
KATE GREEN
**DEPUTY MAYOR
OF GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP,
Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

May 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

SUBJECT: HMICFRS inspection of how well the police tackle serious youth violence

I write in response to the recent HMICFRS inspection of the police response to serious youth violence.

In Greater Manchester we want our communities to feel safe and secure and so understand the impact that serious violent crime can have, particularly on our young people. We know serious violence blights the lives of victims, families and communities and whilst we remain committed to ensuring effective enforcement activity, we understand that this alone is not enough. Through the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) we continue to support and invest in our local communities to tackle existing and emerging challenges together to ensure a long-term and meaningful response. Our community-led approach enables the VRU to work closely with communities to understand their strengths, challenges, and needs and determine how local investments will be made. We are seeing some very encouraging results with this work, details of which can be found on our VRU website: <https://gmvrु.co.uk/>

Our whole approach to tackling violence is built upon strong partnership working and a close alignment to the work of Community Safety Partnerships and VCSEF sector. Our interventions are commissioned through intelligence and evidence-led approaches to understanding the nature and demand of the issues in Greater Manchester, including through our annual strategic needs assessments and the dedicated analytical resources within the VRU. From Year 1, we have worked in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University to undertake research, analysis and independent evaluations of our projects and interventions.

As an example of this work, the VRU has recently launched a new primary schools transition programme which followed engagement with head teachers who overwhelmingly highlighted the concerns about pupil welfare and behaviour following the COVID lockdowns and in particular the issues facing children as they transition to high school. These concerns were supported by rising exclusions data, particularly in areas of high crime and high deprivation.

GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

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I am grateful to HMICFRS for undertaking this inspection and I note the findings of the report, which includes a number of recommendations, two of which were for Chief Constables. I can comment on these as follows:

Recommendation 1 - By 31 March 2024, chief constables should make sure their officers are trained in the use of Home Office crime outcome 22. The Home Office defines outcome 22 as when: "diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from the crime report, has been undertaken and it is not in the public interest to take any further action"

Having spoken with Senior Officers at Greater Manchester Police regarding this recommendation I can confirm that crime recording standards remain a core part of GMP's training programme for all student officers. In addition to this, a one-week crime evaluators course is available to further strengthen this learning.

Details of diversionary, educational or intervention activities are included in the student officer classroom, syndicated training and tutor phase training stages. This includes the reduction in criminalisation of children, violence against women and girls (VAWG), exploitation and partnership working. The Neighbourhood Policing Course is providing accredited training to the neighbourhood policing workforce on a range of intervention and partnership interventions.

As part of this approach, the Greater Manchester VRU has developed a PIED programme which takes a partnership approach to ensuring that children and young people who have come to the attention of GMP but have not been arrested or charged, are referred into a relevant diversionary scheme or positive activity to minimise the likelihood of future offending behaviour. In addition, last week saw the launch of the VRU's Community Sport Strategy which will use sports and positive activities as the hook to engage with and influence the behaviour of young people at risk of involvement in violence.

Recommendation 2 - By 31 March 2024, chief constables should make sure their forces, through data collection and analysis, understand the levels of racial disproportionality in serious youth violence in their force areas.

Following the publication of this recommendation, GMP has undertaken analytical research into racial disproportionality in instances of serious youth violence.

I have been informed of an intention to form a working group of key personnel, including officials from my office to further develop this work, working to an agreed methodology. The combined team will collect data and develop a number of assessments and products that can then be incorporated into district Strategic Needs Assessments to enable the data to be operationalised.

More broadly, GMP recently launched its own Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy which has been well received and is aligned to the national Police Race Action Plan. Progress against this strategy has been reported to the Mayors Race Equality Panel, of which I am sighted.

Yours sincerely



Kate Green
Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester

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