

Safer and Stronger Communities Board 2023/24 – Terms of Reference, Membership and Appointment to Outside Bodies

Purpose of Report

For information.

Summary

This report sets out how the Safer and Stronger Communities Board operates and how the LGA works to support the objectives and work of its member authorities.

LGA Plan Theme: One politically led organisation

Recommendations

That the Board:

- i. agree its Terms of Reference (Appendix A);**
- ii. formally notes the membership for 2022/23 (Appendix B);**
- iii. notes the dates of the future meetings (Appendix C);**
- iv. reviews and notes the member champions role description (Appendix D); and**
- v. note the member champion roles available and register interest with your Lead Member**

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Background

1. The LGA's Boards seek to lead the agenda for local government on the key challenges and issues within their remit and support the overall objectives of the organisation as set out in the [LGA Plan 2022–2025](#).
2. They take an active role in helping to shape the LGA's plan through extensive engagement with councils and oversight of the programmes of work that deliver these strategic priorities.

Terms of reference and membership 2023/24

3. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board's Terms of Reference, Membership and future meetings dates are set out at **Appendixes A, B** and **C** respectively for agreement and noting.

Safer and Stronger Communities Board Lead Members

4. The LGA seeks where possible to work on the basis of consensus across all four groups. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board is politically balanced, and led by the Chair and three Vice/Deputy Chairs, drawn from each of the four political groups. This grouping of members – known as Lead Members – meet in between Board meetings, shape future meeting agendas, provide clearance on time sensitive matters, represent the Board at external events, meetings and in the media, as well as engaging with the wider Board to ensure your views are represented.
5. The Lead Members for 2023/24 are:
 - 5.1. Cllr Heather Kidd, Chair
 - 5.2. Cllr Afrasiab Anwar, Vice-Chair
 - 5.3. Cllr Sue Woolley, Deputy Chair
 - 5.4. Cllr Clive Woodbridge, Deputy Chair

The Safer and Stronger Communities team

6. The Board is supported by a cross cutting team of LGA officers, with policy colleagues and a designated Member Services Officer being those who you are likely to have regular contact with.

7. The Safer and Stronger Communities team supports the LGA's work on the Board's priorities, and also a number of other issues which are within the Board's remit. The team works with Board Members, the LGA media team and political groups to maintain local government's reputation on community safety issues in the media; conducts our lobbying work (according to Members' steer) in conjunction with the Parliamentary affairs team, and works collaboratively with other Boards across relevant cross cutting policy and improvement issues.
8. The team supports Members in person or by briefing when they represent the LGA on external speaking platforms or at Ministerial or Whitehall events. We will provide briefing notes and/or suggested speaking notes as required in advance of each engagement.
9. The team also participate in a number of officer working groups and programme boards, representing the sector's interests and putting forward the LGA's agreed policy positions.

Communications and Events

10. There are a number of internal and external communications channels available to help the Safer and Stronger Communities Board promote the work it is doing and to seek views from our member authorities.
11. The team arranges regular conferences (currently in webinar format), with the following sessions currently planned and are others likely to be scheduled over the course of the year:
 - 11.1. 1-2 November 2023: Licensing Leadership Essentials
 - 11.2. 1-2 November 2023: Fire Leadership Essentials
 - 11.3. 7 February 2024: Annual Licensing Conference
 - 11.4. 12-13 March 2024: Annual Fire conference
12. Alongside this, the team arranges training and learning events in partnership with the LGA's improvement team.
13. We also have a dedicated section on the LGA website, monthly e-bulletins, outside speaking engagements and interviews, advisory networks, features and news items in First magazine.

Safer and Stronger Communities Board outside body appointments

14. The LGA benefits from a wide network of member representatives on outside bodies. These appointments are reviewed on an annual basis across the Association to ensure that the aims and objectives of the outside bodies remain pertinent to the LGA and accurately reflect its priorities. Appointments should as far as possible be made in proportion with political representation across the

LGA; as an LGA representative, members appointed to these roles should speak for the Association, and not one particular political Group.

15. The Board is currently represented by members on two outside bodies:

15.1. National Expert Steering Group – Domestic Abuse Act accommodation duty (ministerial group)

15.2. ASB Action Plan Ministerial Oversight Group

Members are invited to express any interest in serving on these two outside bodies to their relevant Lead Member. In due course, there may be similar ministerial groups developed around serious and organised crime and the Victims and Prisoners Bill duty to collaborate.

16. In the event that a Board member is required to represent the LGA on any other outside bodies, officers will liaise with lead members to ensure a nominee from the Board is identified. In these circumstances, Members appointed to represent the LGA on an outside body are asked to provide regular feedback, either through the Board meetings, or alternative mechanisms.

Member Champions

17. The proposed 2023/2024 member champion roles are set out below. These reflect anticipated demand for the Board to be represented at external meetings and speaking engagements. Please submit your interest to your Lead Members outside of the Board meeting:

17.1. Domestic abuse/Violence Against Women and Girls

17.2. Licensing and regulatory services

17.3. Modern slavery

17.4. Water safety

17.5. Anti-social behaviour

18. A role description for member champions is set out at **Appendix D**.

19. As the Board's work programme develops through the year, there will of course be scope to bring in members to specific aspects of this as required and to create new champion roles if needed as work progresses.

Implications for Wales

20. None

Financial Implications

21. There are no substantial financial implications arising directly from this report. Reasonable travel and subsistence costs will be paid by the LGA for expenses

incurred by a member appointee, whilst carrying out a representative role on an outside body on behalf of the LGA.

Equalities implications

22. There are no equalities implications arising from this paper.

Next steps

23. Members to note the content of this report and the proceeding appendices.