

Our plan to stop Gender-Based Violence What we will do



More accessible version
June 2021



This is the more accessible version of what we will do to stop gender-based violence in Greater Manchester over the next 10 years.



We have also written a more accessible short version of 'Our Plan to Stop Gender-Based Violence' and 'Our Plan to Stop Gender-Based Violence What Do You Think?' which is a questionnaire that asks people what they think of our plan.

If you want the full version of any of these documents please download them from our website, or contact us:



Gender-Based Violence Consultation
c/o The Engagement Team
GMCA
The Tootal Buildings
56 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6EU

Our website is at:
www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY



Greater Manchester Combined Authority is the Mayor and the 10 local councils from each part of Greater Manchester working together on things that affect people across the region such as transport.

Introduction



We want Greater Manchester to be one of the best places in the world to live. We are doing things to make that happen.

One thing that is a big problem is how badly some women and girls are treated.

We have come up with a plan to try and stop this. It is called our 'Gender-Based Violence Strategy'.

Some of the words we use may be hard to understand. We have put them in **blue bold** letters and tried to say what they mean.



What we mean by gender-based violence

Gender-Based Violence is when a person is treated badly or hurt because of their gender. Most gender-based violence is done to women and girls by men and boys.

- **Domestic homicide** – This is when someone is killed by a partner, ex-partner, relative or someone they live with.
- **Domestic abuse and control** – This is when someone is abused, hurt or made to do things by someone who is a partner, ex-partner, family member or carer.
- Rape and sexual assault
- Stalking – on and offline



- Harassment – in public and at work
- Sexual exploitation
- **Romance fraud** – This is when someone pretends to be in love with someone to get their trust and then cons them out of money.
- **Traditional harmful practices** – These are things such as so-called honour-based crimes, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.
- **Misogyny** – This is disliking and being prejudiced against women.
- **Trafficking and modern slavery** – This is when people are made to do work for little or no pay and are not allowed their freedom. This often involves taking them to a different country.



The main things we want to do

1. Get people to stop thinking in ways that let gender-based violence happen.

Get rid of the unequalness in society that lets gender-based violence happen.

2. Get the public, employers, the health service and education services to work with the police and courts to protect victims and stop violence and harassment.

3. Make it easier for victims to get support and help.

4. Make sure staff who work directly with the public know anyone can become a victim of gender-based violence. Inequality can make this more likely to happen.



5. Think about online threats to victims and how they can be reported.

6. Reduce the risk of homelessness.

7. Get services to learn from each other about the best way of doing things.



8. Give training to people who work with victims and people who have been violent to help them deal with people who may have complex needs.

9. Work with employers, inspectors and professional bodies to set standards for services for victims of gender-based violence.

10. Look at what we do, and how it makes things better and means there is less gender-based violence.

11. Work with the public, especially young people, to change people's attitudes so they are against gender-based violence.

Stopping gender-based violence in Greater Manchester



To stop gender-based violence we have to change the way some men and boys think about women and girls.

A lot of problems are because of **inequality** and **sexism**.

Inequality is where some people are worse off than other people, or do not get the same chances as others.

Sexism is where people, usually women, are treated badly just because they are women.

If people are in trouble with the police for gender-based violence, the police and courts can do things to stop them doing it again. But we think it is better to do things so people will not commit crimes in the first place.



- We talked to lots of people about our plan.
- We will come up with action plans of things that should be done.
- We will start a Gender-Based Violence Board to look at what is being done.



Getting things done in Greater Manchester

Stopping gender-based violence is up to everybody, so everybody needs to know what they should do about it. Everyone should feel safe and able to speak up about people who are doing gender-based violence.



How we will do this

1. Talk to the public and have a campaign for men and boys that shows how inequality and the way some people think makes gender-based violence happen.

2. Check that when we talk to the public or have campaigns the things we say are understood. We will check this directly with young people and faith groups.

3. Plan what to do as more people understand about gender-based violence and report things more often.



4. Have a special emergency system for people on public transport. Help local councils get Public Space Protection Orders – these are laws that stop people doing bad things in public.

5. Tell employers about the best ways to do things to stop domestic abuse, sexual harassment and protect people who are at risk of being stalked. Help workers speak up against discrimination and abuse without being scared of bad things happening to them.

6. Get service providers to do something about the difference in pay and chances that men and women get. Every year, they should report on any differences in pay between the men and women who work for them.



7. Make sure people who work for services get training about gender-based violence.

Make sure they feel able to tackle issues such as sexism, racism and homophobia, which can be linked with gender-based violence.



8. Work with government inspectors to set new standards for looking into gender-based violence done by public sector staff.



Supporting victims and survivors

We think these are the main things services should do to meet the needs of victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

1. Start a **Trusted Referrer Scheme** – These are groups and organisations who are approved by Greater Manchester Combined Authority. This will let voluntary sector groups, faith groups and schools get in touch with health services and the police and courts etc. on behalf of victims and survivors, so they do not have to keep telling their story over and over to different people.



2. Look at the way Greater Manchester Police deal with domestic abuse cases, to make sure victims and survivors are kept informed, treated with dignity and listened to.

3. Make changes to our **Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates** and **Independent Sexual Violence Advocates Service** – These are registered specialists who support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence who are at more risk of being hurt. We want to make sure they meet the needs of all victims and survivors in all areas of Greater Manchester.

Make a plan to help male victims of gender-based violence.

4. Look at how we commission services to support victims of rape and sexual assault, so people get support straight away and have to wait less time to get specialist services.



5. Set new standards over Greater Manchester for victim advocacy services to give more victims more support.

6. Have new women's centres. Have a Health Service Project Manager who will look at how vulnerable women get health and well-being services.

7. Make sure our victim services are easy to find and accessible to all. It should not matter if people have told the police, are not able to get public money, or their immigration status.

8. Spend money on services and risk assessments for people with learning difficulties and people who are neurodivergent.

9. Make sure services that support victims and survivors work together. So that services share their skills and knowledge to give the best overall service to victims.

10. Work with housing and the police and courts, so people who commit gender-based violence are moved, instead of their victims.



11. Use some of the ways we have worked during the COVID-19 pandemic to support adult victims and their children back to stable places to live.

12. Make sure the Greater Manchester Homeless Prevention Strategy looks at how housing insecurity makes gender-based violence more likely.

Make sure support for people rough sleeping takes into account gender and trauma and the different needs of women, **LGBTQ+** and disabled people.

LGBTQ+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning.

13. Regularly tell health, social care and criminal justice staff about changes in the law.



14. Set up a way of inspecting the services we provide to see how well they work.

Meeting the needs of children and young people

We will:



1. Tell schools the next day if the police have been called to deal with domestic abuse where someone under 18 lives. This will be done as part of **Operation Encompass** – This is a charitable organisation that works with schools and police services to make sure schools are told quickly that one of their pupils has been exposed to domestic abuse, so that they can support them.

2. Change the way schools give out information to stop abusers using information about their child's education to control the person they have hurt, or make them do things they do not want to.



3. Spend more on mental health services for children and young people. They will be available through schools and colleges. This will take pressure off police and emergency services.



4. **Therapeutic Services** – These are services that help people get better after bad experiences, by things such as counselling. We will check they are there for children and young people who live in homes where there is domestic abuse.



Make adult services available to older teenagers who are at risk of violence from their close partner, or abuse by other older teenagers.

5. Test what can be done to stop violence. Look at a **Community Perpetrator Programme** – this would be a scheme in the community to help people who have been abusive to their partner to change the way they behave. We would look at referrals that come from families and the courts.

6. Carry on giving special support aimed at the person who has committed gender-based violence.

Working with people who commit gender-based violence

Most victims and survivors want the people who commit gender-based violence to be able to get help to change.

We want:

1. Services for men who have been abusive in **heterosexual** relationships to be available in a wider area.

Heterosexual means a person is sexually attracted to someone who is opposite sex as they are.



2. More 1-to-1 help for women who have been abusive in heterosexual relationships.



3. A new service for men who have been abusive in same-sex relationships.

4. Start a new service to work with people who have been abusive and are not fluent English speakers.

5. Have a way of making **restorative justice** options easier to get for young people or very vulnerable adults who have committed gender-based violence. Especially those who have been hurt themselves through gender-based violence.

Restorative justice brings people hurt by crime and the people who hurt them, into meeting each other. This can help everyone affected play a part in repairing the hurt and moving forward in a positive way.

6. Look at how well restorative justice, helps victims recover from serious cases. Look at new ways to show people who have committed gender-based violence the harm they have caused.

Making policing and the Criminal Justice System better



The Criminal Justice System is all the different people who may be involved when someone is arrested for a crime. These are the police, courts, prison and the probation service, government departments such as the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).



1. Police who go to an incident of domestic abuse should get all the evidence and use body cameras all the time to record what goes on.
2. Make sure all police officers who deal with the public know how to ask to talk to victims in a clear way on their own. This will help victims feel it is safe to tell the police about abuse.
3. Make sure that if someone is accused of abuse and they are being done for it, if they are a risk of harming someone, then the courts should look at how victims are protected.
4. If someone is going to court for abuse, the court should always think about if they should put a **Restraining Order** on them. A Restraining Order stops someone having contact with someone they are thought to have abused. This is in case they try hurt the victim more, or scare them.
5. Help the police get better at investigating and dealing with cases of gender-based violence.



6. Ask Greater Manchester Police to show how technology, such as video from body-worn cameras are making results better for victims.



7. Look to see if a panel of people from different services could meet together to make the way victims are dealt with better. It could make it easier and quicker to share information between Multi-Agency **Safeguarding Hubs** – These are where people from different organisations, such as police, social workers, mental health workers, work together as a single team. Their job is to keep people safe from things such as gender-based violence.



8. Help the police get better at dealing with stalking. To do this we will have Scrutiny Panels – these are groups of people from different services, who check what is being done.

We will work with the Paladin – the National Stalking Advocacy Service to give advocacy to victims of stalking.

We will look to see if it would be worth having Stalking Assessment Centres, where specially trained officers would receive all first reports of stalking.



What we want to do about criminal justice

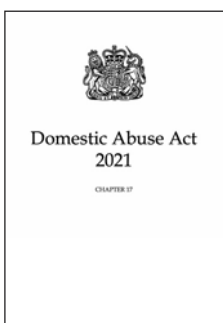
We want to:

1. Make sure victims and witnesses are asked how the way the Criminal Justice System deals with gender-based violence can be better.

2. Check if changes to the Criminal Justice System are making victims more satisfied with what is done, or does it make things worse for women at risk of abuse and for people from black and minority communities.

3. Get all people who work in the Criminal Justice System training about new laws such as the Domestic Abuse Act and the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme.

Remind staff how important safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is.



4. Work with parts of the Criminal Justice System such as the courts, to make it easier for victims to give evidence. Such as video recorded questions and letting victims tell the court how the crime has made them feel.



5. Make sure people know about new laws which give more ways of dealing with people who have been sentenced for crimes.

6. Make sure victims get referred to the Probation Service Victim Contact Scheme for support when those who abused them get sent to prison for 12 months or more.

7. Keep in touch with groups that work with people who have been abused, to make sure the protection of victims and survivors of abuse is the priority for those working with people who commit these sorts of crime.

National
Probation
Service



8. **The National Probation Service** – This is the service that supervises people in the community after they have left prison.

The National Probation Service will:

- Do more to help frontline staff understand what the Victim Contact Scheme says they must do: They need to tell victims about the sentences given to people found guilty by the courts and the conditions they will have to follow when they leave prison.



- Make sure people who have been found guilty of a crime get the right sentence. This can be done by getting together all the information about the person and their crime in the reports the Judge reads before they choose what the sentence should be.
- Everyone who works with people who have done gender-based violence should share their skills and the best ways of working. This should be shared with those who work with people who are sex offenders, or guilty of hate crimes, or domestic abuse.

How we think health and social care can work better together



People who have been victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault or other sorts of gender-based violence may need to use the NHS. Staff in the NHS need to be able to spot victims and need to know where victims can get help. Health and Social Care services need to work together. We think things would be better if:

1. All health staff who work face-to-face with the public get training on abuse.

2. There are more Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates in hospitals, so they can help see if people are at risk.

3. We should look at gaps in our counselling service.

4. We should use technology to make sure all services are accessible. Work with victim services and talk to vulnerable women and victims using primary care services.

5. Tell people about **Pride in Practice** training for GPs, opticians, dentists and pharmacies which helps them meet the needs of LGBTQ+ patients.





6. Support the **Indigo Pilot Scheme** – This is voluntary organisations supporting those from the trans community at risk of gender-based violence, when they are receiving services from the NHS.

7. Make sure translators have been trained about gender-based violence, for people whose first language is not English.



8. Produce new training about gender-based violence for social workers and staff in the **Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service** – This is the service that represents children in family courts and who advise the court on what is safe for children and in their best interests.

9. Have new ways to help **Family Group Meetings** – These are a meeting with the wider family of a child such as grandparents. They are held when there is concern about the welfare of a child and choices are made to help parents better look after their children.

We will run them in a way that stops abusers using the meeting to scare victims.

10. Look at how others have been able to stop harmful traditional practices to get to know what works.