# Safer and Stronger Communities Board – Report from Cllr Nesil Caliskan (Chair)

**Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill**

1. On 18 May, I gave [oral evidence](https://hansard.parliament.uk/pdf/commons/2021-05-18/0bc53cdb-fb0c-4333-ab7b-a5a1343cd7c6) to the House of Commons Public Bill Committee for the [Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.](https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2839/publications) During the session, I emphasised the importance of taking a public health approach to tackling serious violent crime, investing in prevention and early intervention, as well as identifying the risk factors and drivers of youth violence. I highlighted our LGA ask for the Government to extend funding for Violence Reduction Units (VRU) to all areas and commit to funding VRUs for five years. MPs also raised questions about unauthorised encampments, youth custody, Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews, and the right to protest. We will be submitting written evidence to the Committee shortly, which will be published on the Committee website in the coming weeks. The Bill is expected to progress through House of Commons Committee Stage, until 24 June 2021, before moving to Report Stage.

**All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic Abuse**

1. On 24 May, I spoke at the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic Abuse, following the Domestic Abuse Act receiving Royal Assent. During the session, I spoke about the new statutory duty placed on local authorities to deliver accommodation-based support and services for domestic abuse victims and children, and I highlighted some of the progress that has been made to set-up Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards and conduct needs assessments. I also welcomed the Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s commitment to reviewing the need for community-based services and make provision for this vital support for domestic abuse victims. We continue to work with the Commissioner, the Government and councils to help implement the provisions outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act and help to improve the response to domestic abuse overall.

**Fire Inclusion and Diversity Champions Network**

1. In March, the Network held the second session of its two-part meeting series on ‘Racial Equality in the Fire and Rescue Sector’. Facilitated by Kemi Labinjo, Barrister and Director Amber and Greene, Members participated in several interactive learning activities that focused on anti-racism in practice. The LGA is in the process of developing an annual plan for the Champions Network, which will guide the EDI learning and development activity in 2021/22.

**Fire Commission**

1. The LGA held an additional Fire Commission meeting on 26 March to discuss Phase 1 of the Government’s Police and Crime Commissioner Review, in particular the announcements regarding fire governance and reform. The Fire Minister, Lord Greenhalgh, attended the meeting to outline the Government’s proposals.

**Strategic Resilience Board**

1. In April the Home Office held their Strategic Resilience Board, with discussions on industrial relations and Covid.

**HMICFRS External Reference Group – fire inspection**

1. Cllr Rebecca Knox from the Fire Services Management Committee, attended the Inspectorate’s Fire External Reference Group on 6 May. A range of issues were discussed including the second round of inspections, equality, diversity and inclusion and monitoring.

**Fire Services Management Committee**

1. On 21 May the LGA Held it’s Fire Services Management Committee. Issues on the agenda included building safety, HMICFRS and their approach to Equality, Inclusion and Diversity.as well as updates on standards, workforce and the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme.

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