

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

FOR INFORMATION

Date: 28th January 2022

Subject: Standing Together – the refresh of the police and crime plan for Greater Manchester (2022-25)

Report of: Beverley Hughes, Deputy Mayor for Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the approach taken to refreshing Standing Together - the police and crime plan for Greater Manchester including the key issues that have arisen from consultation and engagement with community safety partnerships, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), wider partners, and the public.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is asked to:

1. Note the draft Standing Together plan which is attached for information.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Results summary at APPENDIX 1

Risk Management

There is a legal requirement to publish a police and crime plan within the financial year of the election of the Mayor (by 31 March 2022). Failure to complete this may risk reputational damage to the Mayor and GMCA.

Legal Considerations

Section 5(1) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, as modified by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner Functions to the Mayor) Order 2017, says:-

1) The police and crime commissioner for a police area must issue a police and crime plan within the financial year in which each election for the return of a Mayor is held.

(13) In this section—

“financial year” means the financial year of the combined authority;

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The Mayor will propose the PCC precept to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel on the 31st January 2022. The precept will contribute to the overall policing resources for Greater Manchester Police.

This process will also confirm delegated revenue funds to district community safety partnerships.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The plan does not have any additional capital implications other than those included in the report to Panel as above.

Number of attachments to the report:

The draft plan Standing Together 2022-25.

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

The Police and Crime Panel undertake the scrutiny role.

Background Papers

Summary of consultation responses available on request

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

Yes

Exemption from call in

The police and crime plan is not subject to the call-in process of the GMCA overview and scrutiny committees and has been presented to the GM Police and Crime Panel on the 14 January 2022.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The current police and crime plan 'Standing Together' was launched in March 2018 and was due to be refreshed in 2020.
- 1.2. Due to the postponement of Mayoral elections in May 2020, the police and crime plan was extended for a 12-month period.
- 1.3. A new police and crime plan must be issued following the election of the Mayor.
- 1.4. Following a period of extensive partner and public consultation the refreshed plan is due to be launched in January 2022.
- 1.5. This report sets out the approach that we have taken to the refresh of the Mayor's police and crime plan which will run until 2025 along with a copy of the draft plan and the proposed next steps. The refresh of the plan has been led jointly by GMCA Police, Crime and Fire Team and GMP.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the detail which must be included in a police and crime plan as:
 - 2.1.1. The Mayor's police and crime objectives for the area.
 - 2.1.2. The financial and other resources which the Mayor is to provide to the chief officer of police.
 - 2.1.3. The means by which the chief officer of police will report to the Mayor on the chief officer's provision of policing.
 - 2.1.4. The means by which the chief officer of police's performance in providing policing will be measured.
 - 2.1.5. The crime and disorder reduction grants which the Mayor is to make, and the conditions (if any) of those grants.
- 2.2. In producing the police and crime plan the Mayor must:
 - 2.2.1. Consult with the Chief Constable.
 - 2.2.2. Send a draft to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel, who must make a report or recommendations on the draft plan.
 - 2.2.3. Have regard to and publish a response to any report or recommendations of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

2.2.4. Issue the plan within the financial year in which the Mayor is elected.

3. Refreshing the Police and Crime Plan

3.1. The police and crime plan outlines the Mayor's vision for how policing and other services which contribute to community safety will be delivered across Greater Manchester.

3.2. The Mayor outlined his high level priorities for Better Communities in his 2021 manifesto, Our Place, Our Time. In his manifesto, he said that "working together, we will create greener, more liveable communities and build toward a better quality of life for all of us to enjoy; we will make sure our Police and public services keep people safe, healthy and supported through the changes to come". The manifesto also set out the Mayor's high level objectives for policing and community safety, a summary of which is set out below:

3.2.1. Supporting the Chief Constable in building a victim-centred culture.

3.2.2. We will protect our communities with a more accountable Police force that puts victims first.

3.2.3. To recruit 325 more police officers this year, bringing increase of 1,000 since 2017 more police officers.

3.2.4. Supporting the foster a culture of openness, better support for victims, stronger neighbourhood policing and greater accountability to communities.

3.2.5. Consulting on our Gender Based Violence Strategy and prioritising the tackling of current and historic child sexual exploitation.

3.2.6. Working with partners to put victims first when we tackle anti-social behaviour and its causes.

3.2.7. Working with councils and residents to develop Community Speed Watch groups.

3.2.8. Strengthening the process by which elected members – Councillors and MPs – can hold GMP to account by holding two public accountability sessions every year, open to all elected representatives in Greater Manchester.

3.3. For the priorities in the plan to be achieved it must bring together the efforts of all the agencies that contribute to building safe, strong and cohesive communities. In order to achieve this, the refresh process has prioritised consultation and engagement with all Greater Manchester community safety partnerships and the police; as well as criminal justice and health colleagues, the voluntary sector, and members of our communities.

4. Consultation and engagement with Community Safety Partnerships, Greater Manchester Police, Community and VCSE organisations

4.1. Working closely with GMP, community safety lead councillors, officers and partnership chairs, consultation events were held in each district between June and July 2021.

4.2. Community safety partnerships supported the continuation of the three high level priorities and presented some challenges that the refreshed plan should address. In each of the ten districts, there was recognition, that the demand for policing and community safety services is heavily influenced by deprivation and inequality and that a targeted approach to addressing these issues is required. The importance of adopting environmentally responsible approaches to providing police and community safety services was widely recognised. The need to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and adapt ways of working by drawing on the lessons learnt was also seen as important.

4.3. Feedback from the engagement events has previously been circulated to members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel and community safety partnerships. The recurring themes are as follows:

4.3.1. Provide support to victims of crimes and anti-social behaviour.

4.3.2. Provide accessible and responsive services particularly to the most vulnerable in our communities.

4.3.3. Address serious violence in all its forms.

4.3.4. Develop approaches for early intervention, particularly for children and young people to protect them from abuse and offending.

4.3.5. Address hate crime in all its forms.

4.3.6. Build community confidence and satisfaction with services.

4.3.7. Tackle offending through prosecution of offenders and rehabilitation.

4.3.8. Address online harm including fraud.

4.4. Consultation also identified several enabling factors that should be clear in the refreshed plan:

- 4.4.1. The need to improve access to and the flow through and between different services, in particular mental health services.
- 4.4.2. The value and importance of partnership working at all levels.
- 4.4.3. Longer term investment to improve the capacity, capability and condition of services needed to deliver priorities.
- 4.4.4. Removing the barriers to sharing data in order to improve understanding of problems, to inform the development of improved ways of working, and the use of resources.
- 4.4.5. Involving VCSE and communities in problem solving and in the delivery of interventions.
- 4.4.6. The need to build social capital and adopt environmentally sustainable approaches.

4.5. Consultation with representatives from GMP highlighted the importance of:

- 4.5.1. A multi-agency and joint working approach to managing demand, this includes working with local authorities, health, and criminal justice organisations.
- 4.5.2. The challenges faced by GMP while recognising the improvements that are being made.
- 4.5.3. Recognising the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on police and other organisations and the need for recovery and rebuilding which draws upon the lessons of the past eighteen months.
- 4.5.4. The requirements placed on public bodies through the Protect Duty.
- 4.5.5. Recognising the changing demands made of the police including the need to police protests and civil disobedience.
- 4.5.6. Investigation, prosecution, and conviction of offenders as part of the approach to preventing crime.
- 4.5.7. School engagement officers and youth work with clear pathways to interventions for children and young people, building upon the proven approaches used for those who experience violence.
- 4.5.8. Longer term funding for community safety partnerships.

4.6. Community Safety Practitioners survey

- 4.6.1. A survey of frontline community safety practitioners was also undertaken in October and November 2021, hosted on GM Consult. 80 responses were received.
- 4.6.2. Practitioners were asked where they worked in Greater Manchester and what organisation they worked for. Practitioners responded from organisations including the police, local authorities and third sector organisations.
- 4.6.3. When asked what their 3 issues of greatest concern were, practitioners felt that anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, and drug use and dealing were their biggest issues. Each accounted for around a third of the 80 responses.
- 4.6.4. 25 responses also focused on issues around the police. These mainly mentioned the lack of police presence due to lack of resource, the impact of police not responding to crimes and the attitude that police have towards victims, particularly victims of sexual violence.
- 4.6.5. The most common areas that practitioners felt could be improved were the same as those that they identified as the top three issues.
 - 4.6.5.1. anti-social behaviour
 - 4.6.5.2. domestic abuse
 - 4.6.5.3. drugs

5. National and local considerations

5.1 The process of refreshing the police and crime plan has also considered:

- 5.1.1. What we have learnt from the Covid 19 pandemic, new ways of working and changes to patterns of need and demand.
- 5.1.2. New statutory duties on local authorities to work with partners to tackle domestic abuse and serious violence.
- 5.1.3. The strategic policing requirement.
- 5.1.4. HMICFRS assessments of police.
- 5.1.5. The Government's Beating Crime Plan and new national Crime and Policing Outcomes which focus on crime reduction, serious violence, neighbourhood crime, 999 and 101 answering times.
- 5.1.6. Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission findings.
- 5.1.7. The Greater Manchester Strategy and its emphasis on place based, multi-agency working, inequalities and the climate emergency.
- 5.1.8. Greater Manchester Gender Based Violence Strategy

5.1.9. Findings of the Policing and Community Safety Survey and Victims' Survey.

5.1.10 The Victims' Commissioner's suggestion that greater prominence be given to victims in police and crime plans.

6. Police and Crime Plan - current priorities

6.1. The current police and crime plan, has three high level priorities:

6.1.1. Keeping People Safe

6.1.2. Reducing Harm and Offending and

6.1.3. Strengthening Communities and Places

6.2. The consultation and engagement events asked whether it was felt that these high-level priorities needed to change and if so, how.

6.3. The engagement has told us that the existing priorities should remain as they align with local plans and priorities and are sufficiently broad to allow flexibility of approach. However, the consultation agreed that there should be a greater focus on victims.

7. Public and Practitioners Consultation Responses

7.1. Public consultation

7.1.1. Public consultation on the draft priorities of the plan took place from the 1st to the 30th November 2021.

7.1.2. 283 respondents completed the public consultation via GM consult.

7.1.3. Respondents were asked which local authority they lived in across Greater Manchester. There was also the option of completing the consultation on behalf of an organisation, 4% of responses were completed on behalf of a Greater Manchester or a national organisation.

7.1.4. The demographic information shows there were a broad range of ages, gender, ethnicity, and religion.

7.2. Priority 1 - Keeping People Safe and Supporting Victims

7.2.1. 96% of respondents to the public consultation felt that priority 1 was important or very important.

7.2.2. Respondents were asked to select their top three priorities within the overarching theme of Priority 1. The top three responses are as follows:

7.2.2.1. Accessible and responsive services - 19% (154).

7.2.2.2. A modern and effective criminal justice system with the needs of victims at its centre - 15% (127).

7.2.2.3. Increasing trust and confidence in our criminal justice system - 13% (108).

7.2.3. Respondents stated that several other issues also needed to be addressed within this priority:

7.2.3.1. Confidence in the police.

7.2.3.2. Visible police presence.

7.2.3.3. Providing responsive and accessible services to vulnerable victims.

7.2.4. Priority 2 - Reducing Harm and Offending

7.2.5. 93% of respondents to the public consultation felt that this priority was important or very important.

7.2.6. Respondents were asked to select their top three priorities within the overarching theme of Priority 2. The top three responses are as follows:

7.2.6.1. Investigate and prosecute criminals - 22% (182).

7.2.6.2. Early intervention and prevention - 17% (140).

7.2.6.3. Disruption and dismantling of organised crime - 16% (132).

7.2.7. Respondents stated that several other issues also needed to be addressed within this priority.

7.2.7.1. Early intervention and court diversion.

7.2.7.2. Increased funding for victim services.

7.2.8. Priority 3 - Strengthening Communities and Places

7.2.9. 90% of respondents agreed that priority three was important or very important.

7.2.10. Respondents were asked to select their top three priorities within the overarching theme of Priority 3. The top three responses are as follows

7.2.10.1. Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) - 27% (224).

7.2.10.2. Road safety, speeding and dangerous driving - 15% (121).

7.2.10.3. Countering terrorism - 12% (96).

7.2.11. Respondents stated that several other issues also needed to be addressed within this priority.

7.2.11.1. Anti-social behaviour.

7.2.11.2. Driving offences.

8. Structure and content

8.1. The draft plan is attached to this report for information.

8.2. The plan reflects all of the above feedback and is centred on the 3 priorities as outlined above with the addition of two new themes for action. Tackling inequalities and injustice in all its forms including gender-based violence and delivering with victims, communities, and partnerships.

8.3. Under each of the three priorities, the plan identifies the actions that will be taken.

9. Milestones

9.1. The completed and scheduled milestones for the refreshed plan are set out below:

9.1.1. Police and Crime Leads update - 16th September 2021 (completed).

9.1.2. Police and Crime Steering Group update - 11th October 2021 (completed).

9.1.3. Ongoing consultation and drafting the plan - 11th October to end December 2021 (completed).

9.1.4. Special meeting of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel - 22nd October 2021 (completed).

9.1.5. Start/ end of the public consultation – 1st to 30th November 2021 (completed).

9.1.6. Special meeting of the Police, Crime and Fire Panel – 14th January 2022 (completed).

9.1.7. Wider Leadership team – 12th Jan 2022.

9.1.8. Leaders Strategy Group – 18th Jan 2022.

9.1.9. CA meeting for information – 28th Jan 2022.

9.1.10. Police, Crime and Fire Panel sign off – 31st January 2022.

9.1.11. Issue the plan – January 2022.

10. Feedback

10.1 The draft plan was presented to Police, Crime and Fire Panel on the 14th January. The Panel recognised:

10.1.1 The read across to the GMP Improvement Plan whilst recognising the important contributions of a broad range of partnerships in the successful delivery of the plan.

- 10.1.2 That the Plan had been developed through extensive consultation and reflected what people wanted to see.
- 10.1.3 The GM plan should act as a blueprint for locality plans recognising that they may put emphasis on different priorities to the GM plan according to local priorities.
- 10.2 Feedback from District Community Safety Partnerships has also been incorporated into the plan. This includes:
 - 10.2.1 More inclusion of gambling as a harm
 - 10.2.2 Correct terminology 'so-called honour based violence'.
 - 10.2.3 Work to develop the designed summary of the plan on a page which can be used to communicate the plan
- 10.3 The Mayor is currently waiting for the report of the panel, as the body with statutory duty, to agree the plan and that the final report will be circulated once that report has been received and considered

11. Recommendations

- 11.1. As at the front of the report.

IMPACT QUESTIONNAIRE – RESULTS SUMMARY

Impacts Questionnaire							
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation					
Equality and Inclusion	G	The police and crime plan recognises that some communities are disproportionately victims of some types of crime The police and crime plan recognises that some communities are disproportionately victims of some types of crime The police and crime plan recognises that some communities are disproportionately victims of some types of crime The police and crime plan recognises that some communities are disproportionately victims of some types of crime The police and crime plan recognises that some communities are disproportionately victims of some types of crime					
Health	G	The police and crime plan recognises that being a victim of crime can adversely impact on physical and mental health. The plan also recognises that Mental health can be a driver of police demand and anti-social behaviour. The police and crime plan recognises that being a victim of crime can adversely impact on physical and mental health. The plan also recognises that Mental health can be a driver of police demand and anti-social behaviour. The police and crime plan includes the provision of healthcare services for people in police custody as well as taking a lead role in access to drugs and alcohol services across GM					
Resilience and Adaptation	G	The Standing Together - Police and crime plan sets out its priorities for public safety. The refreshed plan maintains the three priorities but has a greater emphasis on the support for victims of crime The Standing Together - Police and crime plan priority for Keeping people safe and supporting victims sets out how victims will be supported and the services in place for them. The plan recognises how crime adversely impacts vulnerable people The Standing Together - Police and crime plan sets out its priorities for public safety. The refreshed plan maintains the three priorities but has a greater emphasis on the support for victims of crime Safety on public transport and road safety and identified as key work streams in the plan					
Housing							
Economy							
Mobility and Connectivity	G	safety on public transport is a deterrent to its use. The plan promotes safety on public transport by better connecting the journey to other modes of transport. safety on public transport is a deterrent to its use. The plan promotes safety on public transport by better connecting the journey to other modes of transport.					
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	The environmental impact of the implementation of the plan will be a key consideration in the approach to problem solving and implementation of the plan, eg - vehicle fleet, police					
Consumption and Production							
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target							
Further Assessment(s):		Equalities Impact Assessment and Carbon 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

Overall Score

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenanc	N/A	
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A	

Transport

Active travel and public transport	 	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	

Land Use

Land use #####

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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