 Tougher powers for councils to take action against businesses flouting Covid rules <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-statement-tougher-powers-councils-tackle-businesses-flouting-covid-19-rules>

8.5 Funding for councils for Covid enforcement <https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-new-covid-19-enforcement-funding-councils>

8.6 The new duties on councils in the Domestic Abuse Bill
<https://www.local.gov.uk/lga-responds-funding-new-domestic-abuse-duty-councils>

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