

# Greater Manchester Combined Authority

## Police & Crime Panel

**Date:** 16 March 2026

**Subject:** Priority 9: Reducing and Preventing Gender-Based Violence and All Forms of Serious Violence

**Report of:** Kate Green, Deputy Mayor

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

This is a highlight report on Priority 9 of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan: Reducing and Preventing Gender-Based Violence and All Forms of Serious Violence’.

This report provides a summary of progress against all of the actions outlined under this priority in the GM Police and Crime Plan, so that the Panel can assess progress against this priority in its totality.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Police, Fire & Crime panel is requested to:

1. Note the priority 9 highlight report progress update.

### **CONTACT OFFICERS:**

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## **Equalities Impact, Carbon, and Sustainability Assessment:**

A full Equality Impact Assessment was produced for the Greater Manchester 'Standing Together' Police and Crime Plan which this priority report sits within. The priorities and commitments in the Plan were developed taking specific account of the EIA. Updates on equality actions are included within this report.

## **Risk Management**

Should the priorities and commitments in the Plan not be achieved or progressed there is a risk of increased harm to individual citizens and our communities and indeed their perception of community safety. This itself poses further risks to overall ambitions of Greater Manchester for its citizens and communities. The scrutiny by the Panel is one mechanism of monitoring progress, but this is supplemented by performance management mechanisms within GMCA and relevant partner agencies that continually monitors the progress of the Plan and which can dictate mitigating action, where necessary.

## **Legal Considerations**

No legal considerations – this report is an update on progress of delivery of the Standing Together: Police and Crime Plan 2024-2029.

## **Financial Consequences – Revenue N/A**

## **Financial Consequences – Capital N/A**

## **Number of attachments to the report: 0**

## **Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

## **Background Papers**

Standing Together: Police and Crime Plan

[Standing Together Our plan for policing and safer and stronger communities in Greater Manchester 2024-2029](#)

## **Tracking/ Process**

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution?

No

## **Exemption from call in**

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

**Bee Network Committee**

N/A

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

N/A

## **Priority 9: Reducing and Preventing Gender-Based Violence and All Forms of Serious Violence**

### **Executive Summary**

1. Greater Manchester continues to make strong, evidence led progress in reducing and preventing gender-based violence and all forms of serious violence.
2. The Greater Than Violence Strategy has continued to drive a whole system, partnership-based approach to tackling knife crime, youth violence, and serious harm. Hotspot policing through Operation Venture has strengthened deterrence and visibility, while enhanced school engagement and collaboration with StreetDoctors and Stop the Bleed have expanded early intervention education.
3. Work to build safer communities and strengthen families has accelerated through primary school summits, community sector engagement, creative and sports-based interventions, and locality driven support models such as the PACS programme via OASIS.
4. The community led approach continues to grow, with active VCFSE involvement, strengthened feedback loops, and integration of local insights into VRU planning.
5. Implementation of the Serious Violence Duty remains a central convening responsibility, with robust governance, risk oversight, and improved information sharing across health, education, policing and VCFSE partners.
6. In education settings, GM has delivered thematic symposiums, expanded Operation Venture engagement, and broadened arts and culture-based prevention. Programmes such as BLOCKS, a trauma informed mentoring intervention supporting transitions into secondary school, continue to reduce risk and build resilience.
7. At the end of year four of the GBV Strategy, GM has developed a new three-year delivery plan aligned with the national VAWG strategy. The plan spans housing, employment, children, policing, education, tech enabled abuse, honour-based abuse, and service transformation.
8. The Lived Experience Panel has played an increasingly central role, contributing to work on nonreporting victims, IDVA/ISVA commissioning reviews, housing and occupation orders, improvements to Family Court experiences, and GM wide collaboration with other panels.
9. GM's status as a pioneering region has been further demonstrated through:

- a. Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) rollout across all boroughs, with 771 orders granted and strong early impact.
  - b. Domestic Abuse Crisis Pilots in Bolton and Salford, currently under review for wider rollout.
  - c. Housing Occupation Order programme enabling survivors to remain safely at home.
  - d. Employer focused GBV policies, aiming to create safer, supportive workplaces.
  - e. A full Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Coordination (MARAC) review to modernise and improve multiagency safeguarding.
  - f. A Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment+ tool codesigned for cross agency consistency.
10. The latest phase of the #IsThisOK campaign delivered significant public engagement through physical and digital advertising, with millions of impressions and high completion rates. The campaign has been shortlisted for an LGC Award.
  11. Work continues with employers, housing partners, and education providers to build safer environments for women and girls, including an innovative project designed and delivered *by* young women to deepen understanding of their experiences.
  12. Finally, GM continues to address vulnerabilities linked to No Recourse to Public Funds, evolving the legacy of the Lotus Hub to ensure support for migrant women experiencing GBV, with local authorities co-funding immigration support for 250 individuals annually.

## **1.1 Reduce and prevent serious violence and knife crime**

### **1.1.1 Implement and deliver our Violence Reduction Strategy, 'Greater than Violence,' to reduce knife-enabled serious violence, non-domestic homicides and hospital admissions for assaults, especially among victims aged under 25.**

- Operation Venture delivered targeted hotspot policing, strengthened neighbourhood policing visibility, and enhanced school engagement to reduce knife-enabled violence. School Engagement Officers and wider contributions from GMP and the criminal justice system continue to play a central role in prevention and in targeting individuals carrying knives.
- Collaboration with StreetDoctors and Stop the Bleed has expanded educational outreach on the risks and consequences of serious violence.
- The STEPs programme, our joint VRU and gender-based violence education and prevention offer, has been embedded as a core component of our strategic schools engagement work.

- PIED (Prevention, Intervention, Engagement, Diversion), recognised nationally as best practice within the Serious Violence JTAI, is now being adopted nationally, as a strengthened model for identifying and supporting young people at heightened risk.
- A Home Office strategic evaluation is underway to shape and strengthen future delivery of the Greater Than Violence Strategy.

**1.1.2 Continue to invest in programmes that help to reduce violence and work to support and strengthen families, make schools safer environments and communities safer places to live.**

- Primary School Summit and Stop the Bleed expansion underpin safer learning environments and promote prosocial activity.
- Education Symposium events and strengthened engagement with the VCFSE community support the development of multi-agency packages of support for families and young people.
- Continued development of creative and sports sector engagement to broaden safe, positive environments for young people.
- Community-led action work strengthens safer neighbourhoods by identifying local priorities and delivering family-level interventions, including the Parent and Carer Service (PACS) delivered via VRU partner OASIS.
- Supported pathways into education, skills, training and employment continue to be expanded, including partnership work in south Manchester with MCC, the Royal Foundation and VCFSE partners through the *We Can Work It Out* project.

**1.1.3 Continue to listen to communities and invest in services which will address the priorities they identify to reduce serious violence in their area through our community-led approach, embedding this approach across all our Greater Manchester localities and strengthening our Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to deliver services and support.**

- The VRU Community Network, launched last year, is now a key mechanism for shaping programme design, strategic intent and community influence across the VRU's work.
- A growing VCFSE pipeline is evidenced through active funding enquiries, partnership liaison and alignment of resources to local priorities and community capacity.

- Community insight continues to be integrated into VRU strategic reporting, commissioning and future planning.

**1.1.4 Continue our convening role for the Serious Violence Duty, closely monitoring its implementation to ensure responsible and relevant agencies do all they can to discharge their duties in reducing violence, to develop meaningful partnerships and to share information more effectively.**

- Governance and risk oversight remain active through the VRU Directors' Forum and Board preparations. National escalation of funding uncertainty reinforced the need for robust Serious Violence Duty partnership working.
- Implementation Plan and Board governance set clear roles (oversight, performance scrutiny, financial stewardship) that support Duty compliance and information sharing across agencies.
- Continued convening of partners across health, education, police and VCFSE to strengthen information sharing and collaboration.
- Insights from evaluation help ensure partnership arrangements remain evidence based and effective.
- Strategic engagement events reinforce understanding of roles, responsibilities and shared outcomes.

**1.1.5 Work with the education system across Greater Manchester to help reduce violence, developing meaningful offers and interventions for schools and colleges to use with their students.**

- Thematic Education Symposiums have convened Pupil Referral Units, colleges, mainstream schools, VCFSE partners and employers to co design practical interventions to reduce violence and support young people.
- Operation Venture's school-based engagement activity continues to strengthen visibility of support and create earlier opportunities for intervention.
- The STEPs programme provides a structured education-based response to gender based violence and prevention, expanding the VRU's suite of offers for schools and colleges.
- Arts and culture sector partnerships are exploring opportunities for schools to embed creative approaches to violence prevention.
- The BLOCKS programme, a trauma informed, strengths based mentoring approach supporting transition from primary to secondary school, continues to reduce risk and build protective factors among younger cohorts.

- Expanded work on supported pathways into FE, employment, skills and training, including the We Can Work It Out partnership, supports safer transitions and long-term outcomes for young people.

## **1.2 Redouble our commitment to our 10-year Gender-Based Violence Strategy and hold ourselves to account for its delivery**

We are now at the end of the first four years of the implementation of the Greater Manchester Gender-Based Violence Strategy (GM GBV). We have delivered two, two-year delivery plans, and we are in the process of presenting a new three-year plan to the Gender-Based Violence Board at its meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026. This new Delivery Plan has taken cognisance of the Government's VAWG Strategy published in December 2025, ensuring effective alignment.

This new proposed plan is wide-ranging and ambitious and includes policy development and delivery of proposals in the following areas:

- Housing
- Employment
- Children
- Education
- Policing
- Tech enabled Abuse
- So-Called 'Honour Based' Abuse
- Driving Change together (transforming Services)

Once approved by the GBV Board we will distribute this delivery plan to the Police and Crime Panel for their information.

### **1.2.1 Continue our cutting-edge work with our gender-based violence Lived Experience Panel. The Lived Experience Panel ensures an authentic influential voice in the development of policy, the effective design of services, and the relevance of our interventions across all areas of the Gender-Based Violence Delivery Plan.**

The past year has been a busy time for the Lived Experience Panel as they have become more centrally involved in designing and advising on the delivery of key aspects of our GBV Strategy. This has included work in the following areas:

- **Victims who don't report** - Members of the Panel have worked closely with our research partner DJS to design a process via which we will capture the voices of victims of domestic abuse who did not report to the police. We know

that a significant number of survivors of DA do not report and their voices go unheard – we felt that it was critical for us to capture these voices to improve our approach to survivors going forward.

- **Review of IDVA & ISVA Services** – Members have been involved in the commissioning process to appoint consultants to undertake this work and have then been involved in guiding the delivery of this work. The results of this work will guide the provision of services central to the wellbeing of survivors across GM.
- **Housing and Occupation Orders** – The Panel will be reviewing our work in this area to validate that it protects the wellbeing and safety of individuals who are seeking to protect themselves and their children by seeking the award of an occupation order.
- **Family Courts work** – This is an area of work that is close to the hearts of a few members of our Panel who have had traumatic experiences of the Family Court System. The Steering Group established under the aegis of the Lived Experience Panel and Tameside Council are seeking to influence the operation of Family Courts in GM so that they have greater awareness of the impact of their work on families going through their system.
- **Co-ordination of Greater Manchester wide GBV Lived Experience Panels** – The GM GBV Lived Experience Panel has worked with other Lived Experience Panels across GM and has convened a GM wide meeting to share lessons, best practice, plans for the future and agree continued collaboration.

### **1.2.2 Ensure that Greater Manchester is recognised as a pioneering city-region which has zero tolerance for gender-based violence.**

In Greater Manchester we are constantly sense checking our priorities and our delivery approach to combatting GBV – our Lived Experience Panel are hugely influential in this process. Over the last year we have implemented/delivered and evaluated the following initiatives:

- **DAPOs** - Greater Manchester was one of four pilot areas nationally to implement the new Domestic Abuse Protection orders (DAPOs). The pilot was launched in Bury in November 2024 and since that time has been rolled out across Greater Manchester with the last Borough coming on board in March of this year. In that time GM has had 771 DAPOs granted 5 of which are indefinite DAPOs, 395 arrests have been made for Breaches of DAPO requirements (all these figures as of 31/01/2026). The pilot has been deemed a success and DAPOs are now to be rolled out across the country. We are pleased that Government has listened to our feedback, and will strengthen DAPOs further via an amendment to the Crime and Policing bill.

DAPOs enable us to keep survivors of domestic abuse much safer than previously and because of this have proved to be very popular.

- **DA Crisis Pilots** – We have been delivering the DA Crisis Pilot in Bolton and Salford for the last two years. It was our intention to roll this pilot out to the whole of GM from April 2026, but we are conducting a review of all our IDVA and ISVA services and it seemed wrong not to include the Crisis Pilots in this review. The review will report in the autumn of 2026, and it is our hope that the benefits of the Crisis Pilot approach will be recognised in the review and that we will then be able to roll this approach out to the whole of GM. In the two areas where the approach is being delivered it is popular with victims, GMP and the main IDVA service. We have highlighted this approach to the Home Office, and it is our hope that something like it might be adopted more widely.
- **Occupation Orders** – In the second quarter of 2025 we were successful in a bid into the Retained Business Rate process to deliver, in partnership with GM Housing Providers, occupation orders for survivors of domestic abuse. Essentially, survivors will be offered the option of gaining an occupation order against their perpetrator. These orders will enable survivors to stay in the family home with their children rather than being housed in unsuitable temporary accommodation. In the last financial year, it is estimated that the cost of housing families in temporary accommodation is circa £15 - £20 million per annum. Perpetrators will be helped with housing if they agree to participate in programmes to alter their behaviours; if they refuse to participate in these programmes they will be deemed to have made themselves intentionally homeless.
- **Work with Employers** – another area where we were successful in our bid into the Retained Business Rate process. It is our aim to develop world leading policies that will protect people who are subject to GBV and enable them to continue to fully participate in economic life. Our priority is to develop these policies across public sector agencies in GM (including all ten GM Local Authorities, GMCA, TFGM, GMFRS and GMP). We then want to develop this work to encompass the private sector in GM, in partnership with the Good Employment Charter. In this work we will demonstrate a pioneering approach to economic development that delivers economic advantage alongside inclusivity.
- **Review of MARAC** – All partners in the MARAC process across GM have acknowledged over the past few years that the process needed some serious revision if it was to deliver on its stated aim of increasing the safety, health, and well-being of victims (adults and children) experiencing high-risk domestic abuse. GMP in partnership with GMCA have led a root and branch review of the MARAC process and proposals for transformation in delivery are at the final stages of consultation. This process has involved all the geography of GM as well as involving all key agencies and sectors. We believe the

outcome will be a MARAC process that is fit for purpose going forward and one that others will seek to emulate.

- **Delivery of DARA +** - In the last half of 2025 the DASH risk assessment tool came under significant scrutiny and criticism. As a result of this the College of Policing has instructed all police forces nationally to adopt the DARA risk assessment tool developed by themselves. In Greater Manchester, GMP and GMCA agreed that it would be desirable if a single risk assessment tool could be agreed and adopted across all agencies dealing with DA risk. GMP were willing to seek views on a DARA plus tool that would fulfil the requirements set out by the College of Policing whilst also meeting some of the concerns of the broader coalition involved in the management of risk for DA victims. Again, this process has involved all the geography of GM as well as involving all key agencies and sectors. We believe the outcome will be a DARA + risk assessment tool that is fit for purpose going forward and one that others will seek to emulate.

### **1.2.3 Commission a gender-based violence strategic needs assessment to provide an empirical basis for our work and ensure it is evidence led**

- **Strategic Needs Assessment** - Because of the work involved in delivering the review of Victims services and the review of IDVA & ISVA services this Strategic Needs assessment has been delayed but it will be delivered later in 2026.

### **1.2.4 Ensure that the next iteration of the #IsThisOk campaign continues to deliver a step change in campaigning and public engagement that aims to change men's and boys' behaviour towards women and girls.**

- Delivered the campaign around coercive control
- Out of Home advertising garnered the following results:
  - Lightboxes – 4,800,000 impacts. These free -standing lightboxes are located on both platforms of Piccadilly tram station and are exclusively reserved for TfGM partners.
  - Piccadilly Mezzanine 1,080,000 Impacts
  - AVA screens – 1,800,000 impacts
  - Double royals – 2,400,000 impacts
- On social media the figures for the two phases of the campaign were:

<b>Phase One Total</b>	<b>51%</b>	Male	<b>2,804,612</b>	Impressions
	<b>49%</b>	Female	<b>1,128,040</b>	Reach
			<b>2.49</b>	Frequency
	<b>36%</b>	18-34	<b>2,405</b>	Link clicks
	<b>35%</b>	35-54	<b>0.09%</b>	Click through rate
	<b>29%</b>	55+	<b>199,514</b>	Views to completion
			<b>17.69%</b>	Video completion rate

<b>Phase Two Total</b>	<b>60%</b>	Male	<b>960,803</b>	Impressions
	<b>40%</b>	Female	<b>491,162</b>	Reach
			<b>1.96</b>	Frequency
			<b>2,324</b>	Link clicks
	<b>72%</b>	18-34	<b>0.24%</b>	Click through rate
	<b>28%</b>	35-54	<b>64,146</b>	Views to completion
	<b>0%</b>	55+	<b>13.06%</b>	Video completion rate

- We are currently conducting focus groups to evaluate more fully the impact of the campaign.
- The latest #isthisokay campaign has been shortlisted in the Local Government Chronicle’s competition for Campaign of the Year.

**1.2.5 Work with housing colleagues across Greater Manchester to ensure victims and survivors of gender-based violence and their children can remain in the family home if they wish to do so**

- We are working with GM Housing Providers to develop our approach to occupation orders for survivors of domestic abuse. Essentially, survivors will be offered the option of gaining an occupation order against their perpetrator. These orders will enable survivors to stay in the family home with their children rather than being housed in unsuitable temporary accommodation. In the last financial year, it is estimated that the cost of housing families in temporary accommodation is circa £15 - £20 million per annum. Perpetrators will be helped with housing if they agree to participate in programmes to alter their behaviours; if they refuse to participate in these programmes they will be deemed to have made themselves intentionally homeless.

**1.2.7 Identify and respond to the gender-based violence issues that affect women and girls in education, schools, colleges and universities, and work with**

## **those who work with our children, to develop meaningful programmes and interventions that empower them to challenge misogyny and embrace equity**

- This was the final project we submitted to the Retained Business Rate process, and it also received support. In developing this work, we were conscious of the amount of work, training and development that had been and continues to be devoted to boys and young men to highlight to them the dangers of misogyny and the importance of developing an agenda of positive masculinity. All this work is central to our efforts in the prevention strand of our strategy and important if we are to make progress. However, we recognised that there is a dearth of data, insight and perspectives of the experiences of young women and girls and this project seeks to correct that imbalance. In developing this work, we have teamed up with the people behind the BeeWell survey and the academics that support this process. We have also involved our Lived Experience Panel, the Youth Rep from the GBV Board and others to ensure that the project is broadly based. The project itself will be designed and delivered by young women and girls and projects of this nature take longer to develop in order to ensure that they are truly co-designed and delivered.

### **1.2.8 Continue to work with Government to protect the most vulnerable in our society from gender-based violence, particularly those with no recourse to public funds**

- In Greater Manchester we developed the Lotus Hub and were successful in obtaining £680,000 of funding from the last Government to deliver it. The Lotus Hub was a collaboration between five agencies who worked with migrant women and women who were at risk of being subject to the rules around no recourse to public funds (NRPF). The Lotus Hub project was funded for two years and its outputs were impressive. We hoped that,, because of the project's success, it would retain funding under the new Government – this did not happen and the project had to be wound up.
- But we still had the issue of women fleeing domestic violence or so-called 'honour-based' abuse who had no recourse to public funds in GM and who would be destitute. As a Combined Authority we immediately sought to fill the immigration support element of the work to try to ensure that we could regularise as many of these individuals' immigration status as possible. All ten GM Authorities agreed to support our proposal at a cost of £8k each per annum for three years. GMCA contributed £12K per annum for the same three year period. The project has been operational for six months and it will meet the needs of 250 individuals and their families each year. At this point in time we have been asked by the local authorities in GM to look at the costs of expanding the project.

- The Government has just issued, in the last week, a new competitive call for work in this area and we have just initiated discussions with previous Lotus Hub partners to take proposals forward.