

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BOARD
Thursday 17th February – 10am – 12pm
Held on Microsoft Teams
Minutes**

PRESENT:

Bev Hughes (Chair), Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice.

Clare Monaghan (CM), Director, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice & Fire Directorate, GMCA.

Damian Dallimore (DD), Head of Serious Violence & Organised Crime, GMCA.

Chris Edwards (CE), Regional Director, NPS Greater Manchester.

Anthony Creeley (AC), Assistant Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police.

Jane Pilkington (JP), Deputy Director of Population Health, Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership.

Dr Sharmishtha Ghangrekar (SG), Safeguarding Lead, Salford Clinical Commissioning Group.

Fiona Noden (FN), Chief Executive, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust.

Janice Allen (JA), Head Teacher, Falinge High School, Rochdale.

Shabnum Mustapha (SM), Assistant Director, News & Media, GMCA.

Professor David Gadd (DG), Professor of Criminology, University of Manchester.

Nuala O'Rourke (NO), Head of Service, Safeguarding & Learning, Stockport Council.

Duncan Craig (DC), CEO, Survivors Manchester.

Charlotte Curle (CC), Community Member.

Gail Heath (GH), CEO, The Pankhurst Trust (incorporating Manchester Women's Aid).

Jane Gregory (JG), Manager, Salford Survivor Project.

Alison McKenzie-Folan (AMF), Chief Executive, Wigan Council.

OTHER IN ATTENDANCE:

Lucy Phelan (LP), Project Officer, GMCA.

Emma Stonier (ES), Partnership Officer, GMCA.

Sarah Keaveny (SK), Head of Communications, GMCA.

Alison Connelly (AC), Offenders and Criminal Justice Principle, GMCA.

Vicky Sugars (VS), Community Policing Principle, GMCA

Karen Saffman (KS), CPS

Jane Caroll (JC), Director, RoccStar Publications

Nicky Porter (NP), District Commander Rochdale, GMP.

Apologies:

Jeanette Staley, Community Safety Manager, Salford Council

Sam Stabler, Community Safety Manager, Manchester Council

Terry Woods, Deputy Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police

Neil Evans, Strategic Advisor to the Deputy Mayor, GMCA

Katie Nicholson, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, CPS

Memory Nyahunzwi, Chief Executive, The Olive Pathway.

Welcome and Introductions

The chair welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted.

Reflection

The Chair invited the Board to reflect on the recent cases of two people who had been affected by gender-based violence and the impact it had on them. The two cases also illustrated different characteristics including violence towards older women.

Minutes of previous meeting

The board agreed that the minutes of the previous minutes were an accurate record.

Appointment of Co-Chair

The chair advised the board that a panel of people led by Anne Lythgoe from GMCA considered 3 applications from board members. Recommendations were made to the chair to appoint Jane Gregory as Co-Chair. The chair and Jane will meet to discuss how to manage the meetings going forward.

The chair thanked Duncan and Memory for their outstanding applications. This is an annual appointment and there will be opportunities to develop the role and for other members to co-chair the board in the future.

JG introduced herself and gave a background on the Salford Survivor project. JG is from a showman background and is able to bring knowledge of the showman culture to the board to assist strategic long-term systemic change.

Key Priorities 2022/23

The chair advised the board that work had been carried out since the last meeting and asked the board to provide comments and feedback on the proposed areas of activity against the key priorities for the first period of delivery.

Priority 1 – Victim & Survivor Advisory Panel

It is proposed that a victim & survivor advisory panel is established, made up of 10 members, a member from each borough to represent the diversity of Greater Manchester. GMCA will go through a tender process for a VCSE organisation to support the advisory panel to help panel members maintain their independence. The advisory panel would consider how best to include the voices of children and young people.

The following comments were made:

GH advised that she supported the proposal and highlighted the need for the commissioned organisation to provide a significant amount of welfare support to the panel members, including expenses.

DC advised that the primary purpose of the VCSE organisation needs to be gender-based violence and sexual violence

DD advised that children and young people can have a different set of considerations and suggested to look at existing programmes of work within the VRU who already work with those children in various different forms and who have built trusted relationships.

JG advised that consideration needs to be given to how information is gathered and fed back to the board to enable changes to be made. JG emphasised the need for the victim voice.

The chair informed the board that a GMCA review of all current Panels is currently taking place, to conclude in March 2022, and will consider remuneration. The chair noted the feedback from colleagues in Victoria at the last meeting who stressed the importance of remunerating people correctly for their work on a panel. The chair advised that feedback received from the board will be included in the terms of reference and the proposed tender process. The terms of reference will be circulated to board members in due course for comment.

Priority 2 – Public engagement

The need for additional resource for the comms and engagement of the strategy was identified and 3 comm experts have been commissioned to focus on developing a 2-year comms and engagement strategy, develop content of a gender-based violence webpage, support the next stage of the #isthisokay campaign and to support the draft campaign brief. Delivery of comms activity will be reported directly to the board.

The #isthisokay video stats were shared with the board.

The comm experts would like to ask board members questions to get a deeper understanding on audiences in particular. Questions will be circulated to the board members shortly for feedback.

The chair thanked SK for the work carried out on the #isthisokay video.

The chair would like to identify 3 board members to provide input into ongoing comms to ensure wider sets of groups are reached and asked that they contact CM should they be interested. SG and DD were interested in providing ongoing comms.

DG suggested having the video played in GP waiting rooms, probation offices on tv screens to ensure it reaches certain groups of people who do not access social media. CE will evaluate the video usage and profile across Probation. DC has access to Prison TV and can share connections with SK.

CC was pleased to see the reaction to the launch of the video and raised points to consider supporting young men to understand and manage emotions of rejection and consent.

SG thanked SK for providing the stats to the board. SG suggested that professionals within the 10 local authorities should be included in the cascade system and suggested using the big screens across Greater Manchester to play the video.

JG suggested using the local Football Associations to share the video with men and young boys. SK advised that the evaluation indicated that sports was one of the biggest interests of those who shared the video. SK is considering how to link in with Football Clubs. VS advised that night-time economy is a key audience, VS will share contact details of the night time industries association with SK.

GH suggested that the board learns lessons from the communications around the pandemic where it was found that the health service engaged local community groups who are experienced in communicating with communities too late in the process causing misinformation. GH recommended speaking with Charles from Calm who was at the forefront of leading some of those discussions.

- 1. Action 1) Board members to respond to the questionnaire sent by the comms experts.**
- 2. Action 2) Board members to notify Clare Monaghan of their interest in providing input to ongoing comms.**

Priority 3 – Education

A video was played to board to demonstrate the potential of positive behaviour change from a 20-year-old man.

It is proposed that the delivery programme into education is delivered by the current VRU Education sub-group with updated terms of reference and membership to ensure it is fit for purpose. The sub-group will report into the board.

The Chair agreed that it makes sense to use the VRU subgroup as the relationships have already been made with key people in the sector and to avoid replication.

SG suggested that the education sector need to make sure that they work with children to develop communication skills and to help control overwhelm at a younger age. GH would like to see specialists on the membership of the subgroup e.g., Gill Smallwood from FortAlice Bolton.

DC is happy to provide feedback from the Change project who worked with young people about their attitudes to sexting etc.

JA informed the board that Falinge High School in Rochdale held workshops to educate boys aged 11-16 about how attitudes and behaviours lead to all forms of violence and violence prevention experts from the VRU supported the event. The #isthisokay video was shown to students and the mayor spoke to pupils about gender-based violence. A total of 245 boys from the school have signed the White Ribbon pledge to stand up against violence towards women and girls.

JA raised concerns that some schools are working in a reactive way and are not considering the culture within school which is based around the idea of the universal declaration of human rights, such as an open-door policy.

Headteachers in Rochdale are meeting to discuss such issues and to determine how schools can create a culture where children are not afraid to speak up. Board members are welcome to attend.

The chair thanked JA for the challenging work being carried out in Falinge High School. The board continues to support this work and would like to take learning and apply it to other schools across Greater Manchester.

DD thanked Janice for her strong leadership on this and in recognising the important role schools play in addressing the issue.

JP advised the board that in order to enhance campaign, GMHSCP are working with Salford borough and Unlimited Potential to carryout targeted work in 10 neighbourhoods with both primary and secondary schools. The programmes will be co-designed with local boys and men.

1. Action 3) JA to share details of the headteachers event in Rochdale with the board.

Priority 4 – Ensuring consistent services in GM

Inclusivity, Equality and Diversity

It is proposed that 4 working groups are established and themed around disabled people, older people, minority and marginalised communities and men and boys with the support of the GM disabilities network and older people's network. There are 20 other commitments in the strategy and it is proposed that they will be progressed directly by the executive and will be reported back to the board.

GH requested that there is a clear process for recruitment and membership at the working groups to ensure specialist expertise and inputs are achieved to develop appropriate plans.

NP informed the board of a super complaint received regarding a policing issue about migrant women feeling a lack in confidence in reporting cases of domestic abuse and serious sexual offences, due to fearing that the police will look at their immigration status above safeguarding. It has been made very clear by the Home Office that police officers should be looking at safeguarding alongside immigration. Safety4sisters have shared their recommendations based on the work carried out with migrant women in Manchester and asked GMP to focus on the response to victims of domestic abuse and serious sexual offences. Funding has been given to Safety4sisters to provide enhance training to tactical advisors who sit within the challenger partnership team.

JP made the board aware of the contribution made in health and care settings for this priority. Work has been carried out to develop a set of minimum standards for identification, referral and support for victims of gender-based violence within health care settings.

Perpetrators & proposed delivery

A task and finish group has been established led by NO to develop a future framework for co commissioning in Greater Manchester to ensure that there is diversity of programme and provision.

CE is keen to sponsor this area of work. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs has a national perpetrator group where this aspect is a key focus. The NPS are looking to improve quality of information sharing between probation and police at the point of sentence to inform intervention planning.

JG informed the board that society and culture needs to change and there is a need for specialists to be part of developing the framework for both men and women.

Criminal Justice system & proposed delivery

It is proposed that the executive leads on this and links in with the other governance boards. It is proposed that small working groups are established around some of the commitments. There is a real role for the victims and survivors advisory panel on how to expose the criminal justice commitments to the groups and boards overseeing them.

Rape & Serious Sexual Offences End-to End Review

An end-to-end review has been commissioned into the reporting, investigation and prosecution of rape and sexual assault by CPS and the police to improve the quality of the experience of people reporting and outcomes in the criminal justice system. A round table will take place with the Victim's Commissioner and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and recommendations will be brought to the board.

JG advised that more emphasis needs to be given on the government and combined authority to provide more victim recovery services.

GMP VAWG Strategy

VAWG is a national policing priority and Maggie Blythe, NPCC Chief Officer Lead has been consulting with police forces across the country. The 3 core pillars of VAWG are safer spaces, pursuit of perpetrators and building trust and confidence.

To support the delivery of the national strategy, police forces have been given targets; to have a strategy in place by 2022 inline with the 3 core pillars, produce a VAWG problem profile by September 2022, engage with VAWG stakeholders to review serious violence at a local level and to support requirements for the performance framework which focuses on domestic abuse and serious sexual offences.

GMP will operationalise this with frontline officers and will be piloting digital capabilities to receive digital evidence. GMP will hold themselves to account by working closely with professional standards to capture internal complaints of misogyny or sexism.

DC asked how GMP will develop an action plan without the input from the VSCE and the people who deliver services and support victims across Greater Manchester. NP informed DC that engagement with local partnerships at a district level will take place.

The chair informed the board that there is a real understanding within GMP that this will not be delivered without the active engagement of all partners including the VSCE. There is a need to focus on how individual police officers respond to calls for service in this area and it is fundamental in what the Chief Constable is doing to change the culture.

GH is interested in collaborating on the performance framework in particular stating to spot and track early warning signs

1. Action 4) NP to share the VAWG delivery plan with the board.

Priority 5 – Housing & proposed delivery

It is proposed to review the terms of reference and membership of working groups already established to develop a housing reciprocal and to nominate a working group which is best placed to deliver the ten commitments under this priority.

CC suggested thinking about how current government policies can facilitate financial abuse.

CE advised that work is taking place in relation to re-housing perpetrators and it would be helpful for the working group to influence the work.

SG highlighted those women who stay in relationships due to prioritising the children's needs and this should be at the forefront of the thought process.

GH mentioned that there are two consultations taking place currently around local connection and increasing opportunities for the removal of perpetrators. GH requested that the draft reciprocal be shared with the board.

Priority 6 – Governance

There will be an executive established to drive the work of the board between board meetings, to include representatives of the 10 local authorities, GMP, probation service, education, housing, children, research and public engagement, health and social care partnership and NE will chair the executive. Additional members will be invited to the executive on a themed basis.

The chair provided a summary of the future operation of the board.

The board agreed with the proposal.

Developing a forward delivery plan

The chair thanked board members for contributing to the work today. It is hoped that a delivery plan for the first year will be brought the next meeting and the chair invited board members to share any thoughts in respect of mapping out delivery beyond year 1.

Finance/Investment

The chair advised the board that £1 million has been earmarked for the first year's delivery. Funding could potentially be allocated to areas of activity to support the implementation of each priority.

Any other business

The chair would like the board to think about how best to measure progress against the delivery plan at the next meeting and thanked the Board for the momentum behind this work and the great progress already achieved.

Date and Time of next meeting

21st April 2022 10am-12pm, mode/venue to be confirmed.

Contact:

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