

Community Safety Strategy 2026–2029



Our Manchester

**Community Safety
Partnership**

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1. Foreword

I am pleased to introduce our Community Safety Strategy for the city for 2026 to 2029. It sets out our strategic direction, priorities and actions for the next three years.

We want Manchester to be the safest it can be for the people who live here and those who visit our great city.

It has been over 25 years since we published our first Strategy, back in 1999. Since then, our strong relationships and spirit of collaborative working have been at the core of our efforts to tackle all forms of crime and disorder and make Manchester a safer place for all.

We have made progress on many fronts and are proud of our achievements, but as community safety is such a constantly and rapidly evolving agenda, we know there is still much more for us to do. As a partnership we must also evolve, continuing to listen, learn, improve and develop our approach and our ways of working.

While producing this Strategy, we have listened to the views of many people in our city and heard about their experiences. The Strategy is shaped by what residents, businesses, community groups, organisations and service providers have told us.

The Strategy has also been produced in a climate of changing national political direction. Community safety has risen up the national agenda. New legislation gives us more power to make the city safer but will also see more responsibility placed upon the agencies that make up the Community Safety Partnership. As a partnership we are committed to a safer Manchester, and we will embrace this challenge and the opportunity it presents.

We aim to ensure that our local approach is reflective of that national direction but remains focused on the specific needs, issues and challenges of our city, which those living and working across the city know better than anyone.

The Partnership is committed to ensuring that Manchester continues to be a world-class, thriving and safe city where people want to live, work, study and visit, in line with the Our Manchester Strategy. Over the next three years we will be working hard together to deliver on that commitment.

Councillor Garry Bridges
Deputy Leader of
Manchester City Council



2. Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a duty on the police and local authorities to work together with key partners and organisations to develop and implement local crime-reduction strategies.

Before developing these strategies, the partnership must identify the key local crime and disorder priorities through consultation with local residents, businesses and community groups. They must also analyse crime and disorder levels and patterns in the area and have regard for the objectives set out in the local police and crime plan.

In Manchester, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) comprises a wide range of public, voluntary and community organisations, all with a role to play in making the city safer.

Our Partnership is long-established, with strong relationships and a spirit of working together to deliver for the people of our city. Our Partnership is also one that is well regarded outside the city,

and we are a strong voice and active participant in the wider work to improve safety across the city region and nationally.

In delivering on our vision, we will be contributing to the wider aims of the Our Manchester Strategy 2025–2035 and its overriding vision of Manchester as a safe, clean, green, well-connected and must-see city, where every resident knows they belong and feels the benefit of economic growth and the changes to come. A safer city centre and safer neighbourhoods encourage economic growth, attract visitors and help our residents to live healthy, active, connected and fulfilling lives.

We strongly value our citizens and their views, alongside those of people who work in, study in or visit the city. We have listened to those views during a summer of consultation, and in section 5 below we will tell you more about what we've learnt and how those views will help to shape our approach over the next three years.



We know that there are areas of our city and sections of our population that experience a disproportionate impact from crime, antisocial behaviour and other forms of victimisation. In addition to the views captured in our consultation, this strategy is shaped by extensive data, analysis and intelligence that help us to better understand where, and towards whom, our resources and activities most need to be directed.

However, there are positive opportunities on the horizon, such as the Young Futures Programme, which offers early intervention to stop young people being drawn into crime. It creates career opportunities and provides improved access to mental health and other support for young people in their communities through Young Futures Hubs and Young Futures Partnerships.

As part of the Government's Safer Streets mission, the Crime and Policing Bill strengthens powers available to partners to tackle persistent antisocial behaviour. Following the Independent Sentencing Review (ISR), the Sentencing Bill makes

significant changes to the sentencing framework (the way in which offenders are managed and serve sentences in the community), and also aims to create a justice system that better serves victims.

This strategy has been developed alongside a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) and a Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). Across the following pages, we will set out our priorities for the next three years, describe how we will deploy and manage our resources, and measure how effective we are in delivering on those priorities.

3. Manchester – an ever-growing, ever-changing city

Manchester is now home to over **627,000** people, a significant increase of around **92,000** in the past decade.

That decade has seen major growth and development.

The city is more diverse than ever, over **43%** of residents describing themselves as being from an ethnic minority community.



We have become a **better educated city**, **77.3%** of our people having a college-level qualification and far fewer people having no qualifications.

Our local economy is the fastest growing in the country.

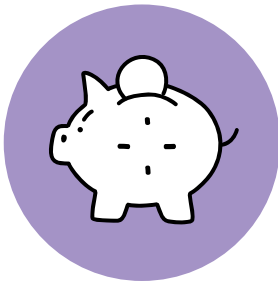
Since 2015, the city has added over 103,000 new jobs, and the average wage of our citizens has increased faster than the national average.

There is much that makes our people proud of Manchester, as they told us in the Our Manchester Strategy consultation in 2024.



However, we also know that our city and its people have some challenges.

The **resilience and togetherness** of our city has been tested by some major events, such as the Manchester Arena attack, the COVID-19 pandemic, and more recently by a terrorist attack at the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in the city. We are impacted by tensions arising as a consequence of political unrest nationally and worldwide.



The recent cost-of-living crisis and wider economic impacts have put increased strain on households, over 40% of our children living in poverty and one in five people in the city earning less than the Living Wage.



There are significant **health inequalities** in our city, and **life expectancy in Manchester is lower** than the national average. We see significant differences within the city as well.

Some of our neighbourhoods are disproportionately affected by **crime, disorder, and harmful and antisocial behaviour**, which persistently feature in the most affected wards.



4. The past three years – innovation and achievement

Over the past three years, progress has been made on several fronts. Here are a few examples of the work of partner agencies and their impact:

We have made significant reductions in neighbourhood crime over the past two years. Figures from April 2024 to March 2025 indicate a 36% reduction in residential burglary, a 22% reduction in theft from person, a 32% reduction in vehicle crime, and a 17% reduction in domestic violence and abuse compared to April 2022 to March 2023.

In response to tackling child exploitation in Manchester, we deliver our partnership's proactive and responsive work through Operation Luka, which is focused on supporting young people who may be at risk of harm. Police and social workers have been deployed to the city centre to engage with young people in an informal setting to help foster trusted relationships. Their presence helped identify vulnerable children, and by intervening quickly they ensured the young people received the right

support. The response to every situation differs and is reflective of the level of risk and harm the young people face. The aim is to disrupt exploitation, pursue criminality, and put appropriate safeguarding measures in place for those who need them.

Our Street Engagement Hub continues to deliver wide-ranging support and services to tackle crime, antisocial behaviour, begging, and rough sleeping. The Rough Sleeping Support Service and partners are working to tackle persistent location issues and have reduced the number of entrenched rough sleepers in the city.

Operation Safer Streets is the GMP response to safety in the night-time economy. Additional officers are deployed on Friday and Saturday nights to support vulnerable people, challenge behaviour, engage with members of the public, and provide help and advice. This is supported by volunteers, including the Village Angels, Student Angels, and the medical and welfare unit, which provides help, support and first aid.

Restorative Practitioners from Remedi (a charity providing restorative justice services) received 136 referrals to support young people across the city from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, delivering 735 sessions, with an attendance rate of 94%; 54 young people completed their sessions. Strong links have been built with the ENGAGE panels focused on diverting children and young people away from the criminal justice system.

The Manchester Alternative Provisions Pathway has been established, with the purpose of reducing permanent exclusions and encouraging part-time placements. In 2024/25, Manchester saw a significant reduction in school exclusions, which is directly linked to partnership-focused work with schools through outreach support. Data shows a 25% reduction in exclusions for the 2024/25 academic year, which reflects the collaborative approach of system leaders across all our schools and the local authority partnership.

The RADEQUAL grant scheme has supported several local Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations, such as M13 Youth Project, Revolution Youth, and Odd Arts, to challenge, connect and

champion activities that build community resilience to hateful extremism. Activities have included interactive theatre and arts workshops, detached youth work, themed discussions, and online safety workshops. Opportunities were taken to listen to young people's views on the country in the aftermath of the disorder during summer 2024.

Over 4,400 colleagues from the Council and partner agencies have received training in trauma awareness as part of a rolling programme that has continued throughout 2024/25.

Manchester has been a chosen pilot site for introduction of the Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO). This has allowed us to focus on opportunities to use the new order to tackle serial and high-risk perpetrators of abuse and enable support services to protect victims and children. Over 230 orders were secured up to September 2025 and breaches of orders were robustly followed up in court.

As part of our programme of work to promote the Women's Night-time Safety Charter, the WalkSafe app was launched in 2024. There have been more than 6,000 downloads, and 2,000 managers and employees in premises in the night-time

economy sector have received Active Bystander training.

The Manchester Sex Work Forum has developed the Manchester Sex Work Strategy 2025–28. Members include people with lived experience, providing invaluable challenge and insight into services and policies.

Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) facilitate the MANDRAKE (MANchester DRug Analysis and Knowledge Exchange) programme. They test seized drugs and identify their content and purity, sharing details with services to promote harm-reduction advice. MMU also produce an annual Drug Trends Survey report for the CSP.

The report highlights new and emerging drugs. This allows the CSP to develop up-to-date responses and policies and allocate resources.

Settled accommodation is a key factor for the successful rehabilitation of offenders. Specialist schemes have provided offenders with support around obtaining and retaining accommodation. Support has been provided around substance use, health, trauma, life skills, and coping strategies, and has helped to prevent homelessness.

Partners have worked together to promote student safety. This has included handing out personal safety kits and advice during Welcome Week, window locks, bike registration and locks, and anti-spiking kits, as well as instigating the Don't Drink and Drown campaign. Work also continued to take place to tackle antisocial behaviour in hotspot student areas.

Following engagement with young people and communities when developing the Serious Violence Strategy, the CSP commissioned youth provision to provide support for young people at risk of violence. This targeted work includes detached youth work and outreach, mentoring, support for young people and families, and conflict resolution.



We have engaged with children to co-produce campaigns that impact them. For example, the 2025 Greater Manchester Bonfire Campaign materials were co-produced with children and young people in Miles Platting and Newton Heath, working with the Area Youth Partnerships.

The Hate Crime Awareness programme has been running since 2013, raising awareness of reporting mechanisms for victims of

hate crime and the support available, and promoting community cohesion.

Organisations from the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector have received small grants to hold events in their community.

5. Establishing our priorities, informing our approach

When developing our priorities, we carried out several different forms of consultation, along with analysis. We also took into consideration our statutory duties, current legislation, and strategies and plans – both local and national.

Strategic Threat Assessment

The CSP commissions the production of a Strategic Threat Assessment every year. This informs us of the types and levels of crimes, antisocial behaviour and emerging issues we need to focus on to make Manchester safer. We have used the information derived from our 2025 assessment to inform the drafting of this Strategy, along with information within other needs assessments we are obliged to produce every year to comply with statutory duties on domestic abuse and serious violence.

What you told us

The partnership consulted with residents, community groups and organisations, businesses and partner agencies during May to August 2025.

Consultation took various forms, including focus groups, face-to-face engagement in communities, and an online survey hosted on the Council’s website and widely promoted through Council and CSP social media channels. Those who shared their views through face-to-face work and focus groups included:

- Age Friendly Manchester Board
- Longsight Women’s Group
- Khizra Mosque
- Women’s Equality Network
- All for One new arrivals group
- Greater Manchester collaboration of VCFSE leads
- Resident focus groups and meetings online and in person.

People told us that feeling safe was important to them and CCTV, street lighting, security and police patrols help them feel safe. Sense of community is valued; community involvement, and having friendly neighbours make a difference. Good accessibility, such as public transport links and cycle lanes, are important. People want areas to be clean and appreciate the environment, including green spaces, trees and parks.

The top ten issues and concerns featuring in the survey and in the responses of people participating in the focus groups, meetings and workshops were:

- Antisocial behaviour
- Speeding cars and antisocial driving
- Drug dealing or people taking drugs
- Safety in the city centre
- Serious violence, including knife crime
- Safety in local neighbourhoods and district centres
- Violence against women and girls
- Burglary and robbery
- People being treated equally and fairly in the criminal justice system
- Tackling organised crime and gangs.



Residents and other respondents also raised other issues, which have been noted and will be reflected, including:

- Electric bikes being ridden dangerously and on pavements
- Neglected and unsafe spaces around the city
- Need for greater visible safety and enforcement presence
- Greater safeguarding for vulnerable groups, such as young people, older people and those with disabilities
- More educational, preventative and diversionary services for young people.

GMCA Policing and Community Safety Survey

Since July 2019, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has conducted a quarterly survey on behalf of all local authorities across Greater Manchester. The survey provides a measure of how safe residents feel in their day-to-day lives and how confident they are that the CSP is dealing with community safety issues.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, 87% of survey respondents said they felt safe in their local area, and 67% of respondents said they felt that the CSP was dealing with safety issues. Responses from the survey have informed this Strategy and will continue to be utilised to inform our approach to improving community safety. For example, the GMCA quarterly survey indicates that some members of the community feel less safe (women, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, younger people, older people, and people who are the least financially stable). The CSP therefore proactively engaged with these communities to ensure that their views and experiences were captured.

Our approach is to work in partnership. The Community Safety Partnership board brings together statutory and non-statutory partners to deliver the Community Safety Strategy, identifying challenges, driving change, and influencing and lobbying locally and nationally on areas of importance for Manchester.

Legislation and statutory duties

During the lifespan of the last Strategy, several new pieces of legislation were passed and related duties placed upon local authorities and partners. They have informed production of this Strategy and the commitments that follow on the subsequent pages about each of our priorities. They include:

- Policing, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and Serious Violence Duty
- Victims and Prisoners Act 2024
- Online Safety Act 2025
- Crime and Policing Bill (ongoing, 2026).

Other strategies and plans

This Strategy does not stand in isolation. It is aligned to and reflective of a number of other regional and national plans, which can be found in the appendix.

In writing this Strategy, we have also taken into account what people told us in the course of consultations relating to other strategies, such as the Our Manchester Strategy 2025–2035, Making Manchester Fairer 2022–27, and Building Stronger Communities Together 2023–26.

We will work:

- In partnership, sharing expertise, learning and intelligence
- Using a problem-solving approach
- To prioritise early intervention, prevention and rehabilitation
- Through local delivery and neighbourhoods
- To take a victim-led approach
- With the voice of lived experience
- In a trauma-informed and responsive way
- To make better use of technology
- To reduce inequalities and disproportionality in the criminal justice system.

6. Children and young people's voices

In writing this Strategy and identifying our priorities, the CSP took into consideration the views of many people living in, working in, and visiting Manchester. This included children and young people, either through direct engagement or through reflecting on their feedback on other related strategies, plans and service designs.

Over sixty Youth Justice-involved young people completed a Narrative Interview session for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Police and Crime Plan 2024–29 consultation. Young people were asked their views on some of the plan's priorities, along with policing in general. Children and young people shared negative feedback concerning their experiences of being arrested, lack of communication being highlighted as an issue by some. Children and young people suggested that police officers should be more approachable, have a better understanding of issues such as trauma and neurodiversity, and be kinder.

Over fifty children were involved in the co-production of the Greater Manchester Youth Justice Framework and the Manchester Youth Justice Plan 2025/26. Young people highlighted what they wanted from a Youth Justice service to keep themselves and communities safe:

- Being listened to and understood
- Feeling supported and safe
- Healthy relationships
- Learning and life skills
- Having choice and control
- Growth and change.





Through engagement with young people, Young Manchester, a youth-led partnership of over 160 local non-profit organisations found:

- Young people want to be involved in shaping their communities and areas
- Young people want to lead
- Involving young people and embedding the youth voice is not a one-day thing
- It takes time to build trust
- Voices should be diverse
- Activities for young people should be accessible, including the cost.

Young people involved with commissioned youth provision (detached outreach, one-to-one mentoring, targeted group sessions) said they feel scared by the levels of violence on the street, though at the same time accept it as reality. They said they felt safe when youth workers were around.

There is a mistrust by some young people of the police. Young people were also concerned about the lack of opportunities for them – both economic and leisure – and felt this could in turn lead to taking easy or available routes into illegal economic activity. Young people wanted to be respected and have their views listened to and treated as valid; they also needed support around mental health.

7. Our priorities for the next three years

Our consultation feedback, our Strategic Threat Assessment and our research and data analysis have all combined to help us arrive at a clear, updated set of priorities for the next three years.

Each priority will be overseen by two strategic leads, who will be responsible for development, delivery and reporting of the CSP's response for their priority area. This will include developing plans, commissioning analysis and activity, allocating funding, monitoring activity and performance, and working with other priority leads on cross-cutting areas of work.

The CSP will focus on the following six priorities over the next three years:

1. Tackling neighbourhood crime and antisocial behaviour
2. Keeping children and young people safe
3. Tackling serious harm and violence
4. Tackling drug and alcohol-driven crime
5. Protecting communities through changing offender behaviour
6. Making the city centre safer

Underpinning these six priorities will be the common theme of reducing inequalities and disproportionality in the criminal justice system. Each priority will have one or more 'equality actions' designed to tackle evidenced inequalities and disproportionality.



Priority 1. Tackling neighbourhood crime and antisocial behaviour

Our research, analysis and consultation feedback has told us that:

People remain concerned about neighbourhood crime, particularly residential burglary, robbery, and vehicle crime. Through the Our Manchester Strategy 2025–35 consultation we know that it is important for people to be safe in person and online.

Respondents in both the survey and other forms of consultation were concerned with speeding cars and antisocial driving. Of particular concern are electric bikes and riders speeding, riding on pavements, and engaging in theft-from-person offences. Respondents who live in the 30% most deprived areas are most concerned about speeding cars/antisocial driving. Cars parked on pavements blocking access were also of concern for some people.

Antisocial behaviour continues to register as a major concern for people.



This includes begging, rough sleeping, drug use, young people congregating and being intimidating, noise, and off-road bikes. Some people told us that more should be done to support people who are homeless, begging, rough sleeping, and living in poverty. They emphasised the trauma often experienced by people who are homeless and rough sleeping and the importance of support.

Several of our communities of identity were concerned with hate crime, particularly young people, people from the LGBTQ+ community, and people with disabilities. A small number of people who took part in the consultation expressed concern about leaving their home due to a fear of being targeted because of a protected characteristic.

We will:

- Carry out multi-agency operations to tackle antisocial behaviour caused by people riding electric bikes irresponsibly. Electric bikes that do not comply with e-bike regulations will be seized.
- Share good practice being developed through the Partnership and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, which provide a forum for residents to raise community safety concerns. Ensure they are effective, widely attended, and demonstrate that concerns raised by residents are addressed through a 'You said, we did' approach.
- Recommission and monitor the impact of the Street Engagement Hub for 2026 to 2029, taking a multi-agency approach to tackle antisocial behaviour, begging and rough sleeping. Partners to consider all opportunities, including positive requirements, to support people sleeping rough and involved in begging, to access support around accommodation, healthcare and other key services.
- Provide active bystander training to show people what they can do as bystanders when they witness abuse, hate crime and intimidation.
- Carry out early intervention and preventative work with students to reduce crimes such as burglary, robbery, assaults and sexual violence, particularly addressing the safety of women and girls. Work with partners such as Trading Standards to identify and respond to emerging threats such as loan sharks and online scams. Work with the universities to tackle students causing antisocial behaviour, especially noise.
- Carry out early planning and prevention work to tackle seasonal peaks of crime and antisocial behaviour such as Safe4Summer, Bonfire Night, and key events. Review the impact of activity and make any necessary changes to strengthen the partnership approach.
- As part of the hate crime plan, review the support available for victims of hate crime, ensuring they are protected, and ensure perpetrators are held to account through criminal and civil action.
- Promote initiatives that seek to make the transport network safer, for example the TravelSafe LiveChat, which allows passengers on the bus and tram network to report incidents quickly and discreetly to a live GMP call handler.

- Continue to contribute to Operation Avro traffic operations, which involves visible disruption and enforcement action around speeding vehicles and dangerous driving. Support bespoke days of action across Manchester neighbourhoods supported by Specialist Operations Unit colleagues, including Traffic PCSOs, the Roads Policing Unit, and the Transport Unit, to tackle speeding and address community concerns.
- Continue to influence the development of the Crime and Policing Bill as it progresses through Parliament, and implement any changes to policies and procedures.



Priority 2. Keeping children and young people safe

Our research, analysis and consultation feedback has told us that:

While four in five young people indicate they feel safe in their local area, and comment on the positive aspects of living where they do, that figure is lower in some wards and higher in others, depending on the level of deprivation in those wards.

Young people are scared about the level of violence on the street but accept it as a reality. They told us they are concerned about knife crime and see serious violence and knife crime as the biggest priority for police and partners to tackle.

Hate crime, violence against women and girls, and drug dealing/drug taking are their other most significant priority issues.

The disorder of summer 2024 had an impact on families feeling safe.

Young people's views are rooted in a desire for safe public spaces, places to go, transport, and a sense of social justice. They often feel displaced by external factors such as gentrification, austerity and spatial inequality.

Young people involved with Manchester Youth Justice retain some strong views about how the police speak to and deal with them, and how they are treated if they are arrested and processed in custody.

We will:

- Continue to invest in early intervention and prevention services through a Young Futures Prevention Partnership, to ensure young people at risk of being drawn into crime, antisocial behaviour, violence and exploitation are identified sooner through safeguarding and supported to succeed.
- Work together to ensure that child-centred policing is embedded in GMP's practice.
- Work with partners to ensure that young people can influence the development of Manchester Youth Justice policies and services and feed back to the CSP about their impact.
- Commission youth providers to provide detached outreach, mentoring, group work and diversionary activities in targeted areas, to prevent children and young people from being drawn into antisocial behaviour, crime and violence.
- Contribute towards the implementation of the Greater Manchester Youth Justice Framework 2025–29, which focuses on Youth Justice transformation. The framework has been co-produced by young people.
- Support Manchester's response for disadvantaged children and those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in schools to further reduce exclusions, improve attendance, and promote mainstream inclusion. This approach is set out in the Inclusion Strategy 2022–2025 and aims to support all children, particularly those disadvantaged and SEND.
- Continue to strengthen multi-agency working with Manchester schools, intervening early and preventing escalation in relation to crime and serious violence.
- Raise awareness among children and young people about online crimes such as stalking and harassment, doxing, and sharing indecent and/or inappropriate images, to prevent them becoming victims or perpetrating crimes.
- As a partnership apply a contextual safeguarding approach to keeping children and young people safe in their neighbourhoods.

Priority 3. Tackling serious harm and violence

Our research, analysis and consultation feedback has told us that:

Serious violence and knife crime remains one of the main concerns of our residents, ranking third in the top ten issues raised in consultation. The level of concern significantly increased among people under 25 and those aged 65 or over.

Issues such as radicalisation, extremism, terrorism, criminal exploitation and modern slavery all remain concerns of varying degrees in some of our communities. Current and recent wide-scale politically sensitive issues and related incidents/unrest are, and may continue to be, exacerbating factors.

While our processes for promoting the reporting of and gathering information about crimes such as domestic abuse, modern slavery, criminal exploitation and abuse of sex workers have improved, we still need to fully understand their nature and scale. This includes links to organised crime, and being able to encourage reporting, prevention and response.

People from the LGBTQ+ community have greater-than-average levels of concern about online crimes, stalking and harassment.

We will:

- Educate men and boys on their behaviour and encourage them to challenge misogyny and abusive behaviour as part of our work to tackle violence against women and girls/ gender-based violence.
- Implement the Manchester Sex Work Strategy 2026-29 with the Manchester Sex Work Forum working with partners to support people affected by sex work. The Forum will ensure that those with lived experience of sex work are consulted when developing its strategies and when members are designing their services.
- Fulfil the commitments in our Domestic Abuse Strategy, to prevent abuse and promote healthy relationships, identify abuse and intervene as early and effectively as possible, and support survivors to recover from their experiences.

- Raise awareness of children and young people who are disproportionately likely to be associated with serious violence to encourage practitioners to make referrals to our Engage panels as soon as possible.
- Continue to identify and tackle exploitation in partnership through Manchester’s Complex Safeguarding Hub. We will continue to safeguard those at risk and to disrupt criminality through partnership initiatives such as Operation Luka and Operation Makesafe.
- Continue with implementation of all elements of the DAPO pilot, reporting as required to the Home Office on progress and outcomes.
- Following consultation, implement refreshed multi-agency home takeover (cuckooing) guidance for the city, and raise awareness across the partnership through briefings and training sessions.
- Provide training, education and awareness-raising around protecting people susceptible to radicalisation so people are confident in making appropriate referrals.

Priority 4. Tackling drug and alcohol-driven crime

Our research, analysis and consultation feedback has told us that:

Tackling drug dealing and/or people taking drugs was fifth in the top ten areas of concern from citizens in our consultation.

Related to this, and noting the proportion of known organised crime groups active in the city whose primary activity is drug supply/dealing, tackling organised crime and gangs was the next (sixth) priority in the top ten areas of concern.

Exploitation of young and/or vulnerable people through coercion into involvement in County Lines activity or use of their homes for home takeover (cuckooing) remains a concern in some of our communities.

There remains a generational cycle of families being involved in organised drug-related crime and young people feeling they have little choice other than being drawn into such activity.

Excessive use/misuse of alcohol continues to be a factor behind a range of crimes, including serious violence, domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls.

The harm caused by chemsex in Manchester is concerning. As well as health risks associated with poly drug use, there is also a significant threat of hidden crimes. The supply of drugs associated with the 'chemsex scene' attracts the involvement of organised crime networks.

We will:

- Implement the local response plan for drug-related incidents to ensure a co-ordinated multidisciplinary approach is taken for any major drug-related incidents in Manchester.
- Work with partners to develop a new action plan for the Street Engagement Hub based on the recommendations of the Manchester Metropolitan University Street Engagement Hub evaluation in 2024/25, including continuation of rapid access to drug and alcohol treatment.
- Continue to test drugs seized by GMP and maintain up-to-date knowledge of new and emerging drugs. Support the Local Drug Information System by sharing details of new products and by providing warnings for services, such as contaminated drugs.
- Work with our frontline practitioners to strengthen our multi-agency guidance and responses to home takeover/cuckooing to ensure that vulnerable people are supported and protected and action is taken against perpetrators.
- Continue to strengthen our collective understanding of the prevalence and impact of chemsex-related harms through the Greater Manchester Chemsex Partnership, a multi-agency collaboration involving public health, sexual health, substance misuse services, emergency services, and community organisations. A Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) will be commissioned to ensure that the voices of those directly affected by chemsex are embedded in service design and system change. Alongside this, a review of the current treatment and support offer is underway, findings due in 2026, to ensure the service meets the needs of those most at risk.
- Ensure that all partners have a shared understanding of local drug markets and the wider response.

- Work in partnership to tackle drug-related crime, drug use and drug dealing.
- Collectively gather and develop intelligence. Officers in GMP will maintain a visible presence on our streets, take action responding to community concerns, execute warrants, arrest, and work with partners to prosecute those causing harm.

Priority 5. Protecting communities through changing offender behaviour

Our research, analysis and consultation feedback has told us that:

Growing prison populations and pressure to relieve capacity issues through nationally directed programmes such as Standard Determinate Sentence (SDS40) have the potential to impact on the capacity and operation of local offender management arrangements and programmes.

People on probation experience a range of challenges, including their finances, benefits and debt, accommodation needs,

issues with mental health, and need for emotional support. Wellbeing Hubs are working to help those people deal with such challenges.

The Probation Service manages a complex cohort of offenders, mainly in the city centre, who are homeless and are difficult to maintain contact and engage with. When this concerns orders or licences, they are often recalled and become trapped in a revolving door scenario.

The consolidation of Accommodation for Ex-Offenders (AfEO) funding by the Government has the potential to significantly reduce the number of offenders housed when leaving prison, exacerbating an already difficult situation in the city.

While commissioned services for behaviour change among domestic-abuse perpetrators are generally effective, they are at full capacity, and funding for them remains limited. Interventions linked to the local implementation of Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination (MATAC), for high-risk, high-harm perpetrators, are starting to generate some encouraging outcome data.



We will:

- Work with partners such as GMCA to implement measures to improve outcomes for people on short sentences and reduce recalls.
- Work with GMCA on the next generation of Greater Manchester Integrated Rehabilitation Services (GMIRS), an initiative that represents a collaborative effort between the GMCA and Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) under the framework of Justice Devolution, to deliver consistent and effective rehabilitation services. The programme is designed to reduce reoffending and support the rehabilitation of individuals through a co-ordinated, community-based approach.
- Respond to funding changes impacting on housing for ex-offenders, giving priority to those most in need.
- Continue to enhance pathways to strengthen the continuity of care for individuals released from custody into the community, aimed at reducing health inequalities and increasing outcomes.
- Pilot an initiative to increase the completion of Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Orders.
- Support people to attend the Street Engagement Hub on a mandatory basis when appropriate, for example when a person is sentenced at court and meets the criteria for a Manchester Street Engagement Project Rehabilitation Activity Requirement or when a positive requirement is attached to an antisocial behaviour intervention.

Priority 6. Making the city centre safer

Our research, analysis and consultation feedback has told us that:

Making the city centre safer is a significant priority for our citizens of all ages and demographics, ranking second in the top ten list of concerns highlighted in our consultation. For women respondents and those from the LGBTQ+ community, it was the top priority.

Manchester has experienced rapid population growth since 2000, including the increase in the city centre population to 100,000 in 2026. The city centre is a place where residents live and people work and visit.

Most specifically, Piccadilly Gardens was cited as a major concern, being described as a hotspot for antisocial behaviour, drug users and people sleeping rough, and a place where older citizens would not feel safe in or nearby. Concerns have also been raised about people being harassed by others filming and posting material on social media channels as a way to earn income.

The inappropriate use of e-bikes and e-scooters, while an area of concern for citizens across the city, is heightened in the city centre.

We will:

- Review the impact of work undertaken to improve public safety in the night-time economy (Women’s Night-Time Charter, transport, Walk Safe app, and welfare provision), including perceptions of safety, and continue to develop this approach.
- Engage in statutory consultation to review the city centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) prior to expiry in July 2026 and implement any changes to it.
- Tackle violence experienced by women and girls, specifically rape and other sexual offences, including non-contact sexual offences.
- Contribute towards the design and delivery of Manchester City Council’s plans for Piccadilly Gardens to improve safety and reduce crime and disorder in the area.

- Carry out multi-agency operations to reduce antisocial behaviour caused by people riding electric bikes irresponsibly. Electric bikes that do not comply with e-bike regulations will be seized.
- Monitor and explore partnership responses to people filming in public places causing harassment, alarm and distress.
- Engage with people sleeping rough and/or begging to provide support and advice, and take appropriate enforcement action when behaviour has a detrimental impact on others.
- Continue to engage with residents and local businesses to receive feedback and develop community safety approaches, face-to-face and online, such as the Partnership and Communities Together meetings and Bee in the Loop.



8. How we will know we are succeeding

The Community Safety Partnership has a well-established process of monitoring and reporting on its progress and identifying emerging issues and threats. This work is conducted by the Partnership Analytical Team, which also co-ordinates data sharing with other analysts from relevant agencies. Ultimately, the partnership aims to reduce incidents of crime and disorder and support and protect victims.

Quarterly analysis reports are produced and considered by the CSP's Core Group. These reports summarise the current position across the whole of the CSP's range of activities and regularly examine the six thematic priorities. They include feedback from residents through the quarterly perception survey co-ordinated by GMCA

The Core Group highlights areas of concern for the CSP Board to focus on. Leaders from all the member agencies are able to take collective decisions on any action necessary to return performance to the expected levels, or address emerging threats and risks.

The CSP Board provides regular updates on its performance and activity to the Council's Equalities and Communities Scrutiny Committee.



9. Our governance

The CSP Board meets quarterly; it monitors, reviews and progresses the work of the CSP overall and against agreed targets and priorities, including those of individual organisations. It considers performance and outcomes, addressing gaps in service delivery, and undertakes several statutory duties. The CSP Board is supported by a Core Group made up of priority leads and a Partnership Analytical Team.

The CSP has a range of multi-agency subgroups that help to drive forward progress on our thematic priorities on a day-to-day basis. They are supplemented by forums, boards and working groups that progress our work on specific topics, such as student safety and the night-time economy.

There are a further range of boards and groups that help the partnership to meet statutory duties and responsibilities, for example in relation to Prevent, domestic abuse and serious violence.

The partnership also has established links and reporting arrangements with the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership, and membership of each of its subgroups.

The work of the partnership is regularly reported and scrutinised by the Council's Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee. Reports and minutes of these meetings are published on the Council's website.

At the city-region level, the partnership is represented at and reports into various strategic boards and groups that oversee work on specific agendas across the whole of Greater Manchester.



Appendix

This Strategy does not stand in isolation. It is aligned to and reflective of a number of other regional and national plans:

- Building Stronger Communities Together Strategy [Building Stronger Communities Together strategy 2023 to 2026 | Manchester City Council](#)
- The Manchester Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024–26
- From Harm to Hope – a ten-year plan to cut crime and save lives (December 2021) [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK](#)
- The Greater Manchester Gender Based Violence Strategy [Gender Based Violence Strategy](#)
- Making Manchester Fairer [Making Manchester Fairer | Making Manchester Fairer | Manchester City Council](#)
- Manchester Sex Work Strategy 2025–28 [Sex work strategy | Sex work | Manchester City Council](#)
- Manchester Inclusion Strategy 2022–2025
- Our Manchester 2035 [Our Manchester Strategy 2025–35 | Manchester City Council](#)
- Greater Manchester [Night-time Economy Strategy Night-Time Economy Strategy – Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)
- The National Prevent Strategy [Counter-terrorism strategy \(CONTEST\) 2023 – GOV.UK](#)
- The Manchester Serious Violence Strategy [Appendix 1 – Manchester’s Serious Violence Strategy.pdf](#)
- Manchester Interboard Protocol: outlines the relationship between the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership, the CSP, the Manchester Children and Young People’s Board, and the Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board in safeguarding children and young people [Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures \(Children’s\) – Manchester Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- The Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan [Standing Together](#)

- The Manchester Safeguarding Partnership's Tackling Exploitation and Complex Safeguarding in Manchester Strategy 2024–27 [MSP-Tackling-Exploitation-in-Manchester-24-27-Strategy_FINAL.pdf](#)
- UNICEF Child Friendly City Home | [Child Friendly Manchester | Manchester City Council](#)
- Young Futures Programme: [Young Futures Hubs to launch offering vulnerable young people lifeline – GOV.UK](#)

