



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

Spiking

1. In response to the increase in reports of spiking, we [developed a short guidance note](#) which provides a brief overview of spiking, suggests some preventative actions licensed premises and licensing authorities can take, highlights some best practice case studies, and shares a checklist that the LGA would encourage licensing authorities to consider.
2. We also issued a press release with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to raise awareness of the risks of spiking. I was interviewed by Times Radio to discuss this work in more detail.

Public protection services

3. We have also developed a [councillor handbook on public protection services](#), which provides an overview of council environmental health, trading standards and licensing services. Councillors can use this guide to support understanding of what to look out for in scrutinising and leading these services within their council.

Licensing committee training resources

4. The LGA has developed some resources to support officers with the process of inducting new members onto licensing committees. We have [refreshed our licensing e-learning module](#) which provides an overview of the role and responsibilities of a member of a licensing committee.
5. To accompany the e-learning module, we have also [developed a series of licensing videos](#). The videos are all scenario based, and members are encouraged to watch them, reflect on how they would respond in a hearing, before being given some tips on the sort of thing they should consider. The videos touch on the main elements of licensing – alcohol and entertainment, taxi and gambling.
6. The LGA is also running a [Licensing Leadership Essentials course](#) 19-20th October. This is a two-day interactive course, aimed at chairs and vice chairs of committees, and focuses on how good committees are run. Due to high demand, we will run another course in March 2023.

Modern slavery

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7. We are also finalising our updated council guidance on preventing modern slavery which we originally developed with the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. This will be supported by a maturity matrix setting out how councils can develop their work on this issue.
8. To launch this guidance and to mark anti-slavery day, we will be running a webinar on 18th October, in partnership with the Human Trafficking Foundation.

Counter-extremism

9. We have continued to support the Special Interest Group on Countering Extremism's programme of events, holding recent practitioner roundtable sessions on online misinformation and conspiracy theories, handling protest activity and on tackling anti-asylum seeker harassment and hate crime. A further interactive workshop was held for councils on responding to anti-minority activism, which will inform the production of a toolkit for local authorities and further planned workshops over the coming months.

Police and Crime Panel webinar

10. Cllr Clive Woodbridge chaired a webinar for Police and Crime Panel members on 27 September. We had over 80 attendees for the free event which saw excellent engagement and discussion with the speakers. We had contributions from the Home Office on the PCC Review and its impact on Panels as well as on complaints. North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel also spoke about their experiences on complaints handling. The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners participated as did the Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels.

Justice Committee – Draft Victims Bill

11. The Justice Committee [published](#) a report on its pre-legislative scrutiny of the Government's draft Victims Bill. Following our written and oral evidence to the committee, the report highlighted "The LGA told us: 'it is crucial that the Government ensures its various recent and forthcoming strategies, guidance, and legislation in this space work cohesively with the draft Victims Bil.'"
12. The report also highlighted that both the APCC and the LGA, alongside a range of stakeholders, had concerns about the level of funding for a proposed new statutory duty. As such, the report recommended: The Government should use the Victims Bill and the guidance provided under the duty to collaborate to draw these different duties and funding models together, to ensure that they work cohesively on the ground. If this legislation simply adds new duties to an already crowded landscape, then it will be incredibly challenging for the relevant agencies to deliver on all pieces of legislation effectively.



13. There were also wider recommendations on anti-social behaviour and the community trigger process. The recommendation is for victims of non-criminal anti-social behaviour, who meet the threshold for a 'Community Trigger', should be recognised as victims for the purposes of the Bill and be entitled to rights under the revised Victims' Code.
14. The Government's response to the report is expected in the coming weeks. Following this, and potential amendments to the Bill, it is expected the legislation will begin its way through Parliament for further scrutiny of both Houses. The LGA will continue to lobby on the Bill, and work with partners, including the APCC to highlight the important funding concerns we have.

Serious Violence – National Oversight Group

15. The Home Office has established a National Oversight Group to oversee the implementation of the forthcoming serious violence duty. The LGA has been invited to become a member of the group, alongside wider partners in the community safety, health and voluntary and community sector space. The first meeting has focused on establishing a Term of Reference and membership of the oversight group.
16. Future meetings are expected to be held in the coming months, as the serious violence duty is expected to come into effect from January 2023, following the publication of the updated statutory guidance this Autumn. LGA officers will ensure the voice of local government is put forward in these meetings and will feedback to councils with relevant updates.
17. The Home Office have confirmed they are in the process of identifying a supplier to provide tailored support to specified authorities and local policing bodies in implementing the Duty. The support is intended to help local areas to establish suitable partnership arrangements and plans to deliver the Duty with a particular focus on; use of evidence, governance and systems leadership; data sharing and best practice.

Fire Reform White Paper

18. The LGA's Fire Services Management Committee responded to the Government's Fire Reform White Paper

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