

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

Select Committee evidence session on the Licensing Act

1. On Thursday 10th March one of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board Licensing Champions, Cllr Jeanie Bell, provided evidence to the House of Lords Liaison Committee on the Licensing Act 2003. Cllr Bell highlighted that whilst the LGA believes the Licensing Act provides a sound licensing framework, we would like to see an increase in licensing fees and health introduced as a licensing objective. Cllr Bell also highlighted the LGA's training offer for members of licensing committees and pressed for the Government to make progress on the issue of online licensing forms.

Night-time economies conference

2. Cllr Bell spoke at The Local Night-Time Economies Conference 2022 on behalf of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board. Cllr Bell spoke about the strategies councils use to support their local night-time economy and shared examples of good practice. This was a paid for speaking slot, which generated £300 for the LGA.

Meetings with Addictions and Substance Misuse Portfolio leads, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

3. Two of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board Licensing Champions, Cllr Jeanie Bell and Cllr Clive Woodbridge, met with the Addictions and Substance Misuse Portfolio leads at the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Joy Allen and David Sidwick, to discuss potential areas of joint work. The LGA and APCC have agreed to do some joint media work on drink spiking to coincide with students going to University in September and for the APCC to feed into the LGA's refresh of its council guide on gambling harms.

Meeting with Rachel Maclean MP, Minister for Safeguarding

4. The LGA Chairman and I met with Rachel Maclean MP, the Minister for Safeguarding, to discuss the importance of tackling anti-social behaviour and wider safeguarding issues. There was a focus on the forthcoming Community Safety Partnership Review and the Government's Beating Crime Plan. LGA officers will continue to liaise with the Home Office, councils and partners on the Government's Levelling Up milestone to reduce neighbourhood crime and homicide.

Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

5. In February, the Vice-Chair of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, Cllr Mohan Iyengar chaired the LGA's webinar on tackling serious and organised crime. Over 160 delegates joined the best practice session, with speakers from the Home Office, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and wider council

speakers. LGA officers continue to work with the Home Office and partners on this important issue.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour roundtable discussion with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners

6. The LGA Chairman and LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Lead Members met with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to discuss tackling anti-social behaviour, and wider community safety issues. Members agreed a series of joint actions, including supporting the forthcoming Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Week (commencing 18th July 2022) and collectively raising awareness of the community trigger.

Traveller Site Fund

7. The LGA held a webinar, with representatives from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to provide further details on the Traveller Site Fund. Over 100 delegates joined the session, ahead of the funds bidding deadline in mid-June.

Vagrancy Act

8. The LGA [responded](#) to the Government consultation on an effective replacement for the Vagrancy Act. We will continue to work with Government, councils, police, and wider partners to consider the range of proposals that could be taken forward, in light of the Vagrancy Act being repealed.

National Expert Steering Group on Domestic Abuse

9. The National Expert Steering Group on Domestic Abuse met for a second time to discuss the implementation of the Part 4 statutory duty, for councils to deliver domestic abuse accommodation-based support and services. The LGA is a representative on the steering group and has held a series of best practice sessions with councils ahead of the next meeting in June. These best practice workshops included presentations from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the National Housing Federation, Imkaan, Women's Aid and local government case studies.

Domestic Abuse Commissioner Strategic Group on Perpetrators

10. Cllr Lois Samuel, the LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board Domestic Abuse Champion, attended the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Strategic Group on Perpetrators in March. The meeting focused on the Government's publication of its Domestic Abuse Plan, and the Government's commitment to invest in perpetrator interventions.

Fire Services Management Committee media work

11. I responded to media inquiries about the provision of transit sites and negotiated stopping places for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, illicit sales of tobacco, and on the inclusion of a modern slavery bill in the Queen's Speech.
12. Cllr Iyengar, the Board's Vice-Chair responded to media inquiries about scams linked to the energy rebate paid through council tax, additional funding being made available to Violence Reduction Units, on publication of the Tackling Domestic Abuse action plan.
13. Cllr Ian Stephens, the Chair of Fire Services Management Committee responded to the launch of the Fire Reform White Paper, the commencement of the Fire Safety Act and the government's response to the Home Office consultation on personal emergency evacuation plans.

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