

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BOARD**

**Monday 3 October 2022 – 14:00-16:00**

**Microsoft Teams**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bev Hughes (BH Co-Chair)	Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice
Janice Allen (JA)	Head Teacher, Falinge High School, Rochdale
Sandy Bering (SB)	Strategic Lead Clinical Commissioner, Mental Health & Disabilities, NHS
Duncan Craig (DC)	CEO, Survivors Manchester
Charlotte Curle (CC)	Community Member
Damian Dallimore (DD)	Head of Serious Violence & Organised Crime, GMCA
Elaine De Fries (ED)	IDAS Operational Manager, Manchester Women's Aid
Lucy Downham (LD)	Strategic PR Manager, Wigan Council
Chris Edwards (CE)	Regional Director, NPS Greater Manchester
Neil Evans (NE)	Asst Director, Policing & Crime, GMCA
Yehudis Fletcher (YF)	Community Member
Professor David Gadd (DG)	Professor of Criminology, University of Manchester

BOLTON

MANCHESTER

ROCHDALE

STOCKPORT

TRAFFORD

BURY

OLDHAM

SALFORD

TAMESIDE

WIGAN

Dr Sharmishtha (Misty)	Safeguarding Lead, Salford Clinical Commissioning, NHS
Ghangrekar (MG)	Group
Alison McKenzie-Folan (AMF)	Chief Executive, Wigan Council
Shabnum Mustapha (SM)	Assistant Director, News & Media, GMCA
Katie Nicholson (KM)	Deputy Chief Prosecutor, CPS Northwest
Memory Nyahunzwi (MN)	CEO, Olive Pathway
Nuala O'Rourke (NO)	Head of Service, Safeguarding & Learning, Stockport Council
Jane Pilkington (JP)	Deputy Director Population Health, NHSGM
Jeanette Staley (JS)	Community Safety Manager, Manchester City Council (On behalf of Sam Stabler)
Terry Woods (TW)	Deputy Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police

#### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Alison Connelly (AC)	Offenders and Criminal Justice Principle, GMCA
Carol Judge-Campbell (CJC)	Principal Officer Victims and Vulnerability, GMCA
James Faulkner (JF)	T/Detective Superintendent, Greater Manchester Police
Sarah Keaveny (SK)	Head of Communications, Communications & Engagement, GMCA
Nicky Porter (NP)	Chief Superintendent, Greater Manchester Police
Anthony Rudd (AR)	Business Manager, Regulatory Services, Wigan Council
Emma Stonier (ES)	Partnership Officer, GMCA
Bob Ward (BW)	Communications Manager, Gender Based Violence, Communications & Engagement, GMCA
Katy Wilson (KW)	Marketing & Campaigns Manager, Wigan Council

Ashleigh Kent-Stallwood (AKS) Project Officer, GMCA

**APOLOGIES:**

Gillian Duckworth (GD)	Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Jane Gregory (JG Co-Chair)	Manager, Salford Survivor Project
Gail Heath (GH)	Chief Executive, The Pankhurst Trust (Incorporating Manchester Women's Aid)
Julie Middlehurst (JM)	Assistant Director, Wigan Council
Fiona Noden (FN)	Chief Executive, Bolton NHS Foundation
Sam Stabler (SS)	Community Safety Manager, Manchester City Council
Liz Treacy (LT)	Senior Legal Support, GMCA

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

BH welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

**2. Minutes and Actions of Previous Meeting 18 July 2022**

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

BH advised the Board that a suggestion made under Item 5 at the last meeting was now in-hand. This was regarding linking in with Unlimited Potential and the Salford Foundation to shape comms and engagement around the positive male masculinity approach.

BH confirmed that there were no further matters arising.

### **3. Declarations of interest**

None.

### **4. Lived Experience – Public Sexual Harassment**

CC shared with the Board a recent personal experience of public sexual harassment whereby a young male had slapped her backside and catcalled her as he rode passed on a bike with two other young males along the canal path between Media City and Manchester City Centre. The experience had left CC feeling shocked and angry. She used the GMP online form to report the incident and was contacted later that day to make an appointment with a Police Officer the following day to provide a statement.

During the appointment with the Police Officer, whilst CC recognised that he was well-intentioned, she felt that he was not tactful in approach and made her feel both uncomfortable and awkward. She also outlined how in general the officer did not totally grasp why these kinds of incidents were not acceptable and did not seem to have the necessary tools and skills to deal with incidents of this nature.

CC's case was closed a few days later due to there being no CCTV along the canal path and therefore no possibility of finding the perpetrator. Now knowing that there was no CCTV in this area, CC felt that it was unwise and unsafe for women to be using the canal path alone which had left her feeling angry.

BH thanked CC for sharing her experience and acknowledged that, whilst incidents of this nature could be viewed as being "less severe" than other forms of sexual assault, this was not directly proportionate to the impact they had on victims.

TW apologised to CC for what she had experienced and advised her that GMP would want to do better than this example going forwards. He reported that the force was

putting a lot of time and effort into understating the issues internally and, whilst he recognised there was still a lot of work to do, he gave assurance that himself and other senior officers would continue to push this agenda.

BH advised the Board that she had recently met with Mother Mountain Productions and had the opportunity to test out the Police training which was to be delivered via virtual reality (VR) headsets. This involved putting officers, via a VR headset, in situations and scenarios relating to DA and hate crime. BH reflected that it was not just serious situations that they should use as examples, but that they also needed to include some of the more common place (albeit very negative) experiences.

## **5. Public Sexual Harassment Consultation**

NE provided a written report to the Board which outlined BH's response to the Public Sexual Harassment Legislation Consultation, a 'closed' consultation whereby Police and Crime Commissioners / Deputy Mayors were asked to respond to a series of questions within a two-week window. The full response was appended to the report for comment.

YF commented that, if new legislation was put in place regarding public sexual harassment, its impact would be limited if it did not come with more resources.

## **6. Wigan "Love is not Abuse" Campaign and "Safety of Women at Night" Programme**

### **"Love is Not Abuse" Campaign**

A presentation was provided to the Board by KW and LD from Wigan Council to introduce the "Love is not Abuse" campaign. Funded through the Community Safety

Partnership, the campaign was shaped and informed by victims of domestic abuse to deliver early intervention and prevention.

MG asked if the campaign also targeted perpetrators and worked with them to help them to understand that what they were doing was abuse.

KW advised that this would form part of the next research phase. They had hoped to involve perpetrators sooner but setting up the focus groups had proved challenging. In the meantime, there was a section on the website specifically for perpetrators.

Regarding the callers to the domestic abuse hotline, DC asked if it was possible to identify if these were unique / repeat callers and if they were Wigan based / from the wider GM region. KW advised that this information was available but that she would have to come back with the details as she did not have it to hand.

BH thanked KW and LD for their presentation and was pleased to hear that the campaign had secured additional funding to continue to be delivered and developed beyond the initial 12-month proposal.

### **“Safety of Women at Night” Programme**

A presentation was provided to the Board by AR from Wigan Council to introduce the “Safety of Women at Night” campaign. This campaign followed Wigan Council’s successful bid for Safety of Women at night funding which aimed to reduce incidents of violence against women and girls in public spaces and within venues, and to create an evidence base of what interventions were most effective in improving women’s safety in these contexts.

BH asked whether the “Where You At” app (an app which enabled users to “connect” with friends when they became separated whilst out in the night-time economy) and the “Commonplace” app (an online engagement platform that enabled information

gathering in relation to places where women and girls felt unsafe) were up and running.

AR advised that the “Commonplace” app was and the “Where You At” app would be imminently with Wigan town centre being part of the pilot.

NP suggested that it would be helpful if, through the Community Safety partnership, all GM districts had a consistent approach to the initiatives / programmes that were offered in relation to violence against women and girls in the night-time economy. It had been proven that consistent campaigns which members of the public were familiar with were the most effective.

JS advised that she would work with BH’s office to understand which initiatives / programmes would be most effective if implemented in each of the districts. Once this was understood, the Community Safety managers could work with the team to put them in place.

DD asked, seeing that there was considerable overlap between this work and the work of the Violence Reduction Programme, if there was clear connectivity between different programmes locally to provide confidence that they were all going in the same direction and were adequately supported.

AR advised that when the programme first started, the funding was time limited and everyone that had been asked to provide support had been happy to do so and willing to get involved.

MG asked if the statistics which showed the number of people who had agreed that micro-aggressions happened on a night out would be re-assessed again later to determine if the campaign was having an impact.

AR advised that the statistics would be re-assessed next year to see what effect the campaign had had.

GH thanked the representatives from Wigan Council for what the fantastic work that they had done.

**Action 8: NE to provide a remit to the Exec to see how the suggestion around developing a consistent approach to initiatives / programmes offered in relation to GBV across GM regions could be taken forwards.**

## **7. Mental Health Pathfinders for Victims & Survivors of Sexual Assault and Abuse**

A presentation was provided to Board by SB to provide an update on Mental Health Pathfinders which aimed to improve care for victims and survivors of sexual assault and abuse with complex trauma related mental health needs so that they could recover, heal, and rebuild their lives.

BH asked how voluntary sexual violence and abuse services would connect with specialist workers within the NHS mental health services.

SB advised that, facilitated and coordinated through the Resilience Hub, each partner organisation would have specialist psychologists embedded within their service.

BH thanked SB, DC and others involved in this piece of work and requested that they come back to the Board in six months' time with an update.

**Action 9: SB to provide an update to the Board on the Mental Health Pathfinders in six months' time.**

## **8. Report from GBV Executive**



NE advised that the GBV Executive meeting scheduled for 14 September 2022 had been postponed due to the Queen's passing. It had now been re-scheduled for 1 November 2022.

Since the Delivery Plan was in place, the main piece of work was now to develop a Work Plan for the Executive to work to. This would be brought back to the Board for comment and to provide an update on the Executive's progress.

## **9. Delivery Plan Progress**

NE provided to the Board a copy of the Gender-Based Violence Strategy Delivery Plan for 2022/2023 and outlined the progress in respect of the key priorities.

NE reminded Board Members that they had approved the Delivery Plan at the last Board meeting and had given delegated approval for BH and JG to approve any further additions / amendments on their behalf which they had done and were highlighted in red.

BH advised that some educated revisions had been made in terms of the timescales set to several of the work strands. Whilst some had been extended, it would still be challenging in terms of delivery. Going forwards, this document would be used as a template by which the Board could measure progress and success.

NE advised that updates in relation to Priority 3 – Initiate a long-term programme of education aimed at children and young people in schools, colleges, and universities and Priority 4 – Ensure consistent services in all Greater Manchester communities would be brought back to the next Board as substantive items.

BH reported that the next stage would be to translate the Delivery Plan into something that was much more visual and more easily assimilated. She suggested there might be a need for multiple versions of the summary document that were tailored to different groups of people.

NE advised that this work was underway, and a simplified version of the Delivery Plan would be produced for the next Board meeting in January 2023.

CE added that he had a round table discussion with GMP and GMCA in November regarding DA and would use the Delivery Plan as a backdrop and bring anything back to the Board as appropriate. He asked for the simplified version to have been drafted by then if possible.

DC asked how the Delivery Plan would be communicated out to the wider audience of the public. NE advised that it would be published on the GMCA website, but he would be guided by Board Members in terms of how else to push it out.

MG agreed that the Delivery Plan needed to be published and advised that it would also be necessary to have a clear cascade system in terms of stakeholders and professionals that work in that area. She suggested that the comms team could provide guidance of what clear cascade pathways were in place.

**Action 10: NE to provide a simplified version of the Delivery Plan to the next Board meeting.**

## **10. Public Engagement**

SK provided to the Board a written report and presentation which gave an update on the progress of the Gender-Based Violence Communications and Engagement

Strategy, approved by the GBV Board earlier in the year. The strategy set out how communications and engagement activity would support the delivery of the strategy.

SK introduced Bob Ward who joined GMCA at the end of August 2022 as the new communications manager and would work solely on communications and engagement for the GBV agenda.

It was reported that Hitch Marketing and EY3 Media had been commissioned to develop the next stage of the campaign which would build on the success of the #IsThisOK? video. This would commence with an interim stage (or “soft launch”) to create refreshed awareness of the campaign, before the full campaign was launched at the end of November 2022.

The Board were shown the first of two / three “teaser” videos which would be used as part of the “soft launch”. The other video(s) would delve deeper into real life experiences and use GM specific GBV statistics to demonstrate why something needed to be done to address these issues in the region. The video would be shared with the Board once available.

BH welcomed the Board’s feedback on the video.

DC commented that the appearance of boys and men in the video was surprisingly short considering that was the target audience.

NE suggested that the narrative around the video would need to highlight the work that had been done since the launch of the first video so that the public did not assume that this was “just another video”. He also highlighted the importance of mini campaigns to target specific communities where videos of this nature could be used to warn women and girls from going out and reinforce control.

BW advised that this was a “teaser” video which was part of, and leading to, a bigger campaign. The purpose was to reignite engagement in advance of the launch of the full campaign in November 2022. The main campaign was still in the research phased but the concept would be shared with the Board once it was developed.

BH commented that in this context, the word “teaser” might not be appropriate. She advised that if the purpose of these videos was to act as a reminder to people of what came before it and get them hooked in again, whatever was coming next would need to come soon afterwards. She would discuss sequencing and timescales with BW and SK in more detail when she met with them next week.

BH asked the Board to send any other comments regarding the “soft-launch” campaign video to her in advance of her meeting with SK and BW.

Work was underway to collate desk-based research and interviews into a report which would be shared with the Board once completed.

**Action 11: BW to share with the Board the other “soft launch” video(s) once available.**

**Action 12: BW to share the concept of the main campaign once developed.**

**Action 13: BW to share with the Board the report which collated desk-based research and interviews once completed.**

## **11. Proposal to Partner with SafeLives**

NE provided to the Board a written report which outlined a proposal to enter a partnership arrangement with SafeLives, a national organisation dedicated to

eradicating DA. This included several possible options where SafeLives could potentially add value to the delivery of the GBV Strategy.

TW advised that, in terms of embedding the culture within GMP, this was something that would take longer than a few months given the amount of training already on GMP's agenda and with DA having to take priority.

Noting TW's comments, the Board approved the recommendations made by the report.

## **12. Any Other Business**

None.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

23 January 2023 – 14:00-16:00 – GMP HQ