

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

Modern slavery

1. In July, the Board's tackling modern slavery champion Cllr Alan Rhodes met with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM to discuss councils' work relating to modern slavery. The Commissioner is particularly interested in the work councils are doing to eradicate modern slavery from their supply chains; the newly launched pilots to devolve decision making on suspected cases of modern slavery among children from the Single Competent Authority to local authorities and their partners; and councils' responsibilities to victims of modern slavery experiencing homelessness. Cllr Rhodes and the Commissioner agreed that the LGA and Commissioner's office would continue to work together on these issues.
2. Also in July, Cllr Rhodes hosted an awareness raising webinar on modern slavery. Attracting more than 250 delegates, the session heard about: what modern slavery is and councils' role in tackling it; leading practice from councils on this agenda; how councils can strengthen their supply chains to prevent against modern slavery; and from the Commissioner herself.

Unauthorised Encampments Webinar

3. In June, the Vice-Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, Cllr Katrina Woods chaired an [LGA webinar on unauthorised encampments](#). The aim of the session was to provide an opportunity to discuss the response to unauthorised encampments and share the approaches that work well and examples of best practice from across local government. The month of June 2021 is also Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month, to help raise awareness of these communities and their contributions to society, and to offset negative stereotyping and prejudices. The webinar was well-attended by officers and elected members.

Anti-social Behaviour

4. The LGA has published a series of [case studies](#) on tackling anti-social behaviour. With thanks to the councils and their partners who have shared their experiences, and best practice in addressing and preventing anti-social behaviour. We have also sign-posted to [guidance](#) on the Community Trigger process and helpful resources and support from [ASB Help](#).

Building Safety

5. We will be responding to the Home Office [consultation on Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans](#) before the deadline on 19 July.

Protect Duty

6. In July we submitted [our response to the Government's consultation on a new Protect duty](#). In our response we supported an approach that explicitly assesses the risks of terrorism, but that these risks should be assessed as part of a wider approach that looks at a range of health and safety risks, and alongside existing measures and structures to keep communities safe from terrorism. We also agreed with the core principle of taking a proportionate approach to a new duty, but proposed that rather than applying a capacity-based approach to determine who is covered by the duty, this should enable consideration of the local context and the precise level of risk for a particular event/venue. We argued that the duty must not unduly impact on the use and enjoyment of places and spaces that might fall within scope, and should not apply to public spaces unless they are being used for a specific event. We also stressed the need to consider the significant resource and capacity issues that would be needed for successful implementation.

Fire Governance & Leadership Workshops

7. In July, the LGA is hosting two half-day workshops focusing on governance and leadership in the fire and rescue sector. In the context of the [government's recent findings from part one of the Police and Crime Commissioners \(PCC\) Review](#) and the upcoming White Paper on Fire Reform, experienced facilitators will deliver a range of interactive learning and development activities that aim to:
 - 7.1 Provide FRA members with a comprehensive overview of their role within the fire and rescue authorities and best practice for good governance, and;
 - 7.2 Strengthen knowledge and understanding of various leadership approaches, including a focus on the practical scrutiny skills required to support effective executive decision-making.
8. The workshops were open to all Fire and Rescue Authority Members and are in response to the need for targeted learning and development options that focus on governance and leadership. A final workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, 7 September.

Licensing

9. In July, Cllr Caliskan wrote to Local Government Minister Luke Hall about the regulations which will extend temporary pavement licence provisions to 30 September 2022. The letter highlighted our concerns with the regulations and stressed the importance of new burdens funding and the need to avoid a last-minute surge in applications in September when the current regulations are due to expire. Cllr Caliskan also called on Government to work with the LGA and councils on a reformed pavement licensing system which blends the best of the old and new systems.

Police & Crime Panels

10. The LGA held a webinar for Police and Crime Panel's on 13 July. The Home Office spoke about its priorities as well as the PCC Review. There were also presentations from the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the Association of Policing and Crime Chief Executives.

Water safety

11. In July, Cllr Dawson and Cllr Iyengar, the LGA's water safety champions, attended a Ministerial roundtable to discuss what more can be done to prevent drownings, how the UK should implement the aims of the UN drowning prevention resolution and how best to raise awareness of these issues ahead of the inaugural World Drowning Prevention Day on 25 July 2021. The LGA will be refreshing its water safety toolkit ahead of the Drowning Prevention Day.

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