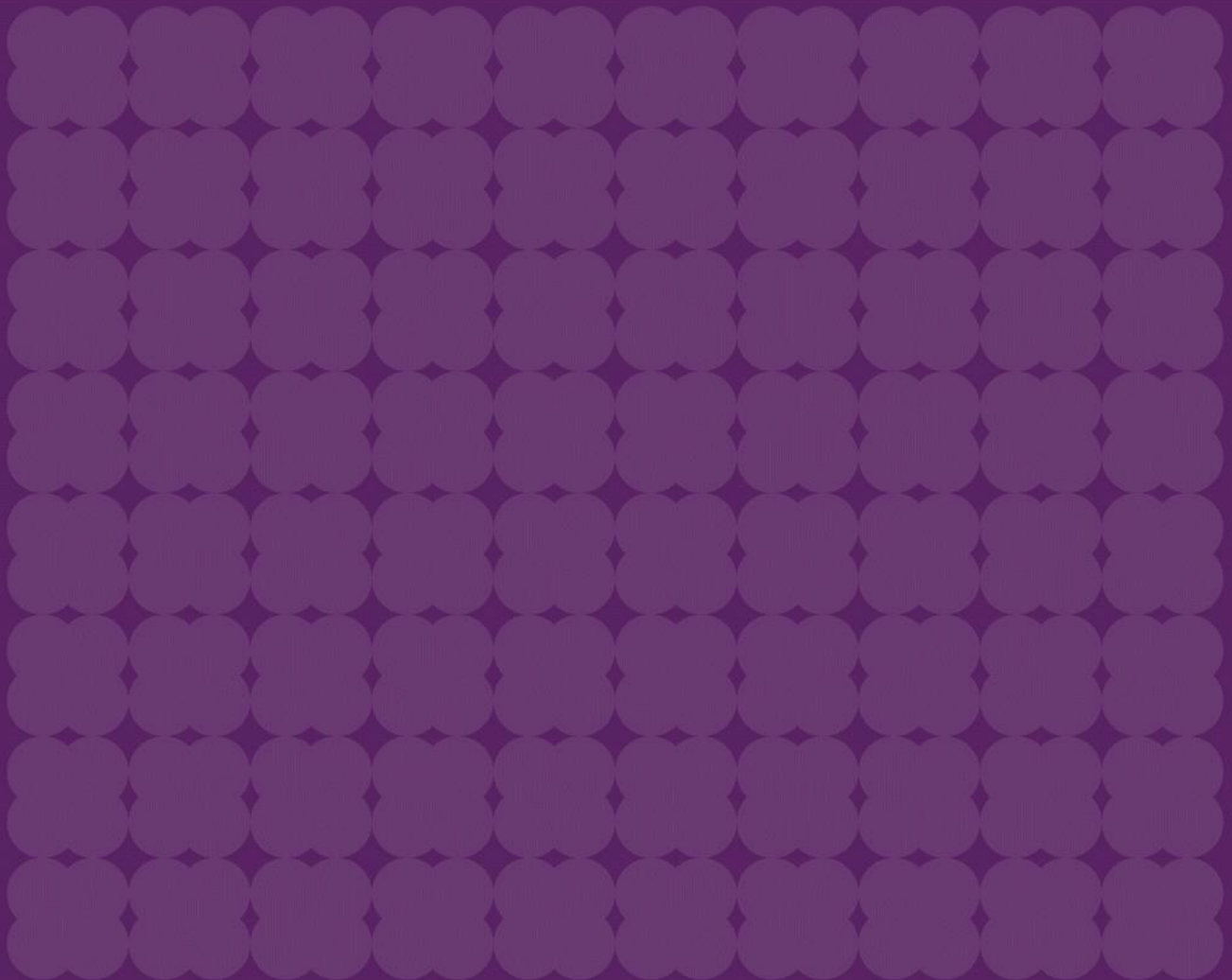


Annual Report

Gender-Based Violence Strategy

August 2024



Foreword



The production of an annual report offers a great opportunity to reflect on the past year and assess the progress that has been made. Our ambition, outlined in our Gender Based Violence (GBV) Strategy, is bold and unwavering; we see the struggle against GBV as central to our work.

So it is with real pride that I report on some of the significant achievements we have delivered over the last year, the second full year in the delivery of our strategy.

The central achievement of this last year, and one that fills me with hope and renewed vigour for the year ahead, has been the establishment of our Lived Experience Panel. Our Lived Experience Panel is comprised of inspirational women who, drawing on their own experiences, have committed themselves to working with us to develop and deliver radical and creative responses to the challenge posed by GBV. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment and support in our joint endeavour.

We have invested heavily in communications to support the delivery of the GBV strategy. The #IsThisOK campaign, championed by the Mayor, Andy Burnham, calls

on men and boys to call out sexist and misogynistic behaviours and to consider their own conduct. It has had significant reach, with over 4.1 million views social media.

Beyond its reach, #IsThisOK has had significant impact too, with over half of men and boys surveyed as part of evaluating the campaign phase (53%) saying it has made them think, feel, or want to do something differently.

Greater Manchester Police were one of the second stage pilot forces for Operation Soteria. Operation Soteria has now been rolled out across the country, and the hope in Greater Manchester is that it will radically improve the reportage, investigation, and prosecution of rape. Under the auspices of the GBV strategy, GMCA have invested significant resources to support the successful delivery of Operation Soteria.

I am delighted to report that in the last year, with the support of the Home Office, we have significantly improved funding to those impacted by the rules surrounding no recourse to public funds (NRPF). Too often women across Greater Manchester are faced with the impossible choice between further brutalisation or destitution.

The establishment of the Lotus Hub with this funding has provided these women with an alternative, a choice that enables them to rebuild their lives and their futures.

While we know that there is still work to do and that the pace of change needs to continue, we are seeing progress with domestic abuse arrest rates and solved crime rates increasingly showing that the police are detecting significantly more crimes and ensuring that those who pose a risk are remanded into custody.

These are just four areas where we are making significant progress, but as you read this annual report you will quickly realise that this is merely a snapshot of the work that is being undertaken across Greater Manchester. In the year ahead, I look forward to working with our GBV Board members, leaders and organisations from all sectors, and the communities of Greater Manchester to continue this vital work and to deliver further progress. Together we will make the change.



Kate Green

Deputy Mayor for policing, crime, criminal justice and fire

Our impact on a page

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|  | Over £5million funding to support programmes, including for those with no recourse to public funds. |
|  | Commissioned a project in schools to understand and change boys' perceptions of women and girls. |
|  | Relaunched the #IsThisOK campaign to reach more men and boys, with over 4.1 million views. |
|  | Created a Lived Experience Panel of women from diverse backgrounds to shape policy. |
|  | Hosted a United Nations visit to Manchester and informed their UK report. |
|  | Over 30 specialist advisors funded to work with adults and children. |
|  | Pilot of Domestic Abuse Related Homicide Review with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner. |
|  | Pilot and rollout of multi-agency model to target high-harm, high-risk perpetrators. |
|  | More domestic abuse crimes solved by Greater Manchester Police, from 9.2% in 21/22 to 12.6% in 23/24. |

Our principles



- Ensuring the voice of lived experience is central to the development and delivery of the GBV Strategy.
- Recognising the particular circumstances of peoples' lives that make them more vulnerable to GBV.
- Emphasising the importance of a trauma-informed approach to our work around GBV.
- Embracing the importance of partnership working to improve services for those impacted by GBV.
- Acknowledging that GBV is overwhelmingly perpetrated by men.
- Promoting the ambition to radically improve services to victims/survivors of GBV across Greater Manchester.
- Giving the voiceless and marginalised a voice.
- Developing ambitious and creative approaches to issues, obstacles and opportunities.

Funding



- Distributed over £350,000 to organisations working with victims/survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence respond to the cost-of-living crisis.
- Gained funding of almost £2 million for GM-wide delivery of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) provision across both statutory and non-statutory sectors.
- Gained additional funding of £162,000 to support the delivery of IDVA/ISVA services targeted at the following groups: street sex workers; people affected by neurodivergence; women with NRPF; and people who are victims and survivors of police-perpetrated domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- Won £680,000 of Home Office grant to provide a bespoke approach to helping women impacted by GBV who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).
- Received support from the Home Office of almost £2million to deliver perpetrator programmes across Greater Manchester.

- Agreed to pool resources across the city-region to deliver immigration advice to people with NRPF.
- Agreed city-region-wide financial support for the provision of a refuge to support male victims and survivors of GBV.

Innovation



- Delivered domestic abuse crisis pilots – in Bolton and Salford to trail an innovative approach to supporting victims/survivors of domestic abuse.
- Roll out of Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) across Greater Manchester to radically improve management of programmes working with high harm – high risk perpetrators.
- Worked with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s Office to improve the oversight mechanisms for Domestic Related Death Reviews.
- GMP designated as an Operation Soteria pilot force to transform the investigation and prosecution of rape.
- GMP selected as a pilot force to deliver Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPO) which aims to completely overhaul the management of domestic abuse perpetrators.
- Developed a hub and spoke model to deliver services across GM targeted at women affected by GBV and who have NRPF.

- Stalking & Harassment Hub established to deliver improved responses around stalking & harassment.
- Funding of Mother Mountain Productions to deliver training through virtual reality headsets to immerse those working in professional sectors, such as legal, health and social care, into the shoes of those experiencing coercive control.

Communities



- Commissioned a study into honour-based abuse and forced marriage, to form decision making about priorities in this area.
- Delivered Positive Masculinities programme in Bolton & Salford to 600 boys, 2300 men.
- Ensured a step change improvement in the delivery of services to women impacted by GBV who have NRPF, including pooling of resources across GM to deliver immigration advice.
- Working with all GM districts to roll out Multi- Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) model and alignment with the Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) to support the GMP aim of the relentless pursuit of perpetrators.

Improving and supporting services



- Agreed a GM out-of-borough housing reciprocal arrangement, so that no-one fleeing GBV will be negatively impacted by needing to move boroughs.
- Delivered mental health pathfinders for survivors of sexual assault and abuse.
- Commissioned a programme based in school to understand, change & evaluate boys' perceptions/behaviour towards women & girls.
- Delivered a pilot with Manchester Foundation Trust and local sexual health services to increase identification, referral, and support for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.
- Supported the delivery of Domestic Abuse Matters training to frontline GMP officers.
- GMP designated as an Operation Soteria pilot force to transform the investigation and prosecution of rape.
- Worked closely with Family Drug and Alcohol Courts to support them to rollout across Greater Manchester.

- Supported the city-region's landlords to gain Domestic Abuse Housing Association (DAHA) accreditation.

Campaigning, networking and influencing



The #IsThisOK campaign had significant reach, with over 4.1 million views of the three core materials on social media:

- Launch film: 1.5 million views.
- Film series: 745,000 views.
- Podcast series: 260 full episode listens, 810 full episode views, 1.92 million views of social media clips. Over half of men and boys surveyed as part of evaluating the campaign (53%) said the campaign has made them think, feel, or want to do something differently.

With the GMCA Women & Girls Panel and the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) subgroup, the Strategy has influenced the following:

- Visit from UN Special Rapporteur for VAWG and the UN Human Rights Commission to hear about Greater Manchester's GBV Strategy and delivery.

- Vice President of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), the expert group charged with overseeing implementation of the Council of Europe's VAWG Strategy.
- Numerous inputs to the work of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.
- Part of the Local Government Association NRPF seminar.
- Southall Black Sisters gains model development.
- Ministry of Justice review of services around VAWG.
- Work with Association of Police & Crime Commissioners (APCC) to support policy.



Lived experience

The GBV Lived Experience Panel plays a central role in guiding our work. Our approach to this work on GBV has included:

- **Genuine voices:** Lived experience panel members are survivors and victims. Their stories are raw, and deeply personal. By sharing their experiences, they provide invaluable insights into the impact of GBV on individuals & communities.
- **Making GBV real:** GBV can be reduced to statistics or abstract concepts. The panel humanises this issue by putting faces, emotions & narratives behind the numbers.
- **Influence:** The panel will actively participate in shaping the policies, programmes, and interventions of our GBV Strategy. Their input will inform decision-making, ensuring that strategies are effective, and sensitive to survivors' needs.
- **Empowerment and healing:** Sharing and hearing their experiences can allow them to reclaim agency, break the silence and contribute to positive change.
- **Visibility and awareness:** The panel will raise awareness about GBV by speaking out and fostering a collective movement against violence.

Our Lived Experience Group bridges the gap between policy and reality, amplifying the voices of those who have faced GBV. It's a beacon of hope, resilience, and transformation in the fight against violence.

"We know that GMCA have been steadfast from the outset that the implementation of the GBV Strategy would have the voice of lived experience at its core and be its defining feature.

"We are that voice, and we commit ourselves to ensuring that the voice of lived experience is heard in the development of the strategy and its forward work programme.

“In this commitment we know that we are supported by the members of the GBV Board, and we will work in partnership with them to make the vital changes necessary to support individuals and families impacted by GBV.

“This effort will require us to work hand in hand with GBV Board members, leaders and organisations from all sectors, and the communities of Greater Manchester to deliver the change so desperately needed.” – Member of the Lived Experience Panel

Vision and next steps

During 2023/24 we have worked across public, private, and voluntary sector organisations and with those with lived experience to plan and deliver interventions across the diverse communities of Greater Manchester to reduce gender-based violence.

This report shows that we are making progress in tackling GBV in all its forms, but there is still much to do.

In 2024/25, Greater Manchester will continue to drive forward our Strategy, working together to prevent and respond to gender-based violence across a range of priorities. This will include four new priorities:

- Employers.
- Perpetrators.
- Sex workers.
- Children.
- Travel and transport.
- Men and boys.

Our 2024/26 delivery plan will build on the learning and progress made over the last year with clear deliverables and outcomes to measure how we are delivering against the aims of the Strategy.