

The AGMA Public Protection Commission: an overview

The AGMA Public Protection Commission has been established to provide a clear, collective 'Safer Communities' vision for Greater Manchester. It aims to bring a cohesive approach to issues providing the greatest opportunities to achieve success through strategic level partnerships.

The AGMA structure provides a unique framework for partnership working founded on both evidence-based policy development and visible action. The evidence is driven by Greater Manchester Against Crime's (GMAC) analysis. The Commission is made up of a broad spectrum of public protection bodies, mirroring the local representation of statutory Community Safety Partnerships.

We are committed to ensuring consistent best practice, creating common standards, joining up our work more efficiently and harnessing the lobbying power of AGMA.

The Greater Manchester Strategy sets out the scale of the challenge:

If we are to make a lasting difference to the economy we need to reduce both the causes and symptoms of deprivation in our most challenging areas and enable more of our residents to share in the sub-region's prosperity.

The strategy recognises that crime and disorder levels, real and perceived, have a fundamental effect on a community's ability to attract investment and people's satisfaction with the area they live in. The strategy makes a commitment to improving the quality of life in our deprived areas by reducing crime rates and levels of anti-social behaviour.

The ultimate measure of success will be the impact made at neighbourhood level. It is here that we can involve local people, problem solve, create new systems of delivering public services and address vulnerability. The Commission's role is to lead, support and challenge Community Safety

Partnerships in delivering safer communities for the people of Greater Manchester.

Aims

The Commission has three strategic aims:

1. To protect our communities from terrorism, disasters and organised crime.
2. To ensure excellence in crime and disorder reduction and community safety.
3. To transform our service delivery to ensure services that best meet our communities' needs, raise public confidence and maximise our partnership delivery.

Recent activities

To protect our communities from terrorism, disasters and organised crime.

Terrorism

A Greater Manchester Preventing Violent Extremism Steering Group is overseeing this work, supported by a practitioners group of borough representatives who are sharing good practice and collaborating on shared projects with Greater Manchester Police delivering activity at a sub-regional level. The steering group, having ensured practice is now in place locally, has been assessing how to link this agenda to the city region through a Greater Manchester assessment of the threat which provides a dialogue about sub regional priorities. This evaluation, which highlights priority areas, will feed into the development of a Greater Manchester Prevent Strategy in support of borough prevent plans. Further partnership work at a GM level around the

national Counter Terrorism strategy themes of 'Protect', 'Pursue' and 'Prepare' will also be developed.

Civil contingencies

The Greater Manchester Resilience Forum (GMRF) is a multi-agency partnership which works to coordinate civil contingencies planning across the conurbation. Its overall purpose is to ensure that there is an appropriate level of preparedness for emergency incidents which may have a significant impact within Greater Manchester.

Organised crime

The Cabinet Office's *Extending our reach: A comprehensive approach to tackling serious organised crime* forms the basis of the Government's future strategy for organised crime. The Public Protection Commission has an overview of how this work can be taken forward, based on a pilot initiative in Salford called Project Gulf. This has been led by Greater Manchester Police and Salford City Council but encompasses a range of other agencies. The pilot's findings will be used to develop proposals on how to address organised crime activity at the city regional level.

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To transform our service delivery to ensure services that best meet our communities' needs, raise public confidence and maximise our partnership delivery.

Improve public confidence

The aim is to integrate both engagement and delivery across the partnership, at neighbourhood and city region level, to increase public confidence in services.

The group is taking forward a series of recommendations from a detailed analysis of public perceptions of anti-social behaviour and levels of public confidence. By tracking changes in survey results over time, the report *Is ASB Still Shifting?* identifies important shifts in public opinion, both positive and negative, that will inform local action plans and communication strategies.

Serious acquisitive crime

The aim is to reduce the impact of serious acquisitive crime on the residents of Greater Manchester, responding and bringing offenders to justice, maximising learning opportunities by sharing of best practice and supporting victims of serious acquisitive crime.

A problem solving methodology, Simple2Start, is being rolled out across Greater Manchester and early feedback from areas such as North Manchester confirm that this is successfully translating into practical activity on the ground.

Reducing reoffending

The aim is to plan strategically in order to support local action to deliver best practice in reducing reoffending by individuals across Greater Manchester.

Analysis from the Greater Manchester Strategic Assessment has offered fresh insights into the nature, scale and location of reoffending by individuals with short-term prison sentences not subject to any statutory supervision on release. The wider use of prisoner release information is assisting the community safety partnerships in defining the most effective responses. The Greater Manchester Police Integrated Offender Management (IOM) 'Spotlight' teams are seeing strong early successes in reducing the reoffending rates of targeted, high risk offenders.

Serious violent crime

The aim is to develop a clear and unified response to the early identification of domestic abuse across Greater Manchester; improving information sharing and analysis of multi-agency data, ensuring a consistent statutory and specialist service response, increasing reporting opportunities, raising public awareness and challenging entrenched social perceptions of acceptability.

A scoping of domestic abuse services and data, which focuses on Bolton, is nearing completion and learning will be shared across Greater Manchester. This project has run alongside the planning and delivery of a publicity campaign to raise awareness and encourage reporting of domestic abuse during the football World Cup.

Further information on the Commission can be found at

http://www.agma.gov.uk/public_protection_commission/index.html