

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BOARD

Thursday 28th April

10am – 12.30pm

Held at Kings House Conference Centre, Sidney Street, Manchester, M1 7HB

Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Jane Gregory (JG Co-Chair), Manager, Salford Survivor Project.

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

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

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

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

Duncan Craig (DC), CEO, Survivors Manchester.

Charlotte Curle (CC), Community Member.

Sam Stabler (SS), Community Safety Manager, Manchester City Council

Terry Woods (TW), Deputy Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police

Katie Nicholson (KN), Deputy Chief Prosecutor, CPS Northwest

Sandy Bering (SB), Strategic Lead Clinical Commissioner – Mental Health & Disabilities, NHS

Yehudis Fletcher (YF), Community Member

Leah Fletcher, (LF) NPS, Greater Manchester

Neil Evans (NE), Strategic Advisor to the Deputy Mayor, GMCA

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

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Lucy Phelan (LP), Project Officer, GMCA.

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

Ian Roberts (IR), Director, Sattva

Sarah Barnes (SB), GMCA

Apologies:

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

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

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

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

Memory Nyahunzwi (MN), Chief Executive, The Olive Pathway

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

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

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

BH welcomed all to the meeting and apologies were noted.

BH referred to the prevalence of complaints of sexual assault/misconduct in the media and reiterated the importance of this work to challenge the normalisation and acceptance of this behaviour.

2. Minutes and actions of previous meeting 17/02/22

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

3. Declarations of interest

None.

4. Reflections – ‘Beyond Reasonable Doubt’

Board members were shown a clip from a Panorama TV programme broadcast last month called, ‘Beyond Reasonable Doubt’ which focuses on the journey of victims of rape through the criminal justice system.

JG asked the board for their views. The following points were made:

- Importance of continuing to highlight the current crisis of failing victims of rape and sexual assault, keep talking about transparency and find a way to install hope. (DC)
- Important to reflect on mistakes made, learn from them and take action to make changes. *Young people are experiencing sexual violence in the Jewish community but justice is inaccessible. (YF)
- The length of time it had taken to get justice in CJS had seriously affected their lives in every way. (NE)
- The importance of the voice of survivors in changing the system for the better (BH).
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5. Defining outcomes and successes

The board discussed ways in which the outcomes due to be delivered in the year ahead can be measured.

Q1. What impact do you envisage the board making in the next 3 years?

The following points were made:

- There needs to be radical shift towards trauma informed practice within all agencies and this should include engagement with GM Trauma Network. This should be a key feature of learning, development and training.
- Our work must prioritise changing the narrative and attitudes that allows gender-based violence to be so prevalent.

- The system needs to be more responsive in recognising problems at both the system level and with regard to individual practice, to ensure radical and continuous improvement so that the best possible service is provided.
- The voice of lived experience must be embedded in everything we do as a board and be a key influence and enabler in institutional development and learning.

Q2. What precise outcomes and success measures would you recommend for the year ahead?

The following points were made:

- Each organisation needs a robust accountability system in place and should be required to evidence the delivery of the GBV plan by the end of year 1.
- Evidence of delivery of commitments within each priority will be required.
- Higher level evidence of the impact of each priority will also be necessary.
- Pathfinder schools in each borough had previously been mentioned and early evidence of these being in place would be welcome.
- Need to break down organisational silo language and reflect the joint mission and language of the GBV strategy.

6. Delivery Plan update

BH introduced NE to share the proposed priorities in the initial draft of the delivery plan with the board.

BH made the board aware that the various budget figures within the initial draft plan are not total amounts invested by agencies, rather they reflect elements of the additional £1million in which BH is able to contribute to the first year.

NE emphasised that the plan is a work in progress based on the input of the board. Many conversations are taking place in the background to develop the plan further. Some of the priorities in the plan will go beyond 2023.

Priority 1 – Establishing a victim and survivor advisory panel. The tender process will commence in a few weeks to identify a specialist organisation to partner with to establish, administer, support and present the work of the panel.

Priority 3 – Initiate a long-term programme of education aimed at children and young people in schools, colleges, and universities. DD and JA sit on the VRU education group and have reviewed the TOR of the group to channel the boards objectives around education. DD informed the board that key schools have been selected in each borough to function as a local pathfinder to help achieve the boards objectives. It is proposed to invest in a dedicated education lead to develop and deliver the strategy and campaigns. JA informed the board that there has been an increase of racist, homophobic, and misogynistic reports within the school in which she teaches, this is due to teachers being aware and acting upon reports.

Priority 4 – Ensure consistent services in all Greater Manchester communities. Work is being undertaken to identify individuals to form a working group to progress a bespoke plan in respect of minority and marginalised women. Work will be conducted closely with the Disability Network and Older Peoples' Network to devise a bespoke plan.

A working group is now established consisting of representatives that include all councils and voluntary and community sector organisations, to improve the services for men who suffer domestic abuse under the auspices of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Steering Group. It was suggested that this group could take on the wider work of developing a bespoke plan for all elements of GBV. A perpetrator working group led by Nuala O'Rourke will commence shortly, to identify a framework for Greater Manchester to commission further programmes, to ensure sectors work together and to identify how individuals can access perpetrator schemes. The GBV Executive will play a critical role in governing this priority.

Priority 5 – Focus on the 'whole housing approach' to reduce the risk of homelessness. Mechanisms have been established with various groups including representatives from the housing sector and voluntary sector together to take this

forward. Dave Kelly from GMCA will lead on this and will ensure the voice of lived experience is incorporated into the work.

Priority 6 - Governance – Recognising the GBV Board’s role in focusing on strategic priorities. The GBV Executive will meet on 18th May 2022 and will bring together senior representation from local authorities and the third sector to take this agenda forward.

Work around employment, universities, public engagement, and social change will be in the forward plan.

BH asked the board for comments on the proposed delivery of priorities.

- A framework needs to be produced for the commitment to produce a parallel strategy for violence against men and boys. Public communications need to be ongoing and consistent. BH thanked DC for comments which will be incorporated. (DC)
- The needs of sex workers should be embedded into priority 4. (CC)
- The Home Office are pushing this agenda in policing; TW asked the board to ensure that conversations keep taking place around the agenda.
- GBV Executive is important as it will ensure the GBV agenda is kept central in all organisations. (NE)
- Local focus is to enable organisations to keep focused on the experience of people going through the systems, especially the CPS which is an advantage to enable the board to implement changes. (BH)
- Important that activity on the ground is fed back to the board to ensure the strategy is fit for purpose. (JA)
- SB asked how emotional trauma success will be measured and how it will be conveyed in the plan. NE accepted SB’s comments and will take the point into consideration.
- Poor practice needs to be recognised within organisations (YF). BH acknowledged this indicating that we need to shift the dial in Greater Manchester in this regard.
- All organisations need to have a victim focused strategy in place (JG).

7. Priority 2 – Public Engagement

SM provided the board with an update on the objectives and scope of the communication and public engagement strategy. SB thanked board members for completing the questionnaire which has helped inform the engagement strategy.

A dedicated communications manager will focus on developing and delivering the strategy over the next 2 years and will report to the board. An agency has been commissioned to help with messaging and to build campaign assets. SB thanked members of the board who have agreed to be a sounding board as the policy and engagement strategy is implemented to ensure the voice of the victims and survivors is incorporated.

Work is currently taking place with night-time economy stakeholders and universities to launch safety campaigns, particularly aimed at the issue of spiking.

The following points were made:

- This provides an overview of the initial phase of what is a 2-year plan. Other pieces of work such as violence against men and boys will feature once frameworks are in place. This element of our delivery plan is important as it will highlight and be a key signal of our work (BH).
- There had been different reactions to the content of the #Isthisokay? video from male students. Some found it difficult to watch, indicating the difficult challenge of balancing the messaging to such a varied audience (BH). We must harness the advocacy of men and boys so that they can be champions (BH).

SM thanked the board for their comments which will be incorporated. A report will be brought to the next meeting.

8. End to End Rape review

AC informed the board about the end-to-end multi-agency review of sexual violence. The review focuses on reporting, investigation, prosecution, and the effectiveness of current delivery. The review will result in the identification and implementation of a delivery plan to improve the services delivered by statutory and voluntary-sector partners in Greater Manchester throughout the victim journey and will focus on

identifying and recognising outcomes that are important to victims and witnesses. The board will be provided with regular progress reports in order that they can hold the delivery of the review and plan to account.

BH thanked AC for the presentation which incorporates issues which the board have raised. There are complex problems within the entire process and the system needs to be improved to have a positive impact on the journey for victims and survivors.

JG suggested creating a charter for members of the public to provide them with clarity of what the process might involve. BH agreed with JG's suggestion.

DC commented positively on the review and hoped that it provokes difficult conversations around sexual violence.

9. GM Cross Border Housing Reciprocal

BH referred to the report provided and sought the board's approval to implement the finalised GM Domestic Abuse Cross-Borough Housing Reciprocal. This is an arrangement between local authorities and social housing providers across Greater Manchester to ensure victims' and their families are rehoused, dependent upon their needs and within another borough if it is necessary for their protection.

The reciprocal arrangement arose from the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and is a commitment in the GBV strategy.

The board approved implementation of the Reciprocal.

10. Any other business

None.

11. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 2nd August 2022, 10am-12pm, GMFRS Training Centre, Cassidy Close, Manchester; M4 5HU