

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL**

Date: March 2024

Subject: Strengthening Neighbourhood Policing

Report of: Kate Green – Deputy Mayor for Police, Crime, Criminal Justice services and Fire

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide a brief update on the strengthening of neighbourhood policing in Greater Manchester and how this is working in practice with partners.

Whilst this report provides a brief update on the structural and operational changes (in terms of vacancy levels and abstractions etc) its primary focus is to explore how the neighbourhood policing model is working in practice with partners including the work of neighbourhood crime teams, prevention and problem solving and communications. It will also focus on outcomes – including reductions in neighbourhood crime levels.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Panel members are asked to: -

1. Consider the report.
2. Feedback on the model and discuss how we can create consistency across Greater Manchester.

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## **1. STRENGTHENING NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

The Neighbourhood model is continuing to strengthen.

All district areas have in place Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT's) that align to the model with phase 2 work seeking to focus on consistency, culture, and performance.

### **Vacancy levels and abstractions**

Vacancy levels across Neighbourhood Policing Team continue to be held under scrutiny. Neighbourhood Tasking Teams have been established as have specialist neighbourhood roles within the Neighbourhood Policing Model, supporting communities by targeting localities and offenders who are causing the most harm on districts.

The Sergeant and Inspector establishment are now at full strength with no long term vacancies across the force (churn through role change, retirement and promotion will always remain a factor). There has been a continued reduction of constable vacancies across the force, with a further reduction in the last quarter to a 16.2% vacancy rate in the Neighbourhood Constables as of March 24, this has been enhanced by the establishment of specialist neighbourhood roles.

When combined GMP are 15.4% under strength for neighbourhood constables with plans continuing to be followed to increase capacity in line with GMP's workforce profile.

### **Improvements to the Neighbourhood Performance Framework**

A significant investment has been made as part of Phase 2 of the Neighbourhood Review Project in relation to improving and aligning the GMP Neighbourhood Performance Framework to the national framework. GMP has been involved in both regional and national groups to review and build upon best practice. A proportion of this work has involved developing a more accessible product that seeks to measure in three key areas:

- 1. Engagement**
- 2. Problem Solving**
- 3. Targeting activity**

### **Prevention Hubs**

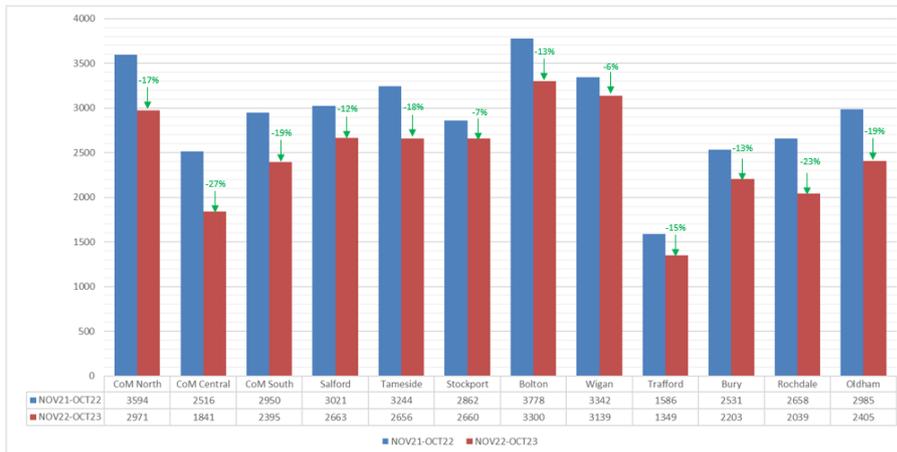
The neighbourhood model has delivered Local Prevention Hubs, these hubs house our specialist neighbourhood resources and collaborate closely with partners on the more complex cases/matters in that specific district.

Prevention hubs are data led, using the vast range of GMP data, combined with partner data where available to map and understand victims, locations, and offenders. Bespoke work is then conducted in efforts to target resources and subsequently reduce harm.

One area of focus has been repeat missing from home reports, an area of high risk often in relation to adult and child safeguarding. Significant results have been demonstrated through focused collaborative work across all districts within GM.

### Missing Events – District Breakdown

*Bolton, Wigan & CoM North remain the 3 districts with the highest MFH events, accounting for 31.8% of total MFH events.  
All districts have seen reductions in the previous year, with CoM Central (-27%) and Rochdale (-23%) seeing the largest decreases in MFH events.*



Partners across the force have provided excellent feedback in relation to the value of these hubs in effective collaborative working.

### Op Vulcan – Targeting Activity

The clear, hold, build methodology of Operation Vulcan will be the basis on which we now further enhance our neighbourhood offer in GMP, with similar methodology work recently being expanded into Rochdale, Stockport, Trafford and Bolton.

Cheetham Hill Past 12 months.

- 239 arrests.
- 943 stop searches,
- 206 counterfeit shops closed.
- 53% reduction in Crime Harm Index.
- 2.6 million tablets of illicit prescription medication recovered.
- £660k in cash seized and forfeited.
- 93 joint visits with over 400k illegal vapes seized.
- 1052 tonnes of counterfeit goods seized. This equates to £1.53 billion loss prevention to UK economy.
- Thematic MoRile score for area reduced from 2842 (highest in region at time) to 58.
- Clear/ Hold/ Build pilot area and Build has now started on large scale.

## **Op Vulcan Piccadilly**

Past 6 months.

- 137 arrest.
- 634 stop searches
- 46 care plans submitted.
- 79 seizures of drugs ranging from class A to C.
- A focus on Robbery since January 2024 has so far seen a positive outcome of 27% across the Micro hotspot (this is in comparison to previous 6 months where outcome was under 2%).
- Survey of retail premises in March 2024 has revealed 86% feel well supported by the police.
- This too is a Clear/ Hold/ Build pilot and we are working closely with MCC and design for security to map out crime prevention options for the space.

## **Op Vulcan Network** (currently Piccadilly station Metro).

Past 3 months.

Op Vulcan Network works differently as it is simply Vulcan methodology applied to a location and uses pooled resources to achieve results (in this case BTP/ Transport Unit/ student officers/ Metro link staff and other partners).

- 27 arrests.
- 134 stop searches.
- 21 care plans submitted.
- For the first time ever the station itself is now fully closed between 0200 and 0400 hours. This joint approach is already having positive impacts on ASB and crime levels.

## **Bee in the Loop and social media – Engaging Communities**

Bee in the Loop has 19,081 subscribers to date and districts continue to keep the momentum growing within our audiences. In the last 12 months 1,951 messages have been sent out to our communities across the districts ranging from crime prevention to updates from the local area and dates/ details of up-and-coming police surgeries.

The development and growth of Bee in the Loop to access a broader range of communities continues to be part of the Neighbourhood communications strategy, it is complemented by GMP's use of social media, as an example between November 23 and January 24 GMP social media had over 60 million interactions, a key part of engaging and delivering messages to our communities, these statistics are tracked and monitored for each district.

## Social Media Posts – Facebook and X (1 Nov 23 – 31 Jan 24)



District	Number of Posts	Reach	Impressions	Clicks	Comments	Likes	Shares
Forcewide	5.6k	41.8m	60.3m	345.5k	33k	177.5k	62k

## Outcomes – Neighbourhood Crime

GMP has invested significantly in relation to Neighbourhood Crime, with dedicated investigate teams for these impactful and often life changing crime types.

During the past 12 months (data until Feb 24) we have seen as a direct comparator from the previous year:

- Recorded neighbourhood crime (personal robbery, domestic burglary, theft of vehicles and of the person) has reduced significantly this year by 13.8%, This year 45,545 – last year 52,812.
- Residential burglary has seen a significant reduction; 24.1% decrease, this year 12,649 – last year 16,662.
- Vehicle offences has seen a reduction of 13.8%, this year 21,508 – last year 24,938.
- Theft from person reported has seen an increase overall by 8.6%, however Jan 2024 showed 399 offences recorded compared against the average of 594 per month and January 2024 recording 626. This continues to remain a priority focus area for the force.
- Overall arrests have increased by 13.9% this year, which builds on a significant increase of 29% the year before.
- GMP are also solving more crimes. This year 5.3% of neighbourhood crime was solved, compared to 3.7% two years ago.
- Burglary solved rates have increased to 7.7% up from 5.9%, Personal Robbery solved rates have increased to 9.3% from 7.7% and vehicle offences are up to 4.3% from 3.4%.

## Antisocial Behaviour

A main drive of GMP's local policing is to build stronger communities where people feel safe through strengthening and remodelling its neighbourhood policing service to reduce demand and increase legitimacy, GMP recognises that a significant proportion of community concern and confidence relates directly to how effectively ASB is addressed.

GMP recorded 82,347 ASB incidents in the last 12 months, a 16.6% increase. The top

categories were rowdy behaviour, nuisance communications, neighbour issues, vehicle nuisance and abandoned vehicles.

The Government has pledged to provide financial support to police forces in England and Wales to use specifically to tackle ASB in hotspot locations. GMP has submitted an application and proposal for a spend of over £700k to the Home Office which will detail our methodology to target ASB within communities. The allocated grant is required to be spent on Hot Spot Policing and will be intrinsically linked with GMP's Op Venture team who will be dedicated to patrolling and undertaking interventions in identified areas.

## **Summary**

GMP are making good, evidenced progress in relation to Neighbourhood Crime outcomes, we have adopted a proven methodology in Clear, Hold, Build evidenced by the work of Op Vulcan and continue to build on the strengths of this. There is continued work to undertake in relation to bringing the Neighbourhood Policing offer up established posts, developing further consistency with how effectively we engage with our communities, especially minority communities and how we track, measure and monitor our intervention and prevention work.