

## COMMUNITY



## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

### Greater Manchester tackling Gender-Based Violence

GMCA has championed innovative work that local services in the city-region are pioneering helping improve the way we respond to Gender-Based Violence in Greater Manchester.

#### **Domestic Abuse Crisis Workers pilot**

A pilot to test new models of support to victims of abuse has been commissioned by the GMCA and piloted in Bolton and Salford. Domestic abuse workers were funded to join Greater Manchester Police when attending reports of domestic abuse to provide wrap around emotional and psychological support and signpost to support services.

Both pilots achieved better outcomes for victims of abuse and in particular saw considerably higher proportions of victims supporting pursuing a police investigation against the perpetrator. In Bolton, the innovative delivery model consists of highly trained volunteers, supported by a volunteer coordinator, providing the DA worker role. Key outcomes include:

- 88% of victims went on to access wider services including IDVA services, counselling and victim support programmes
- 77% of these stated that they had not needed to report to the police again and after one month, 85% stated that they had not needed to report to the police again
- 100% said that they understood all of the various options available to them and that they would be more willing to report an incident in the future
- Positive feedback from the police on demand reduction and police officers reporting learning new engagement techniques from the DA workers to better support victims

The programme prioritises prevention, the protection of women, and the need to deliver effectively in an area that has constrained funding. By using volunteers, the programme delivered

value for money, enriched volunteering opportunities to people in local communities, enhanced volunteers' employability, relieved local service workloads and pressure and delivered a service to women that they have overwhelmingly embraced. This new approach has been funded for a second year while exploring options to provide this into mainstream domestic abuse provision. Greater Manchester's progress with domestic abuse arrest rates and solved crime rates has showed that police were detecting significantly more crimes and ensuring that those who pose a risk are remanded into custody.

### **Lived Experience Panel**

Comprised of inspirational women who, drawing on their own diverse experiences of gender-based violence, have committed to working with GMCA and partners to develop and deliver transformational and creative responses to the challenge posed by gender-based violence.

The establishment of the Lived Experience Panel has been particularly important to Greater Manchester and panel members are critical to ensuring partners change the way we do things for the better and are actively engaged in decision making and priority setting.

Their work to date has included meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on VAWG to share best practice in GM and influence national and international recommendations for change; shaping the direction and content of the GM Mayoral public information campaign on coercive controlling behaviour; influencing the GM Gender Based Violence Delivery plan for 2024-26 and working on key projects to support victims and their family to stay in their own homes instead of having to flee abuse and informing commissioning processes to ensure they are truly victim focussed.

### **The creation of a Housing Reciprocal**

An agreement across all 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester so that victims of domestic abuse can be rehomed in suitable housing in any borough. Previously victims could only be rehomed within their borough, and this is still the case in most other parts of the UK, which can cause further trauma and be unsafe for victims. Anyone homeless due to domestic abuse is deemed to have a priority need for accommodation, thereby requiring local authorities to make safe and suitable temporary options available. And in some cases, there is too much risk for the person in need to stay in the borough they are in. Greater Manchester's new reciprocal enables this provision to cross boroughs, making it easier for a household affected by domestic abuse to access housing outside of the area they currently live in, should the risk of staying in their borough be too high.



**#IsThisOk campaign:** The Mayor's campaign #IsThisOK, has challenged men and boys to call out sexist and misogynistic behaviours and to consider their own conduct. The most recent phase of #IsThisOK reached over 4.1 million views on social media and over half of men and boys surveyed said it had made them think, feel, or want to do something differently. Greater Manchester have launched the first gender-based violence plan for men and boys to tackle domestic abuse and sexual assault and harassment towards men and boys, raise awareness of support services and reporting mechanisms, and expand training for professionals

<https://bit.ly/4jH6rV7>

### Gender Based Violence Strategy

By working closely with people with lived experience and with partners across the public, private and voluntary sector to tackle GBV, we are using all our collective powers to punish, disrupt and change the behaviour of perpetrators of abuse. The scale of the challenge is significant, but since launching the 10-year Gender-Based Violence Strategy in 2021, partners in Greater Manchester are seeing progress towards this.



<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/safer-and-stronger-communities/gender-based-violence/>

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### For further information contact:

Dom Coleman

Senior Policy and Partnership Officer - Greater Manchester Combined Authority

[Dominic.Coleman@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Dominic.Coleman@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk) | [www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)