

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE BOARD**  
**TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2023 – 14:00-16:00**  
**GMP HQ, CENTRAL PARK, MANCHESTER**  
**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jane Gregory (JG, Co-Chair)	Manager, Salford Survivor Project
Bev Hughes (BH, Co-Chair)	Assistant Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice
Janice Allen (JA)	Head Teacher, Falinge High School, Rochdale
Duncan Craig (DC)	CEO, Survivors Manchester
Charlotte Curle (CC)	Community Member
Damian Dallimore (DD)	Assistant Director, Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice, GMCA
Chris Edwards (CE)	Regional Director, NPS Greater Manchester
Neil Evans (NE)	Assistant Director, Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice, GMCA
Yehudis Fletcher (YF)	Community Member
Professor David Gadd (GD)	Professor of Criminology, University of Manchester
Kate Green (KG)	Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice
Scott Green (SG)	Assistant Chief Constable, GMP (On behalf of Terry Woods)
Gail Heath (GH)	Chief Executive, The Pankhurst Trust (Incorporating Manchester Women's Aid)

BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

Karen Saffman (KS)	Senior District Crown Prosecutor, CPS Northwest (On behalf of Katie Nicholson)
Alison McKenzie-Folan (AMF)	Chief Executive, Wigan Council
Memory Nyahunzwi (MN)	CEO, Olive Pathway

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gemma Aitchison (GA)	Founder, Yes Matters
Dr Anthony Edkins (AE)	Education Lead, GM Violence Reduction Unit
Sarah Keaveny (SK)	Head of Communications, GMCA
Michaela Kerr (MK)	Detective Chief Superintendent, Head of Public Protection Division, GMP
Bob Ward (BW)	Communications Manager, Gender-Based Violence, Communications & Engagement, GMCA
Ashleigh Kent-Stallwood (ASK)	Project & Police Officer, GMCA

### **APOLOGIES**

Dr Sharmishtha Ghangrekar  
Clare Monaghan  
Nuala O'Rourke  
Jane Pilkinton  
Sam Stabler  
Debs Thompson  
Terry Woods

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

JG welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions followed. Apologies for absence were noted.

## **2. Minutes and Actions of Previous Meeting 3 October 2022**

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

An update was provided on matters arising from the previous meeting.

**Action 10** – a designed version of the Delivery Plan had been created which was appended to the report at Item 5. Work was now underway to develop simplified versions for specific communities.

JG confirmed that there were no further matters arising.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

MN indicated a declaration of interest in respect of the Lived Experience Panel.

## **4. Lived Experience**

GA shared with the Board her background and lived experience of CSE and subsequent homelessness. She described how her sister was sexually assaulted and murdered in 2013, and how this and her own experience drove her to found Yes Matters UK. Yes Matters aims to challenge and improve practice and support survivors' rehabilitation, with the goal of prevention of sex-based violence and abuse. They were part of the successful campaign for the compulsory PSHE (2020) curriculum and helped shape the sections on consent, pornography, and gender stereotypes.

GA then outlined her views, experience and the risks posed by gender stereotypes and sexual objectification. She stressed that society does not "connect the dots" between gender stereotypes and gender-based violence and the importance of teaching young people to form positive relationships with themselves and each other. A number of questions followed, which Gemma responded to, highlighting the need for child-led approaches, trauma informed training and ongoing risk of homelessness and isolation for young survivors.

NE thanked GA for speaking to the Board and emphasised the importance of hearing her voice and others like hers to breathe life into the delivery of the Gender-Based Violence Strategy. JG and BH added their thanks and stressed that the Board was committed to making a difference.

## **5. Delivery Plan Update**

NE tabled a written report which outlined progress made to date in the delivery of the Gender-Based Violence Delivery Plan against defined timescales.

MN left the room at this stage.

NE explained that a single expression of interest had been received in respect of the Lived Experience Panel, which was a joint submission from Olive Pathway and SAWN. The submission scored well in respect of the overall required criteria, but less well in respect of community reach within the wider sector. Given the pre-work that had previously taken place with SafeLives, it was proposed that they would be engaged to support Olive Pathway and SAWN fill the identified gap, which would also develop both organisations. The Board endorsed this proposal.

CE asked if NE was satisfied that the expression of interest process was robust enough. NE advised that, based on the stakeholder conversations that took place beforehand and the procurement advice that was taken prior, during and after, he was satisfied. Consideration had been given to re-running the process it but this was decided against given the due diligence that had already taken place and the risk of further delay to establishing a panel with no guarantee that there would be any additional submissions.

MN returned to the room at this stage.

NE then outlined the progress made in respect of the priority areas outlined in the report.

## **6. GBV Executive Update**

NE provided the Board with an update of the work and priorities of the Gender-Based Violence Executive. The Executive has met three times and is continuing to develop its work plan.

## **7. Priority 2 – Public Engagement**

SK and BW provided to the Board a written report and presentation which gave an update on the Communications and Engagement Strategy including the launch of the next phase of the #IsThisOK? campaign.

GA commented that whilst it was impressive that they had achieved 1.1m views, it was important to know where their message was going and how prevalent it was compared to other messages that children and young people were getting from elsewhere.

DC asked if as part of their research they had asked what young men and boys thought GBV was. GA added that it was important to determine what behaviour young men and boys thought was acceptable and start from where they were at. BW advised that their research had included men and boys with a range of attitudes, but they had not asked them that specific question.

A conversation then followed around the prioritisation of defined communities going forward. CJC advised that there were a range of different communities that were being considered for prioritisation, but some were more ready to take on and deliver a campaign than others. No decisions had yet been taken and the views expressed by the Board would be considered.

NE advised that as public engagement was a significant part of the overall strategy and investment, more time would be dedicated to it at the next meeting to allow for a wider conversation.

JG asked that if the Board had any further questions or comments in the meantime, to email them to Bob Ward at [bob.ward@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:bob.ward@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk).

**Action 14: CJC / AKS to ensure that more time is given to Public Engagement on the agenda for the May meeting.**

## **8. Priority 4a – Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity**

CJC gave an overview of progress to date on specific areas under priority 4a of the GBV Delivery Plan, including minoritised communities, those who had no recourse to public funds, older people, and people with disabilities. She emphasised the diversity of these communities and groups and the need to take account of this as work progressed.

BH acknowledged that the three priority groups identified had historically not been part of the main-stream focus and so this work was important in opening up and breaking new ground. JG commented that it would also demonstrate how prevalent GBV is throughout all communities. KG added that whilst communicating their experiences was difficult for all survivors, it was made even more difficult for these communities and so it would be integral to ensure that they felt confident to be heard. NE also advised the Board of preparatory work that he and DC had undertaken in developing a proposal for taking forward a bespoke plan in respect of men and boys. This would be brought to the next meeting.

## **9. Priority 4c – Criminal Justice**

SG outlined to the Board, the strong progress made in respect of Priority 4c of the GBV Delivery Plan and the National Police Chief's Council VAWG Action Plan.

Following a question by DC it was confirmed that there wasn't currently a dedicated detective superintendent for RASSO after the recent post holder has moved roles. It was clarified that the post would continue going forward and would be recruited to in due course.

A discussion took place in respect of police sexual misconduct and the need to public reassurance. SG advised that following the Carrick case, all officers were being checked against the Police National Database and any live investigations of sexual misconduct / DA were scrutinised by a senior officer. Additionally, the Professional Standards Branch were working closely with MK's team, and a buddy scheme was in place with another force depending on the seniority of the officer. The Deputy Mayor

also received updates from the Deputy Chief Constable. DC commented that external scrutiny was essential and would help build the public's trust. SG agreed to take this away to discuss with the Deputy Chief Constable

Regarding the Wigan Rape Pilot, DG asked if the statistics could be provided to the Board as a standing agenda item. MK advised that she could assist with that and BH added that this information could be extracted from the criminal justice metrics received by the Local Criminal Justice Board. JG commented that the women she worked with often believed things moved more quickly than is the reality and it would help if this could be explained to the public. A brief discussion followed in respect of police resources. SG advised that GMP were not under resourced, and this was not what was driving delays. JG responded that this was not the picture being provided by her clients. SG offered to pick this issue up if JG was able to provide further information.

**Action 15 – SG to discuss the potential of incorporating external scrutiny into the police misconduct process with the Deputy Chief Constable.**

**Action 16 – CJC / AKS to include criminal justice statistics as a standing agenda item going forwards.**

**Action 17 – JG to provide SG with further information regarding the issues being faced by her clients in relation to GMP resources.**

### **10. Priority 3 – Education**

DD and AE provided the Board with an outline of the proposal to develop a programme that would allow schools to deliver a personal development curriculum to address and deter Gender-Based violence.

JG advised it was likely that the delivery of this work would result in disclosures from the children and young people involved and therefore it would be important to have a system in place that worked for them. MN added that without an effective and robust approach to dealing with disclosures, schools risked re-traumatising children. GA highlighted the importance of trauma-informed practice within classroom management. AE advised that he would take these comments on board.

YF asked how they would ensure that schools delivered the curriculum that was presented, particularly in faith schools where these types of curricula were often negotiated and watered down. AE advised that they would work closely with faith schools to understand the kind of curriculum that they wanted that protected their specific values. YF asked what would happen if these values were at odds with what the curriculum aimed to deliver. JA advised that her school used the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as an anchor point.

SG asked if primary schools would be confident enough to deliver a curriculum with these adult themes and if there was any value in delivering it to primary-aged children. AE advised that the services they had engaged with showed children as young as four would benefit from this work and that the primary school offer would be developed with primary school Head Teachers to ensure that it was age appropriate.

The Board welcomed the proposal and gave formal approval for the project to go ahead.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

None.

#### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 2 May – 14:00-16:00