

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE GMCA
BOARDROOM, GMCA OFFICES, 56 OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER**

PRESENT:

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| Councillor Janet Emsley | Rochdale Council (Chair) |
| Councillor Luthfur Rahman | Manchester City Council |
| Councillor Dave Arnott | Oldham Council |
| Councillor Chris Goodwin | Oldham Council |
| Councillor Barbara Bentham | Salford Council |
| Councillor David Lancaster | Salford Council |
| Councillor Rosemary Barratt | Stockport Council |
| Councillor Rose Thompson | Trafford Council |
| Councillor Paula Wakefield | Wigan Council |
| Majid Hussain | Independent Member |
| Angela Lawrence | Independent Member |

Also in attendance:

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| Councillor Aalaina Khan | Bolton Council |
| Kate Green | GM Deputy Mayor |
| Baroness Bev Hughes | Assistant Deputy Mayor |

Officers Present:

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| Ian Cosh | Chief Finance Officer, GMP |
| Chief Supt. Steph Parker | GMP |
| Lee Rawlinson | Chief Resources Officer, GMP |
| Chief Supt. Collette Rose | GMP |
| DCC Terry Woods | GMP |
| DCFO Ben Norman | GMFRS |
| Sarah Scoales | Head of Service Excellence, GMFRS |
| AM Jim Willmott | GMFRS |
| Jeanette Staley | Advisor to Panel & Head of Community Safety, Resilience & Neighbourhoods, Salford CC |
| Kelly Dane | Greater Manchester Probation Service |
| Samantha Stabler | Community Safety Lead, Manchester City Council |
| Dave Byrne | Police & Crime Lead, GMCA |

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| Alison Connelly | Crime & Justice Lead, GMCA |
| Neil Evans | Director of Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice, GMCA |
| Lee Teasdale | Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA |
| Gwynne Williams | Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA |
| Steve Wilson | Treasurer, GMCA |

PFCP/54/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Vice-Chair Councillor Dane Anderton (Wigan), Councillor Rabiya Jiva (Bolton), Councillor Amy Cowen (Bolton), Councillor Richard Gold (Bury), Councillor Tom Morrison (Stockport), Councillor Vimal Choksi (Tameside) and Sandra Stewart (Tameside)

PFCP/55/23 CHAIRS ANNOUCEMENTS & URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised the Panel that, together with Vice-Chair Dane Anderton, she had attended the National Police & Crime Chairs Conference 2023 which had been held at the University of Warwick. This had proved to be an interesting exercise, providing insight into work that was taking place in other areas of the country. Further information would be fed back at the Panel’s next informal Steering Group.

Members were reminded that the Bury Fire Training Centre site visit was confirmed for 6th December and itinerary details would be sent soon.

The Deputy Mayor advised that an update on the Baird Review would be taking place at the GMCA meeting on Friday 24th November. This update would immediately be provided to members following the announcement.

Thanks were expressed to Assistant Deputy Mayor Baroness Bev Hughes, as this would be her final Panel meeting – with members noting the advice and support she had provided to the Panel since taking on the role of Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime in 2017.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Chair's updates be received and noted.
2. That the Panel be sent the Deputy Mayor's update on the Baird Review following the announcement at the GMCA on 24th November.
3. That the Panel sends its best wishes to Baroness Beverly Hughes following her retirement from the GMCA.

PFCP/56/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received.

PFCP/57/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 18TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting. Points highlighted included:

- In reference to PFCP 51/23, it was asked that the number of female and ethnic minority firefighters be provided to give further context to the percentages in the paper. It was confirmed that these had now been sent.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2023 be agreed as a true and correct record.

PFCP/58/23 GMFRS – FIRE COVER REVIEW – CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES

DCFO Ben Norman presented a paper providing an overview of the Fire Cover Review 2023, the approach to the consultation and the key headlines. It detailed the proposals selected for implementation based on the feedback received during the consultation process. Points highlighted included:

- An additional whole time fire appliance at Manchester Central fire station would be introduced; enhanced rescue station proposals would be implemented at Leigh and Ashton fire stations; all Special Appliance proposals would be implemented; and £340k would be invested into prevention and protection.

- Day crewing arrangements would not be taken forward at Sale or Offerton fire stations and an additional wholetime fire appliance would not be introduced at Moss Side fire station.
- 140 sessions had been held internally on the consultation, and 180 people had been met face to face at consultation events. Over 1100 comments were received regarding the proposals.
- Two petitions, featuring the signatures of just over 2000 residents in regard to the proposals at Sale and Offerton were also received.
- The proposed changes were now being scheduled for implementation following Mayoral approval.
- It was advised that GMFRS was the only Fire & Rescue Service nationally that had managed to increase rather than reduce it's appliance provision.

Comments and Questions

- Members asked a question about some of the feedback received during the consultation process, specifically the comment asking GMFRS to *“seek additional funding to keep communities safe, rather than changing current service levels to deliver within what is currently affordable”*. What measures had been taken to seek that additional funding? It was advised that the Deputy Mayor had previously written to government about funding from a national perspective, asking for increases after a significant period of decreases. Local conversations were also taking place around whether precepting arrangements could allow for growth within the budget.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the the contents of the report and the supporting Consultation Report on the Fire Cover and Special Appliance Reviews found at Appendix A be noted.
2. That Panel supports the implementation of the proposals following the consideration of the consultation feedback.

PFCP/59/23

GMFRS MANCHESTER ARENA INQUIRY UPDATE

AM Jim Willmott introduced a report that provided an update and assurance to the Panel on the progress against the Manchester Arena Inquiry recommendations:

- Monitoring of the recommendations had now moved into the Homeland Security team with the Home Office. This was led by Tom Parr, the Manchester Arena Inquiry Programme Lead. GMFRS would be meeting with this team on 21st November to understand exactly what they required of GMFRS going forward.
- North West Fire Control had recently provided the Deputy Mayor's Executive with an update on the progress against the eight recommendations made to them. Six of these had now been completed, with the remaining two in progress.

Comments and Questions

- The Assistant Deputy Mayor provided assurance to the Panel that immediately following the publication of the Inquiry Report robust governance arrangements had been in place to provide oversight and delivery of the recommendations. The Mayor had established a Mayoral Oversight Group and had now expanded to deliver this oversight as part of business as usual to keep monitoring the continued progress.
- Members asked about the status of other agencies involved in terms of achieving their recommendations. It was advised that with the Home Office team now having taken over a general oversight of the Arena Inquiry, it was expected that in due course reports would become available from other partners such as the North West Ambulance Service.
- It was asked that the lessons learned from the National Fire Chiefs Council Manchester Arena Inquiry Oversight Group be made available to the Panel.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the the contents of the report be noted and that the Panel supports the progress of the work undertaken to date.
2. That the lessons learned from the National Fire Chiefs Council Manchester Arena Inquiry Oversight Group be made available to the Panel.

PFCP/60/23 GMP LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Chief Superintendent Collette Rose presented a report providing an update on the progress made by GMP against the local policing model.

- ACC Boyle continued to lead on implementing the delivery of the local policing model within Greater Manchester. Which would deliver consistency and clarity across all the districts of the region.
- The following components had now gone live: The new response model; the Force Crime Management Unit; and the District Investigation Teams.
- The new response model had gone live on 4th September 2023, and it was confirmed that performance had been maintained since that date. With 90% of Grade 1 jobs attended within a 15-minute timescale.
- District Investigation Teams had led to a complete change of approach in how crimes were recorded and allocated to staff for investigation. As expected, there was a rise in the number of crimes being investigated during the early stages of the implementation of the model. There had also been a significant increase in the quality of the investigations being undertaken.
- Since launch in March 2023, there remained vacancy rates of around 20% for the neighbourhood policing model. This was somewhat skewed by vacancies in the City of Manchester however, which was still awaiting review.
- The embedding of the local neighbourhood teams was really beginning to have an impact now based on feedback from local councillors and residents.

Comments and Questions

- Members sought more information on the work being undertaken to address the current vacancy rates. It was advised that a monthly governance meeting studied the figures and establishments across all areas. Plans were sought from the relevant district commanders as to when the vacancies would be addressed through reallocating resources accordingly.
- Members expressed concern about levels of turnover in certain areas impeding the ability to fully implement a stable neighbourhood policing model. It was agreed that high turnover was a frustration, but there was a real commitment to delivering teams that wanted to work in neighbourhood policing. The recruitment and workforce development teams were focussing on a model whereby officers could develop through the ranks whilst staying embedded within the local policing model.
- DCC Woods advised that regular consistent updates on the neighbourhood policing review, particularly in terms of vacancy rates, could be brought to Panel Members.
- Reference was made to the £2.4m of funding earmarked for the Safer Streets Fund. It was asked how the monies were actively being spent in each area covered by the

Fund. The Deputy Mayor advised that an information sheet confirming the projects funded could be sent on to the Panel.

- The Chair closed the item by expressing to the Panel the importance of spreading the message to neighbourhoods about the importance of reporting crime in the appropriate way at all opportunities.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That a regular update on the neighbourhood policing model be built into the Panel's work programme.
3. That further information on the use of Safer Streets Fund monies be fed back to the Panel.

PFCP 61/23 POLICE & CRIME PLAN – PRIORITY 3 REPORT & PERFORMANCE SCORECARD YEAR 2 UPDATE

Neil Evans (Director of Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice, GMCA) introduced a Year 2 progress update on the work to support Priority 3 of the Police and Crime Plan 2022 – 25 (Strengthening Communities and Places). Points highlighted included:

- There had been a reduction in recorded crime in neighbourhoods (down by 11.5%). Including a 25% decrease in recorded residential burglaries.
- However, there had been an increase seen in numbers of thefts from a person, rising by 17%. This reiterates the importance of recording crime, as the police had made some significant arrests on this front, such as recovering stolen mobile phones.
- There was a continued focus on prevention, including operations on the region's transport network.
- Roads policing was referenced, with new community roadwatch schemes in place, and the impending launch of the Vision Zero strategy.
- There had been an increase by 9000 incidents of anti-social behaviour over the last 18-month period. This was an area of concern being addressed. The Deputy Mayor attended Force Performance Update meetings each month and was reassured by the plans GMP had in place around crime categories where increases were seen.

- Despite increases in performance at GMP. Surveys undertaken indicated that confidence in the police remained fairly static. Given the very high performance in call response rate now being seen, it was clear that work needed to be done on public perception.
- Reference was made to the increases in retail crime that had been a national concern lately. A partnership working approach to this issue had been reinvigorated, with a number of major and smaller retailers involved in a Retail Crime Delivery Group.

Comments and Questions

- Members made reference to retail crime. Noting that a lack of operational cctv around premises was often hindering police efforts to identify perpetrators. It was advised that functions were available to upload cctv footage quickly to the police, but it was appreciated that many smaller premises did not have the ability to do this. This was seen as a priority and partnership work was taking place around it.
- Members made reference to local reporting app tools, funded by local businesses to link them up to the police on repeat offenders. Retail crime was impacting small local businesses quite significantly, not only in terms of cost, but also in terms of mental health impacts. It was agreed that retail crime was often perceived as a 'victimless crime' when it clearly was not, and that these perceptions needed to be tackled.
- Members highlighted the continued low rate of black and minority ethnic officers serving at GMP. This was acknowledged and remained an area of concern for the Deputy Mayor and Chief Constable, and it was agreed that an appropriately diverse range of officers was vital for building trust and confidence in communities. GMP were one of few forces in the country to publish their stats and plans around this as it sought to be fully transparent about the problems faced.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.

Alison Connelly (Crime & Justice Lead, GMCA) & Kelly Dale (Greater Manchester Probation Service) presented a report that provided the Panel with the Manchester Prisons & Probation (HMPPS) Reducing Reoffending Plan.

- Pressures within the criminal justice system remained particularly acute, and headcount issues in the prison service had meant the instigation of Operation Safeguard making use of police station prison cells. The regional probation director Chris Edwards had written to partners about some of the probation related aspects that were being most affected, the Criminal Justice Board has set up a task group, and the Deputy Mayor would be holding a roundtable to consider a number of factors around the flow of stock and demand within the criminal justice system.
- The development of Greater Manchester Rehabilitative Services was highlighted. This was a unique proposition that had been made possible on the back of justice devolution work. This was enabling a creative approach to rehabilitative services, with examples highlighted within the report.
- The Reducing Reoffending Plan was a three-year plan but would be reviewed on a yearly basis. The Plan contained a number of ministerial priorities within it for which HMPPS would be held accountable.
- A specific update was provided, as requested by the Panel, regarding those on probation order who were known to suffer from mental health issues. A Health and Justice Team was in place within probation that had a strong mental health focus. Also in place was an Offender Personality Disorder Team co-commissioned with Health Services – which worked on individual plans with those in need of specialist interventions. The Wellbeing Hubs now in place also provided low level non-clinical support. A number of commissioned services were also available via the Regional Outcome & Innovation Fund, which allowed for a more creative approach to be developed. A GAP analysis was also being undertaken to ensure that any gaps in mental health support services were identified and filled.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Reducing Reoffending Plan for HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) in Greater Manchester be noted.
2. That the Progress of Greater Manchester Integrated Rehabilitative Services be noted.

3. That the comments regarding support available to those on probation orders with mental health issues as previously requested by members, be noted.

PFCP 64/23 TACKLING HATE CRIME – BACKWARD & FORWARD LOOK

Dave Byrne (Police & Crime Lead, GMCA), Samantha Stabler (Community Safety Lead, Manchester City Council) and Chief Superintendent Steph Parker (GMP) presented a report providing an overview of the latest work undertaken to tackle hate crime across Greater Manchester.

- Strong partnership working continued to take place across the region. A working group was in place that consisted of both statutory and voluntary members of the community. Independent advice was also frequently sought from groups and communities. This year had seen a focus on increasing the level of strategic oversight of the groups – with a new Strategic Oversight Board now in place. It was hoped that the working group would be able to take a more active role in leading some of the work across the region. Work had also taken place to enhance victims' services around hate crime.
- The last 12 months had seen a reduction in recorded hate crimes. From approximately 12,000 in the previous year, to just over 10,600 in the current year. the biggest increases had been in religious hate crimes, and the biggest reductions in sexual orientation hate crimes.
- There had also been a significant uplift in solved outcomes for hate crimes. From 9.1% in the previous year to 13.8% in the current year.
- In respect of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Since 7th October 156 antisemitic hate crimes, and 144 Islamophobic hate crimes had been recorded in the region. However, it was known through work with communities that there was a distinct under recording in both areas, and hard work was taking place with these communities to establish more safe spaces for them to report.
- Hundreds of groups in the community had been funded to provide awareness and support, with a particular focus at present on supporting the upcoming Race Equality Week.

Comments and Questions

- Members made reference to hate crimes against women being underreported. Stating that this was often due to women feeling that they will not be believed or let down by the system, and a lack of recourse to funding. Having to relive the experiences was also often deeply traumatic for the women involved, with the current backlog in cases meaning that they may be having to recount the experiences several years down the line.
- Members asked that more information be shared on third party reporting avenues. It was advised that this could be fed back to the Panel.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That more information pertaining to third party reporting avenues be fed back to the Panel.

**PFCP 65/23 ORGANISED CRIME ANNUAL UPDATE AND FORWARD LOOK
(CHALLENGER, MODERN SLAVERY & TRAFFICKING)**

Neil Evans (Director of Police, Crime, Fire & Criminal Justice, GMCA) provided an overview of the Greater Manchester partnership response to serious and organised crime.

- It was noted that quite a lot of the retail crime taking place that was referenced earlier in the meeting was often linked to organised crime stolen goods networks.
- The Four 'P's' within the report (Prepare, Prevent, Pursue & Protect) were highlighted as the four key pillars fundamentally important to the operation of the overall strategy.
- One of the most concerning developments in recent years had been the increase in the exploitation of children to operate within organised crime networks. The report highlighted the prevention work taking place to tackle this.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel notes the contents of the report.

PFCP 66/23 FINANCE – PRECEPT PROCESS

GMCA Treasurer Steve Wilson introduced a report explaining the statutory duties required of the Panel in relation to the setting of the police precept.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the statutory duties of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in relation to the setting of the police precept be noted.
2. That the timetable for the setting of the 2024/25 police precept and requiring a meeting of panel before 31st January 2024 be noted.