

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 IN THE MECHANICS
INSTITUTE, MANCHESTER**

PRESENT:

Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council (Chair)
Councillor Dylan Butt	Trafford Council
Councillor Vimal Choksi	Tameside Council
Councillor Richard Gold	Bury Council
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford Council
Councillor Steve Williams	Oldham Council (Vice-Chair)
Angela Lawrence	Independent Member

Also in attendance:

Baroness Beverley Hughes	GM Deputy Mayor
Deputy CFO Ben Norman	GMFRS
CFO Dave Russel	GMFRS
ACC Wasim Chaudhry	GMP

Officers Present:

Jeanette Staley	Head of Community Safety, Resilience & Neighbourhoods, Salford CC
Damian Dallimore	Acting Deputy Director, Police & Crime Team GMCA
Chris Edwards	HMPPS
Frank Hamill	Children and Young People Principal, GMCA
Mark Knight	Strategic Lead for Substance Misuse, GMCA
Louis Richards	Lead Analyst, Police & Crime Team, GMCA
Rachel Rosewell	Deputy Treasurer, GMCA
Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive, Tameside Council
Lee Teasdale	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA

PFCP/52/22

WELCOME, APOLOGIES & CHAIRS ANNOUCEMENTS

Apologies were received from Councillor Kevin Anderson (Wigan), Councillor Russell Bernstein (Bury), Councillor Mudasir Dean (Bolton), Councillor Tom Morrison (Stockport), Councillor Luthfur Rahman (Manchester) and Independent Member Majid Hussain.

The Chair noted that the meeting had been delayed due to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

The Chair advised the Panel of the sad passing of GMFRS Watch Manager Dan Lee. Dan had been based at Agecroft Fire Station on Green Watch and had served the communities of Greater Manchester for 16 years. The thoughts of the Panel remained with Dan's fiancé, his children and all his family and friends at this difficult time.

Members then held a minute's silence in tribute to both Dan and Queen Elizabeth II.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the apologies be noted.
2. That the sad passing of GMFRS Watch Manager Dan Lee be acknowledged by the Panel.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4TH AUGUST 2022

RESOLVED/-

1. That Members agree the minutes of 4th August 2022 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

PFCP/55/22

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR APRIL 2021 –
MARCH 2022**

Damian Dallimore (Acting Deputy Director, Police & Crime Team GMCA) introduced the draft Annual Report which outlined the functions, activity and progress in meeting the police and crime objectives in the Mayor's police and crime plan.

The Report was a result of collaboration with all partner organisations and mirrored the Standing Together plan in terms of its key priorities. The Report also included case studies and examples of good practice and provided details around how monies had been spent to enhance work across the region.

Deputy Mayor Beverley emphasised that the Police and Crime Plan could not be delivered by GMP alone and had to involve all local partners.

Comments and Questions

- Members referenced the rise in the number of stop and searches taking place. How was it being ensured that the black community were not being targeted disproportionately? It was advised that there had been priority placed upon increasing the number of stop and searches in the region due to previous numbers being considerably lower than national benchmarks, however these were being monitored very carefully with a constant working awareness that disproportionality was an area of concern.

It was reassuring that although the number of searches had increased, the number of complaints had not. When undertaken properly, and those searched treated with respect, then it did not have to be the negative experience that is presumed.

GMP had also put additional scrutiny in place, with the Chief Constable himself chaired a board that monitors disproportionality within all strands of the broad powers held by police officers. External scrutiny also took place via independent panels that monitored the relevant statistics.

- Members referenced figures on crime rates in areas of deprivation. Were there any instances found in the statistics where areas of relative affluence were subject to high crime rates? Officers advised that whilst this data could not be provided directly, members were assured that a variety of data sources were used to provide a more detailed understanding of where the home addresses of both victims and

offenders were. For example, whilst the city centre was a crime hotspot, the perpetrators and victims usually lived in a different location, and no presumptions were made about any locations. It was asked that further information around this be made available to members.

- Members stated that they would be keen to see comparisons between the GM Annual Report and comparator forces.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes and welcomes the draft annual report
2. That it be noted that the final annual report will be brought back to the November 2022 meeting of the Panel.
3. That information gathered on figures pertaining to home locations of victims and perpetrators of crime be made available to Members.
4. That comparator information between GM's Annual Report and that of comparator forces be made available to Members when gathered.

PFCP/56/22 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 2022-2025 – PRIORITY 2 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Damian Dallimore (Acting Deputy Director, Police & Crime Team GMCA) introduced an update summarising progress made against Priority 2 of the Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 (Reducing Harm and Offending).

It was advised that JOIMS (Joint Operational Improvement Meetings) were now in place for GM which involved relevant local partners, with a structure in place involving monthly and quarterly meetings as well as a series of sub-groups.

A rape and serious assault roundtable meeting had been hosted by the Deputy Mayor in August 2022. This resulted in a number of improvement actions between the police and the CPS.

A number of metrics where improvements were already being seen were detailed to members. There were some areas that remained a concern however, including the time taken for adult rape cases to get through Crown Court.

A 40% increase had been seen in the number of arrests, although an obvious knock-on effect from this was the creation of more demand within the system.

Further detail was provided on work taking place to tackle organised crime; reducing high harm and repeat offending; giving back to communities & victims of crime; and tackling drugs, alcohol, and gambling addiction and reducing deaths from their use.

Members were then provided with highlighted details from the latest scorecard assessment provided within the report pack. It was noted that as the victims survey was currently in the process of being recommissioned, data available through the safety survey substituted for this in the interim period.

Comments and Questions

- Members expressed concern about community payback schemes, and why these had been concentrated on larger schemes? Chris Edwards advised that he would welcome feedback on the concerns raised. Councillor Lancaster would liaise on the concerns that had been raised within his community committee meetings. The Deputy Mayor asked that she be kept informed on this issue.
- Members noted that there had been an increase in crime rates, yet at the same time residents' feelings of safety had also increased – how did this correlate? It was advised that this could relate to geographical spread with large increases in satisfaction where increases in crime were not taking place, or that the crime increases were taking place within certain demographics, with the wider population as a whole feeling safer. It was also highlighted that the highest feelings of safety had been recorded during the first COVID lockdown wave, so an increased sense of community cohesion may be a contributing factor.
- The Deputy Mayor asked that when Priority 3 was reported at the next meeting, a wider range of data sets be used.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the content of the summary of progress and performance scorecard.
2. That Cllr Lancaster and Chris Edwards (CPS) directly liaise on concerns raised around the community payback scheme – and that the outcome of this be reported directly to the Deputy Mayor.
3. That Louis Richards and the Deputy Mayor liaise directly on widening the datasets for priority 3 of the scorecard ahead of the next Panel meeting.

PFCP/57/22 UPDATE ON PROGRESS REGARDING HMICFRS's ENGAGEMENT OF GMP

ACC Wasim Chaudhry (GMP) informed the Panel about progress made by GMP against the key actions set out by HIMCFRS.

It was advised that the original 120 areas for improvement set out by HMICFRS had now been reduced to just 32. Additionally, there were currently 18 'areas for improvement' being worked on and six open 'causes of concern' – however 20 'causes of concern' had been closed to date.

The inspectorate continued to make visits to GMP, including a current inspection of the custody office provision. Two other specific investigations were also taking place – the first of these was in relation to Victims Services Assessments. This scrutinised the Force's investigation capacity and how it managed investigation plans – detail was provided on the work taking place at GMP to ensure this was addressed and that capability and capacity were improved accordingly. The second area was responding appropriately to people who were vulnerable and at risk – this linked into the Force's incident grading and response policy.

Further headlines included the recording of far more crimes with August 2022 having been the largest month for crime recording within the last 24 months. Arrests had also increased significantly with a 65% increase on the previous year. Stop and Search had increased whilst at the same time seeing a reduction in the number of complaints received. Whilst

activities were being ramped up, there was a concurrent increase in transparency and scrutiny.

Details around neighbourhood crime were provided – personal robbery offences remained a significant challenge with increases seen, and a solved outcome rate of 6.5% against comparator averages of 9.1% solved rates.

Increases in the number of serious violence crime was a significant priority for the Force and work around this was being resourced accordingly.

Comments and Questions

- Members sought further clarity around the time taken to answer calls. Was it possible to measure how long calls took to reach the triage procedure. The Deputy Mayor advised that she received a weekly report from the Force contact centre and could feed this information back.
- Discussion took place about the difficulties that would be faced in meeting the challenges of the level of uplift required in officers. There would also be the welcome challenge of then investing these appropriately into areas that had seen a lack of officer investment in recent times, such as proactive operations and an enhanced neighbourhood policing offer.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the update report be noted by the Panel.
2. That the Deputy Mayor provide Cllr Richard Gold with figures available on how long calls were taking to connect to the triage procedure.

PFCP/58/22 GMFRS ANNUAL DELIVERY REPORT

Deputy CFO Ben Norman (GMFRS) was invited to present the GMFRS Annual Delivery Report 2021-22 to Panel, which outlined the Service's achievements and performance against the six strategic aims detailed in the Annual Delivery Plan 21-22 and overarching Fire Plan 21-25.

The Report sought to bring to the fore three key aspects. Performance against key performance indicators; innovations & key deliverables; and case studies that bring out real world examples of how Greater Manchester has benefitted from service improvements.

Comments and Questions

- Members referred to the development of the North West Fire Control Centre – seeking further information on the implementation of 999EYE. It was explained that 999EYE was one of a number of innovations now available to the service, this linked into the camera of a callers mobile phone and helped to provide situational awareness ahead of arrival at an incident, and was particularly helpful in terms of establishing appropriate resourcing for an incident. An example of this service could be provided at the Bury Fire Training Centre visit that Members were due to undertake.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the Final GMFRS Annual Delivery Report be noted.
2. That Members be offered the opportunity to see 999EYE in person at the Bury Fire Training Centre event taking place on October 7th.

PFCP/59/22 GMFRS ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

Deputy CFO Ben Norman (GMFRS) was invited to present the GMFRS Annual Statement of Assurance 21-22 setting out the arrangements in place covering the timeframe from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the contents of the paper and the report provided in Appendix A.
2. That the Panel supports the publication of the report on the GMFRS website.

CFO Dave Russel was invited to present a paper that provided notification of the removal of the HMICFRS Cause for Concern removal which was issued following the 2021 Inspection of GMFRS.

GMFRS had been issued with this Cause for Concern in respect of its marauding terrorist attack capability. GMFRS had been required to submit an action plan detailing how it would respond to this by October 2021. In May 2022, HMICFRS returned to undertaken an audit against the Action Plan's aims. The outcome of that was a letter received in July which closed out the cause of concern.

A training programme was now in place that would see every firefighter and officer trained on marauding terrorist attacks by March 2023. All 50 fire appliances across the region were also in the process of being fitted with a greater level of equipment, such as protective equipment and additional items for trauma care.

Comments and Questions

- Members asked about what Government could provide to make GMFRS as good as it potentially could be. It was advised that a pay uplift to firefighters to reward them and show appreciation for the complexity of the work that they now undertake.
- Members asked for further clarity on what the stumbling blocks had been with unions on marauding terrorist attacks. It was advised that the focus of the debate had been around whether responding to a terrorist attack was a standard part of a firefighter's job specification. This had been a dispute lasting a number of years and involved the CFO negotiating a position from which all sides could agree a resolution.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the information contained in the report and the supporting appendix.
2. That the Panel notes the next steps.

Chris Edwards (HMPPS) was invited to present the Reducing Reoffending Plan for HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in Greater Manchester. Which built on the foundations laid since the probation regions came into existence on 1 April 2020. It reflected the uniquely innovative approach to local co-commissioning and set out to strengthen the benefits of working as one HMPPS. The plan would also support the delivery of the local Police and Crime Plan, Standing Together, and one of the three key priorities in particular: Reducing Harm and Offending.

There was a clear appetite to bring prisons and probation closer together, and there was a need in GM to closely monitor this and understand what it would truly mean in practice – and how best to realise the benefits therein.

The way the reducing reoffending agenda in GM had been driven was different from other regions. There had been a clear focus on the avoidance of siloed and isolated commissions whilst still adhering to public sector reform principles. As a result, there would be more local, tailored and sustainable services within the region.

Comments and Questions

- Members made reference to victims who had been in a directly harmful living situation and were at risk of returning to this upon the release of a perpetrator. What kind of immediate/transitional care was available? It was advised that probation had a victim support scheme in place that was specifically targeted around certain types of offences. In these cases, a victim liaison officer would be assigned.
- The Deputy Mayor advised that GM had successfully made the argument that it required its own regional director of probation, rather than fall under the umbrella of the wider North West. This deal had been achieved because of the potential and the work already being undertaken in GM through partnership and integration, and delivering ‘more than the sum of the parts’.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted by the Panel.
2. That the new Reducing Reoffending posts which would be deployed to support local Reducing Reoffending Boards be noted by the Panel.

**PFCP/62/22 GREATER MANCHESTER DRUG AND ALCOHOL
TRANSFORMATION BOARD PROGRESS**

Mark Knight (Strategic Lead for Substance Misuse, GMCA) was invited to provide an overview of the strategic role performed by the Greater Manchester Drug and Alcohol Transformation Board. It detailed significant local and national developments that had occurred over the last two years inclusive of Greater Manchester's approach to implementing the new National Drug Strategy (December 2021).

The importance of partnership working across the system was emphasised – and that the GMCA as the commissioning body could only succeed by fostering strong relationships with every LA as the region's "11th body".

Comments and Questions

- The Deputy Mayor welcomed the work undertaken to ensure that the GMCA was now well positioned in relation to the national strategy and qualification for funding to take the aims forward.
- Across GM the overarching responsibility for each area's drug and alcohol approach laid with its own Director of Public Health. The success of each area in tackling these issues varied across the region and there was pressure on all to meet the targets achieved by the best performers. Deaths from drug use in the region had not reduced in the last ten years, and the protection of children from exposure to drugs and alcohol was not as successful as it could be so there was a big job still to be done. The Board Co-Chaired by the Deputy Mayor and the Director of Public Health for Salford was directly addressing these issues and working to enable each area to improve as much as possible.