

## **GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY**

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Subject: Greater Manchester Gender-Based Violence Strategy

Report of: Bev Hughes, Deputy Mayor for Police, Crime and Fire.

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to outline the development of the Greater Manchester Gender-Based Violence Strategy, and seek its authorisation for publication.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. GMCA is requested to approve the strategy for publication and delivery.

### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

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BOLTON  
BURY

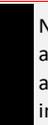
MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

# Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	
Health	G	
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing	G	
Economy	G	
Mobility and Connectivity	N/A	
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
<b>Further Assessment(s):</b> Equalities Impact Assessment		
 Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	 Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	 Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
 Negative impacts overall.		
Carbon Assessment		
<b>Overall Score</b> <input type="text"/>		
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A	
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A	
Transport		
Active travel and public transport	TBC	The proposal makes commitments to increase the safety of people on public transport, particularly women and girls. Consultation indicates that currently some people avoid
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
Land Use		
Land use	N/A	
No associated carbon impacts expected.	 High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	 Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.
	 Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	 Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

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An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and accompanies this report.

## **Risk Management:**

Detailed action plans will be developed from the strategy, which will all feature a risk management log.

## **Legal Considerations:**

None identified.

## **Financial Consequences – Revenue:**

Costs have been incurred in respect of consultation and publication of the strategy, which have been met by the Deputy Mayor's Investment Fund.

The strategy makes broad commitments about developments of service provision, including commissioning arrangements. In financial terms such developments will be facilitated by existing funding envelopes. The strategy refers to potential innovations, which will be considered for funding from the Deputy Mayor's Investment Fund. Decisions in this regard will ultimately be for the soon to be established Gender-Based Violence Board.

## **Financial Consequences – Capital:**

None identified.

## **Number of attachments to the report: 3**

- Greater Manchester Gender-Based Violence Strategy.
- Gender-Based Violence Strategy Consultation – Report on the findings.
- Equality Impact Assessment.

## **Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

- The strategy was due to be considered by Corporate Issues & Reform Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> September, but this meeting was cancelled on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The strategy was due to be considered by Joint Health Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> September. This meeting was cancelled on 1<sup>st</sup> September. The chair of the committee has endorsed the strategy and commended it to members who have received a copy of the document and been invited to comment. No further comments have been received.

# **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The development of this strategy commenced in late 2018.
- 1.2 The length of time it has taken to develop the strategy demonstrates the complexities of the issues that must be tackled. In this period several drafts of a strategy have been prepared, which following dialogue with stakeholders led to further work being required.
- 1.3 The outbreak of COVID-19, as has been common across all sectors, meant that resources had to be diverted to deal with immediate and ongoing implications. In the context of gender-based violence this was particularly the case in maintaining and adapting services for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.
- 1.4 In October 2020 intense work was able to recommence. This work was supported and enhanced by a small team from the University of Manchester led by Professor David Gadd. This has meant that we have been informed by the most up to date academic research and have been able to establish links nationally and internationally in respect of best-practice. For example, links have been established with academics and professionals in Western Australia, who are widely regarded as leading the way internationally in tackling aspects of gender-based violence. These links have also extended to the chair and vice-chair of their Victim & Survivor's Advocacy Council, which consists of people with lived experience of gender-based violence.
- 1.5 The Mayor approved a draft strategy in March of this year.

# **2. STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

- 2.1 From the inception of this programme of work it has been the intention to design a strategy with appropriate engagement and input from stakeholders. This has included stakeholders within GMCA, other agencies and sectors, and in particular Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) organisations and those representing women and girls who have experienced violence.
- 2.2 Prior to October of last year such engagement had taken place with in excess of 40 agencies and organisations. This engagement ranged from one-to-one conversations to group round-table sessions.
- 2.3 Since October of last year, further engagement has taken place with a further 46 individuals representing stakeholder agencies and organisations.
- 2.4 In addition, there has been consultation with the Women and Girls Equality Panel and members of the Race Equality Panel. Consultation continues and has also led to more specific engagement with VAWG organisations, both large and small,

with the Disabled People's Panel, Older People's Network and Youth Combined Authority.

### **3. THE DRAFT STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Development of Original Published Draft**

- 3.1.1 At the commencement of development, the working title of the work was 'Violence Against Women and Girls.' This was in recognition of the prevalence of gender-based abuse perpetrated against women and girls, with a recognition that the vast majority of perpetrators are men and boys. Despite the title, an explicit acknowledgement was made that recognised men and boys could also be subjected to such abuse.
- 3.1.2 During the development work it became clear that whatever the title, it would be contested. For any strategy to be successful, it must be able to engage men and boys. Specifically, it must recognise the prevalence of domestic abuse, the negative results this has for the development of children and the effects this can have on their characters and behaviour in adulthood. There was thus concern that the title would be exclusionary, in particular to boys. In addition, members of the LGBTQ+ community are subjected to gender-based violence based on gender stereotypes and assumptions.
- 3.1.3 Taking this into account the title of the strategy was altered to 'Gender Based Abuse.' In ongoing engagement this title too was contested. It is clear that there is no consensus and thus to seek as much balance as possible the title of the initial draft strategy published was 'Gender Based Abuse – Greater Manchester's Strategy to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls.'
- 3.1.4 Following the approval of the draft document by the Mayor, with purdah approaching it had been the intention to publish immediately after the mayoral election for formal public consultation. However, following the tragic abduction and murder of Sarah Everard, and the public reaction to it, the Mayor made the decision to publish early, the intention being to socialise the strategy with our communities and seek initial feedback. Publication took place on 17<sup>th</sup> March and responses were invited between then and 18<sup>th</sup> April.
- 3.1.5 The draft strategy consists of 8 key chapters namely:
- Tackling Gender-Based Violence (change of to violence described further below).
  - Changing the Story.
  - Mobilising Greater Manchester.
  - Supporting Victims and Survivors.
  - Meeting the Needs of Children and Young People.
  - Responding Effectively to Perpetrators.

- Improving Policing and Criminal Justice.
- Integrating Health and Social Care.

3.1.6 The strategy includes the commitment to establish a new Gender-Based Violence Board with the core task of developing and overseeing the implementation of the strategic plan and establishing the key milestones to be achieved over the next ten years.

3.1.7 The Board will include victims and survivors with lived experience of gender-based violence as members. The Deputy Mayor will co-chair the Board with a survivor of gender-based violence appointed annually. The involvement and experience of women and girls with lived experience of violence will be central to how the strategy is delivered.

3.1.8 Work is underway in respect of wider membership of the Board in order that it can take up its important work as soon as possible.

### 3.2 Initial Feedback

3.2.1 As indicated previously, the original draft was published on 17<sup>th</sup> March by the Mayor at his regular press conference. This was supplemented by a communication plan, where members of the public were encouraged to provide feedback via the GMCA website.

3.2.2 63 responses were received from individual members of the public, academics and organisations/groups representing particular interests.

### 3.3 Amended Draft

3.3.1 Following consideration of this feedback, the following amendments were made to the strategy:

- Title changed to 'Gender-Based Violence Strategy.' This title has been settled on as it is widely used nationally and internationally, and underpinned by international conventions. Further, the accompanying international definition fits with the issues that we seek to tackle.
- A commitment has been added to work with organisations that are experts on and work with ethnic minority communities, to improve assessment procedures in respect of rehousing so that social, emotional and economic needs are considered, as well as the potential risk of hate crimes.
- A commitment to collect data on gender-based violence and local demand for services to meet the needs of all communities and demographic groups.

- Links to be established across local authority areas for the provision of housing, care and support for survivors of domestic abuse through a Greater Manchester Housing Reciprocal.
- Commitment to Violence Against Women and Girls Sector Shared Core Standards in respect of commissioned services and development of Greater Manchester Advocacy Framework.
- Commitment to development and support of teachers to ensure best practice is shared and celebrated.

## **4. FORMAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The formal public consultation phase was launched, together on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Mayor's press conference and closed on 1<sup>st</sup> August.
- 4.2 The consultation consisted of an on-line questionnaire on GM Consult, where a copy of the amended draft strategy and supporting documents, including easy read versions, were available.
- 4.3 The questionnaire sought views on the title of the strategy and accompanying definition, the priorities defined in each chapter, as well as providing opportunity for free text responses.
- 4.4 The on-line consultation was complemented by 12 focus groups with people of various demographics and backgrounds, or various sectors, such as employers. A series of one-to-one interviews also took place with people who have lived experience.
- 4.5 150 responses were received and taken with the focus groups and interviews the results can be summarised as:
- 75% agreed with the title as Gender-Based Violence and the accompanying definition. This was 100% for the focus groups. That said, suggestions were made about clarifying that constitutes gender-based violence.
  - 81% agreed that the priorities identified are the right ones.
  - The importance of continuous training for professionals.
  - An over-focus on policing and criminal justice in comparison to services for victims and survivors.
  - Lack of detail around funding commitments and how success would be judged.
  - The need for public engagement to focus on population level behaviour change.

- Focus required about safety on public transport, pornography, sex work and training for employers.
- The need to focus on the distinct needs of older people, those with disabilities and those from ethnic minority and ethnic minority communities.

4.6 As a result of the consultation exercise a finalised draft has been prepared that has several amendments to it and which the Combined Authority is asked to consider today.

## **5. PUBLICATION**

5.1 The strategy will be published immediately, subject to approval of the Combined Authority.