

## Note of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

---

<b>Title:</b>	Safer & Stronger Communities Board
<b>Date:</b>	Monday 7 July 2014
<b>Venue:</b>	Sherborne Suite, Bournemouth Marriott Highcliff Hotel, St. Michael's Road, West Cliff, Bournemouth BH2 5DU

---

### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as **Appendix A** to this note.

Item	Decisions and actions	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)</b> <p>Mark Norris, LGA Senior Adviser updated the Board on the latest work of the FGM working group following its inception in January. There had been three meetings of the group which had heard from a number of organisations and experts on FGM, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NSPCC</li><li>• FORWARD</li><li>• British Arab Federation</li><li>• London Borough of Hackney</li><li>• London Borough of Lambeth</li><li>• Association of Chief Police Officers</li><li>• London Borough of Newham.</li></ul> <p>The Board was informed that the working group's activity centred on two key themes, firstly, improving the ability of councils to deliver services that deal with cases of FGM, and secondly assisting councils in changing societal attitudes in those communities where FGM was practised.</p> <p>The LGA was currently working on a toolkit which would include a Councillors Guide to FGM with the focus on the role of the council in tackling FGM and their responsibilities. The toolkit would also include case studies based on the guide and examining the issues identified in the working group's discussions. In addition the LGA was to conduct an audit on the rates of referrals from professionals to children's services, following government's multi-agency guidelines stating that where there was concern a child had undergone FGM, referrals should be made to children's services to allow the police to investigate. The LGA was also in the process of helping to facilitate a bid to the Department for Education's (DfE) Children's Social Care Innovation Programme fund for the development of a specialist FGM service.</p> <p>Members welcomed the report and made a number of comments including:</p>	

15 September 2014

- The need for action to be taken by central and local government to tackle the practice.
- Doctors, family health services and public health also needed to be made aware of the risks of FGM and be given guidelines to help identify cases and the routes of referring cases to children's services.
- It would be helpful for members of the Board to view the toolkit before it goes out to all councils.
- It was important that the toolkit was clear on the role of school governors and the importance of raising awareness to boards of school governors.
- Educating men and women on the issue was vital, and the toolkit needed to consider how faith leaders could help in spreading the message against the practice of FGM through sermons that had been prepared on the issue.
- Data needed to be recorded on an individual's educational and health record in order for health and education professionals to be aware of the potential of FGM incidents occurring.
- The subject of FGM should be placed on the curriculum at schools to ensure future generations are aware of the dangers of FGM.
- The Board need to liaise with the WLGA and Welsh government on the possibility of establishing a centre of excellence.

Cllr Lucas informed the Board that Coventry City Council had taken the model resolution on FGM, which helped raise awareness of the issue amongst councillors. It was important to change the attitudes of people in order to eradicate the practice of FGM.

**Action:**

Cllr Burbage to be provided with the details of the peer moving the amendment in the House of Lords which would criminalise encouraging and promoting FGM.

**Mark  
Norris/Lucy  
Ellender**

Officers to circulate a link to the Home Office toolkit once available.

**Mark  
Norris/Dan  
Kalley**

To bring a further report to the next Board meeting in September.

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report and the work of the FGM working group.

**2 LGA Betting Commission update**

Ellie Greenwood, LGA Senior Adviser introduced the report and updated Members on the activity of the Betting Commission since the last Board meeting. The first meeting of the commission took place in April and provided an opportunity for discussion on issues relating to betting shop clustering and Fixed Odd Betting Terminals (FOBTs).

The Board were reminded that following the first meeting of the commission the Government announced a series of proposals addressing concerns on betting shop clustering and FOBTs, including:

15 September 2014

- Consulting on creating a separate planning use class for betting and payday loan shops
- Player protection measures that end unsupervised high stakes (+£50) play and
- Further work on introducing a think 25 initiative in gambling advertising.

At the second meeting in June the commission discussed the government's proposals. Betting industry representatives expressed concern that some councils will use any change in planning use classes as an attempt to introduce a blanket ban on any new betting shops.

The second meeting also discussed the scope for creating a framework or set of principles for local engagement between councils and betting shops. Ellie informed the Board that there were good examples of engagement between councils and betting shops, for example Ealing Council and Lewisham's Deptford High St Charter. It was agreed that a sub-group of the Commission would develop an approach for consideration at the next meeting.

Cllr Page, LGA Licensing Champion noted a number of additional points including:

- The Government's consultation on this had not yet been published. Moreover, sections of industry have indicated that they may challenge the proposal on competition grounds.
- The change in planning use, if implemented, will relate only to new premises, not existing premises, and so will not address existing clusters of betting shops.
- It will be important that any planning changes do not impact on councils' ability to further diversifying local high streets.

Members welcomed the report and raised a number of comments including:

- Having a separate use class for planning purposes would enable councils to better plan in the future the location of betting shops.
- The health objective needs to be looked at in more depth, and include the issue of poverty being caused by gambling. Members agreed that local Health and Wellbeing Boards were the appropriate committee to address this at a local level.
- An update of the old LACORS Gambling Act handbook would be helpful and should be circulated to all councils.

**Actions:**

Officers to progress the Betting Commission work and update of the Gambling Act handbook.

**Ellie  
Greenwood**

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report and asked the LGA to keep lobbying the

Government on betting shop clustering and FOBT's.

### **3 Queen's Speech 2014**

Mark Norris, LGA Senior Adviser informed the Board that there were three bills from the Queen's Speech that were of interest to this Board. The Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill had its first reading and was scheduled to have its second reading on 15 July 2014.

With regards to the Serious Crime Bill, the LGA briefing suggested that a greater share of recovered assets should be returned to local authorities under the asset recovery incentivisation scheme (ARIS). The LGA had also tabled an amendment to Bill which would make it an offence to promote and encourage FGM under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

#### **Decision:**

Members **noted** the report.

### **4 Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) Report: Police and Crime Commissioners: progress to date**

Helen Murray, Head of Programmes introduced the report and reminded the Board that Cllr Spicer had given evidence at the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC). The Board were informed that in HASC's view it was still too early to tell whether or not Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC's) had been successful.

In addition the Board's views were sought on recommendations made by HASC on areas where the LGA could do some further work to support panels and PCCs.

Members noted that the PCC for the West Midlands, Bob Jones, had passed away the week before and there would be a by-election on 21 August. They also discussed the conclusions in the Local Government Innovation Taskforce report supporting the recommendations made by the Independent Police Commission about the need for the police to be accountable to local people. Members agreed on the need to respond to the HASC recommendations and made a number of comments on the proposed responses including:

- The transition period referred to in paragraph 10.1 was not a helpful suggestion as new commissioners would want to get on with their new role immediately.
- The level of financial support for panels in Wales was even more of an issue and had led to one panel being unable to pay members' travel expenses.
- The LGA should consider creating a standing group of panel

15 September 2014

representatives that it could refer matters to, there could be more regional meetings, and there could be more of a focus on elected members.

- The wording of any response should address the issue that while the LGA supported panels there was not cross-party agreement about support for the wider system.

**Decision:**

Members agreed the responses set out in paragraphs 10.2 to 10.5 and that paragraph 10.1 should be reworded, subject to Lead Members approving the final wording of the response to HASC.

**Mark Norris**

## **5 Regulatory Services update**

Ellie Greenwood, LGA Senior Adviser introduced the report and informed Members that Cornwall Council had been successful in securing funding from the Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) to investigate practicalities in creating a single business licence, outlined in the Rewiring Licensing document. Members were informed that the first results from the project would be available in early 2015.

In addition officers are talking to officials at Westminster Council about the council's appeal to the Supreme Court in the Hemming case. Officers had sought initial legal advice on the potential implications for local government; a full paper will be brought to a future Board meeting.

Members also asked for a further report on the Trading Standards Institute's 'national conversation' to have a discussion around the future of the service.

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report.

## **6 End of Year Report**

Helen Murray, Head of Programmes introduced the report and sought innovative projects or campaigns that the Board could consider taking forward in 2014/15. Members welcomed the report, asking that the work of the Board's former Chair Cllr Mehboob Khan be included in the report to the Executive. Members suggested the following topics for inclusion in the Board's 2014/15 work programme:

- Blue light services and further integration.
- Community Safety Partnerships, including the funding they have been provided with and services they offer.
- Further work on PCC's carrying out effective commissioning of key services.
- Links between the troubled families work councils are doing and the community safety agenda.
- With a range of multi-agency structures in place how best agencies

- could be brought together to work and how can data be shared.
- The impact of stop and search on BME communities and their over representation in custody.
- Registration and coroner's services and changes to service delivery as a result of the Chief Coroner.
- Loneliness and the links within the LGA in dealing with this as an issue.

**Action:**

Officers to note the suggested topics for the 2014/15 Board cycle.

**LGA  
Officers**

**Decision:**

Members **noted** the report.

**7 Notes of the previous meeting**

Cllr Chattaway commented that he had attended the last meeting of the Board in March 2014.

**Decision:**

Members **agreed** the minutes of the previous meeting on 3 March 2014.

**Appendix A -Attendance**

Position/Role	Councillor	Authority
Chairman	Cllr Ann Lucas OBE	Coventry City Council
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE	Suffolk County Council
Deputy-chairman	Cllr Philip Evans JP	Conwy County Borough Council
Members	Cllr Morris Bright	Hertsmere Borough Council
	Cllr Janet Daby	Lewisham London Borough Council
	Cllr David Burbage MBE	Windsor & Maidenhead Royal Borough
	Cllr Thomas Fox	Scarborough Borough Council
	Cllr Ian Gillies	City of York Council
	Cllr Kate Haigh	Gloucester City Council
	Cllr Anita Lower	Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
	Cllr Tony Page	Reading Borough Council
	Cllr Michael Payne	Gedling Borough Council
	Cllr Nick Worth	South Holland District Council
	Cllr Colin Mann	Caerphilly County Borough Council
	Cllr Richard Chattaway	Warwickshire County Council
	Cllr Jeffery Milburn	South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Apologies	Cllr Lisa Brett	Bath & North East Somerset Council
	Cllr Kay Hammond	Surrey County Council
	Cllr Mike Connolly	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council

15 September 2014

In Attendance

LGA Officers

Helen Murray  
Ellie Greenwood  
Mark Norris  
Daniel Kalley