

# Minutes of last Safer & Stronger Communities Board meeting

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## Safer & Stronger Communities Board

Thursday, 23 March 2023

Hybrid Meeting - 18 Smith Square and Online

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### Attendance

An attendance list is attached as [Appendix A](#)

| Item | Decisions and actions |
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| <b>1</b> | <b>Welcome, Apologies and Substitutes, Declarations of Interest</b> |
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The Chair welcomed members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr Eric Allen.

Declarations of Interest were raised from Cllr Lewis Cocking and Cllr Jeanie Bell as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners for Hertfordshire and Merseyside respectively. There were no other declarations of interest.

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Notes of previous meeting</b> |
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Members agreed the minutes of the previous meeting as an accurate record.

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| <b>3</b> | <b>National Protective Security Authority Update</b> |
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The National Protective Security Authority provided a confidential update to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Surveillance</b> |
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A confidential update was provided on the procurement and use of CCTV and surveillance camera equipment bought from foreign suppliers where there is a risk hostile governments may be able to access data and images.

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Modern Slavery</b> |
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Members had a confidential discussion on Modern Slavery.

## **6 SSCB Work Projects**

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser, introduced the paper which summarised a series of possible additional areas of research for officers to focus on and sought direction from members about which they would like to prioritise.

Members comments:

- Consensus that 'Drugs Issues and Community Safety' project should be undertaken, along with support for the 'Cohesion Impact of the Court Case' of Ellie Williams and the Modern Slavery work.
- A member commented that the 'Police Capacity and Impact' work is already being done by The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) in combination with the impact of mental health on policing, and that it would be sensible to leave this to the APCC, which was agreed.
- A member sought more information on how work projects are identified and prioritised, and the budget deployed to support them, expressing concern that the Board continues to focus on issues it has focused on for a long time rather than looking at new issues. It was suggested that the priorities of councils across the country should help inform a coherent strategy on Board priorities, which in turn should inform a full discussion on the budget.
- The Chair responded that consideration would be given to doing a survey of cabinet members.

### Decision

Safer & Stronger Communities Board advised to prioritise undertaking work on 'Drug Issues and Community Safety,' 'Cohesion Impact of the Court Case' of Ellie Williams and 'Modern Slavery.'

### Action

- Board chair and lead members to discuss the approach to determining the Board's budget at their next meeting.

## **7 Independent Review of Prevent**

Rachel Duke, Policy Adviser, introduced the report on The Independent Review of Prevent which was published in February 2023, alongside the Government's response and plans for implementing the report's recommendations.

Members comments:

- Members welcomed the review and agreed on the need for additional funding and support for councils. Concern was expressed that some council areas might lose funding under a regional model; however, as others may gain from a different model, so it would be difficult for the LGA to comment other than

calling for more funding overall.

- Another member requested that any letter to Government on this issue should not just focus on further funding, but on the issues raised in the first bullet point of paragraph 12 of the report, for instance the community impact of the review, particularly the Muslim community.
- A member commented on the different needs of different areas and how democratic oversight would be incorporated under a regional model.
- The willingness of certain groups to engage in the Prevent programme itself should be flagged.
- It was suggested that the Board should return to this issue at some point in future.

#### Decision

Safer & Stronger Communities Board noted the update on the review report and Government response and agreed that the LGA should write to the Home Office to reflect councils' feedback.

#### Action

- Officers to draft a letter and seek sign off from Lead Members before being sent.

## **8 SIGCE Annual Review**

#### Decision

Safer and Stronger Communities Board agreed to defer consideration of the SIGCE work plan, until budgets have been considered following discussions had on item 6.

#### Action

- Officers to arrange a budget meeting with LMs where SIGCE will be considered.

## **9 Gambling Licensing Position Paper**

Policy Adviser, Jade Hall updated members on gambling licensing reform and outlined a set of principles (Appendix A) for Board members to reaffirm to inform the LGA's ongoing lobbying activity on gambling.

#### Decision

Safer & Stronger Communities Board agreed the position paper.

#### Action

- Officers to draft letter to send to the Minister including the position paper.

## **10 Update Paper**

Mark Norris, Principal Policy Adviser updated members on issues of interest not covered under the other items on the agenda.

Members comments:

- A member raised concern regarding the progress of the Online Harms Bill. Officers provided reassurance that the LGA is lobbying the Government to pass the Act, although this work is led by another team.

Decision

Safer & Stronger Communities Board noted the update.

Action

- Officers to provide a written update on the Online Harms Bill.

### **Appendix A -Attendance**

| Position/Role   | Councillor             | Authority                           |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chairman        | Cllr Nesil Caliskan    | Enfield Council                     |
| Vice-Chairman   | Cllr Lewis Cocking     | Broxbourne Borough Council          |
| Deputy-chairman | Cllr Heather Kidd      | Shropshire Council                  |
|                 | Cllr Clive Woodbridge  | Epsom and Ewell Borough Council     |
| Members         | Cllr Bill Borrett      | Norfolk County Council              |
|                 | Cllr Louise McKinlay   | Essex County Council                |
|                 | Cllr Julia Lepoidevin  | Coventry City Council               |
|                 | Cllr Lois Samuel       | West Devon Borough Council          |
|                 | Cllr Arnold Saunders   | Salford City Council                |
|                 | Cllr Tracey Dixon      | South Tyneside Council              |
|                 | Cllr Jeanie Bell       | St Helens Council                   |
|                 | Cllr Amanda Chadderton | Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council |
|                 | Cllr Asher Craig       | Bristol City Council                |
|                 | Cllr James Dawson      | Erewash Borough Council             |
| Apologies       | Cllr Jon Ball          | Ealing Council                      |
|                 | Cllr Karen Lucioni     | Isle of Wight Council               |
| Apologies       | Cllr Eric Allen        | Sutton London Borough Council       |
| In Attendance   |                        |                                     |
| LGA Officers    |                        |                                     |