



Safety group Pankhurst-Fawcett Report

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SAFETY GROUP

Scorecard - 2024

This year we have a question mark over the data for both indicators.



Indicator 1: no support for sexual violence survivors

The research for the first indicator has never been replicated and is impossible to aggregate from existing data sets.



Indicator 2: denied support due to immigration status

For the second indicator, the Lotus Hub group are currently compiling data, and will report in March at the end of their two-year project. This will be the closest match to the original study we can obtain.

Safety Data has been and continues to be problematic, hence the ‘?’ for both indicators this year. For the first indicator, voices of Survivors Greater Manchester, there has been no new research. For the second, Safety For Sisters previously reported No data the Lotus Hub will report on the data but not until March.

Quantitative data regarding safety-related measures is collected piecemeal by each authority and most organisations, and it is not coherent across GM. There is a need to harmonise data collection and analysis across Greater Manchester.

GMP has some GM wide activity. GMP continued to take part in Operation Soteria Bluestone for a second year. This scheme aims to transform the policing response to rape and serious sexual offences.

1,900

During 2024, 1,900 Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) were issued by GMP. Innovative use of GeoAlerts technology to support monitoring and enforcement of DAPNs achieved GMP a Public Safety Award in 2024.

GMP is one of three forces piloting the more flexible and powerful Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs). Introduced in Bury in November 2024, the first order was secured. Five more followed during the first week of roll-out in Wigan during January 2025. Roll-out across all boroughs will take place during 2025.

The Domestic Abuse Crisis pilot, started in Bolton and rolled out to Salford, has seen joint visits by GMP officers with Domestic Abuse Workers following a call out. This has been funded locally for a second year.

Key GM and Local Safety activity providing data

The Lotus Hub, a specialist service for ethnically minoritised women experiencing gender-based violence within the Greater Manchester area, was launched in November 2023 with a grant of £680,000 from the Home Office. The Hub is a coalition of five local organisations and will complete the two-year project offering specialist support in March 2025. It is hoped that the project will be extended.

Despite the failure of national government legislation to provide a firewall protecting reporting to the Home Office when these women report their abuse to police, plans are afoot between GMCA and GMP to introduce a local firewall. Hopefully this will be implemented early in 2025.

Trafford Domestic Abuse Services (TDAS) has provided an indicative data set for the past four years showing trends in reported sexual abuse and service use by those with insecure immigration status. TDAS offer support and services to individuals and families living or working in Trafford. They also work in partnership with other domestic abuse organisations across Greater Manchester.

TDAS has shown a trebling in demand for their services over these four years, with reporting of sexual violence back at its highest point of 15%. In real terms, there has been a continued increase, with 65 additional survivors reporting sexual violence in each of 2023 and 2024.

Figure 1. % Women reporting sexual violence to TDAS

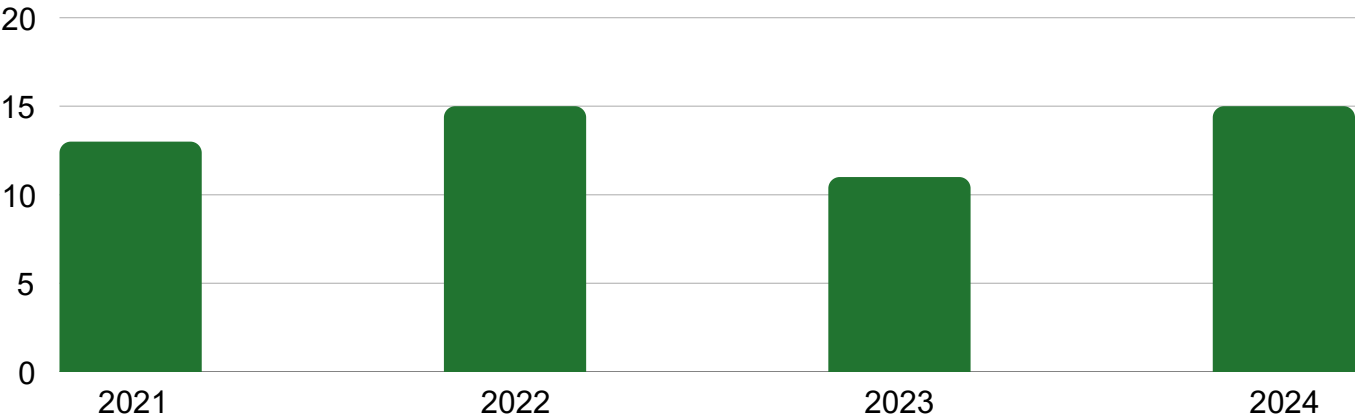
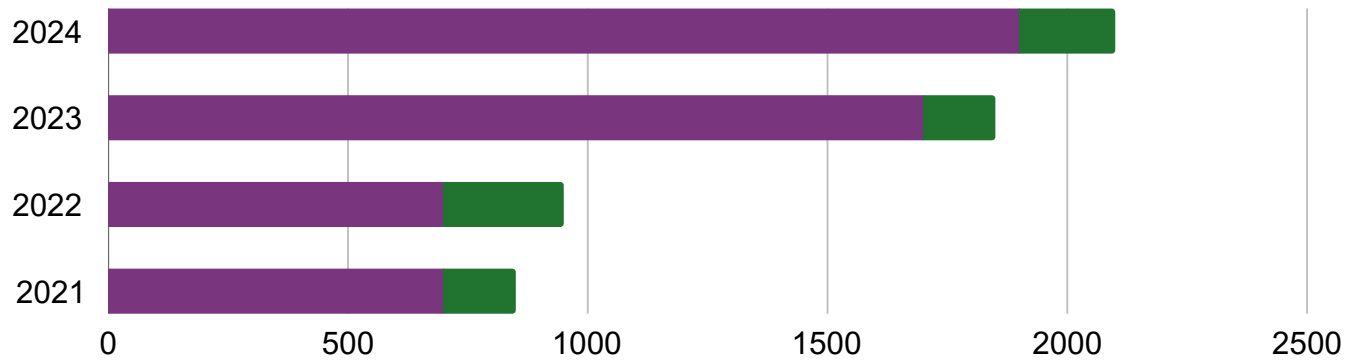


Figure 2. Survivors with NRPF supported by TDAS



The TDAS data relating to survivors with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) shows a continued downturn in women with insecure immigration status (shown in green) seeking support. This is likely to be due to the Lotus Hub which provides specialist support for this cohort. Anecdotal evidence suggests that while 99% of women survivors with insecure immigration status have been refused access to a refuge because they have no recourse to public funds, some of these women are in fact accessing refuge spaces within GM. In addition to the four beds at the hostel run by Safety 4 Sisters, they, and other local charities fund placements in other refuges. These charities supporting women with insecure immigration status do not themselves have secure, guaranteed, continuous funding.

Additional indicators to evaluate and monitor direction of progress, in terms of events, commitments, and outputs.

1

Key in the improvement in safety for women and girls in Greater Manchester are the GMCA Gender Based Violence and Abuse strategy (GBVA), the GMP improvement plan and the Vera Baird Inquiry findings. The lifespans of these align sufficiently with ours to demonstrate what impact they have for safety. The progress on these provides indicators for us to evaluate in future alongside service provision, including that for women with no recourse to public funds.

2

GMCA has gained White Ribbon Status and has produced more social media content under the #IsThisOK banner, working with boys and young men. More public engagement assets focussed on coercive control are under development.

The Mayor commissioned an inquiry by Dame Vera Baird in response to media coverage of allegations of mistreatment in police custody by three women. The inquiry covers the experiences of fourteen individuals and was published in July 2024. Key outcomes are the end of 'welfare' strip searches; the introduction of dedicated female welfare officers in custody suites; the automatic provision of 'dignity packs' and sanitary products in custody cells; the appointment of a Custody Visitor to make unannounced checks; and the formation of an Independent Scrutiny Panel, which has held its inaugural meeting with Dame Vera in attendance.

Reem Alsalem, (United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls. It's Causes and Consequences) visited GMCA in February 2024 to discuss the GBV Strategy with the Deputy Mayor, Kate Green. This was part of a wider UK visit which Reem will report on to the UN Human Rights Committee in June 2025.

The GBVA delivery plan was updated for 2024-2026 in November 2024. A major development is the establishment of a Lived Experience Panel which is now advising on strategy implementation and ensuring a victim/survivor led approach.

In March 2025, GM4Women2028 is hosting an event where Kate Green and representatives from GMP and GMCA policy team will hear from grassroots domestic abuse organisations how all the current developments and initiatives have impacted on the ground

With violence against women and girls recognised in July 2024 as a 'national emergency' by the National Police Chiefs' Council, protection for women and girls in public and private spaces in Greater Manchester requires further improvement.

The Government failed to include assurance for women with insecure immigration status in the Victims and Prisoners act 2024 that they could report their abuse to the police without fear of deportation. As GMCA supports the City of Sanctuary movement, we need a local solution to this injustice. Hence our calls to action continue in a similar vein to last year's.



Safety Group calls to action 2024

1

GM policy makers, planners and police to continue ensuring that the safety of women and girls is designed into the planning and operation of our streets, public spaces, parks and public transport.

In particular, develop a focus on countering the misogynist messaging from social media influencers and pornography to reduce their adverse impact on sexual violence and young women's health.

2

GMCA to prioritise and implement policy actions focused on supporting sexual violence victims and women with no recourse to public funds experiencing domestic abuse, and to expedite the implementation of a firewall.