

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

### **Licensing**

1. The Home Office has launched several consultations relating to alcohol and entertainment licensing, which the LGA has responded to.
  - 1.1 Licensing hours: We responded positively to the consultation on extending licensing hours between 4-7th May to celebrate his Majesty the King's Coronation
  - 1.2 Spiking: This consultation focused on whether to update the Section 182 guidance (which accompanies the Licensing Act) to reference spiking prevention. Our response highlighted that we welcome any move that shares best practice in tackling spiking, however, it is important that spiking is looked at alongside a range of other vulnerability issues in the night-time economy. We also highlighted the importance of any new data reporting requirements on councils being proportionate and not burdensome.
  - 1.3 Late night levy: A consultation has also been launched on the charge to be applicable to late night refreshment premises. The LGA will respond to this consultation in the coming weeks.
2. We have also [published some good practice case studies](#) on effective approaches to scrap metal licensing.
3. Additionally, we have produced a briefing note on bringing together regulatory services teams into a newly formed unitary council, based on a roundtable discussion with councils. The briefing provides an overview of lessons learnt and will hopefully provide useful advice to councils going through this process in the future.

### **Modern slavery**

4. We have published our [updated council guide on modern slavery](#). The guidance replaces the original LGA-IASC council guide from 2018 and is supported by a [maturity matrix](#) designed to assist councils in developing their work on this issue. The PDFs are fully accessible and our initial ambition is that we will update them annually.

5. As well as general sections on modern slavery, the guide is split into targeted sections for officers working in different council services including children's services, adult social care, housing, community and regulatory services and procurement.
6. The maturity matrix identifies four progress levels (basic first steps, early progress, substantial progress and mature practice). The first two sections focus on the leadership and resources and capacity needed to effectively manage modern slavery work across a council, while subsequent sections focus on the four broad themes of council activity highlighted in the LGA guidance: identifying, referring and supporting victims, disruption and prevention and mitigating the risk of modern slavery in council supply chains.

### **Serious Violence Duty**

7. The [Serious Violence Duty](#) will come into effect in January 2023, placing a new legal requirement on a range of public sector organisations to share information locally to reduce incidents of violence, like knife and gun crime, and prevent loss of life.
8. In light of this Government has [published guidance](#) to support police, health, fire and rescue services, local government and criminal justice partners in meeting their responsibilities under the duty, outlining how they must collaborate to find and address the causes of serious violence in their communities. The Government's response to its consultation on the statutory guidance can be found [here](#).

### **Domestic Abuse Support Services Funding**

9. Government has [announced £257 million of funding](#) to be made available to councils to ensure safe accommodation spaces such as refuges and shelters can provide vital support for domestic abuse victims. The support will include counselling, assistance with rehousing, financial advice and play therapy for traumatised children. The funding will be allocated over two years and take the form of a grant.

### **Funding to support child victims of abuse**

10. The Safeguarding Minister has [announced](#) funding to support child victims of domestic abuse. The funding will help to develop early intervention strategies to prevent violence against women and girls. More than £10 million has been allocated to organisations providing vital support to children who have survived domestic abuse, such as counselling and one-to-one support. Up to £7.4 million will be invested over three years to programmes which prioritise early intervention and research into the most effective ways of preventing abuse. The funding will be awarded through the Children Affected by Domestic Abuse Fund.

### **Clampdown on antisocial behaviour**

11. The Prime Minister has [asked](#) the Levelling Up and Communities Secretary, Michael Gove, to draw up plans to crack down on antisocial behaviour as he makes the problem a priority before the next election. He also set out his intention to ensure tackling antisocial behaviour is a priority for the Government, promising to give police forces, mayors, and local authorities the tools they need to crack down on anti-social behaviour. The LGA will continue to work with Government on this important issue.

### **UK Government Resilience Framework**

12. The Government has published its new [national resilience framework](#), delivering on a commitment in the 2021 integrated review to develop a new national resilience strategy. The strategy is based on three key principles; that a shared understanding of the risks we face is essential; that prevention is better than cure, and resilience building should focus effort across the whole risk cycle; and that resilience is a whole of society endeavour which everyone should be empowered to make a contribution to.
13. The section on responsibility and accountability is likely to be of particular interest to councils, with proposals to pilot the creation of a full time local resilience forum chair 'chief resilience officer' role, accountable to executive local democratic leaders. The Government will also consider the best ways of developing mechanisms for stronger assurance of LRFs' collective delivery, including auditable frameworks and building assessment of resilience into inspection/adult regimes of individual responders.
14. The LGA will be engaging with the Government on plans to take forward the proposals in the framework.

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