

GM4WOMEN2028

PARTICIPATION GROUP BRIEFING NOTE 2022

Key Scorecard Indicators - Participation in formal politics and the law

This year there is a welcome improvement in our key indicator for women's representation in formal politics. The percentage of women with voting rights around the Mayor's cabinet table doubled, rising to 36%, as now four of Greater Manchester's boroughs are led by women, and additionally half of our boroughs have women chief executives. At a national level, the current UK cabinet has only 26% women.*

We have a higher percentage of women councillors across our region at 41% against a national figure of 35%*. However, representation from women of colour is only at 5%, much lower than would be representative of women of colour by population in Greater Manchester. There is significant variation between Greater Manchester councils in the % of councillors who are women of colour.

For our second indicator, the percentage of women appointed as judges in the North West in 2020-21 was 35%, this compares to women accounting for 44% of those recommended for appointment across England and Wales. Individuals from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds were 5% of judicial appointments in the North West in 2020-21, this compares to 4% in 2019-20 and 9% across England and Wales. This data is not disaggregated by sex.**

- Nationally 22% of local authority Leaders are women – in Greater Manchester 40% of our council Leaders are women. Our headline figure of women on the GMCA Executive is therefore 36%.
- Nationally 49% of local authority CEOs are women - in Greater Manchester 50% of CEOs are women.
- Nationally 35% of local authority councillors are women - in Greater Manchester 41% of councillors are women (268 of 645).
- 5% of local authority councillors in Greater Manchester are women of colour.

Political Representation in Greater Manchester – by Gender and Ethnicity***

	Number of women	% of all Councillors	Number of women of colour	% of all cllrs
GM Councils 2021	255 (of 643)	40%	23	(3%)
GM councils 2022	268 (of 645)	41%	32	(5%)



*National figures taken from Sex and Power 2022, The Fawcett Society <https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/sex-power-2022>

**Source – Ministry of Justice Official Statistics, Diversity of the Judiciary <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/diversity-of-the-judiciary-2021-statistics>

***Source: local authority websites accessed 15 December 2020 & 1 December 2021. Following methodology used by Operation Black Vote and the Fawcett Society in previous audits, this report uses a mix of data from secondary sources, and data on gender representation and ethnicity that we have collated ourselves. We use a mix of names, information and images online. We recognise this is an imperfect solution but it is necessary to monitor change.

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Participation, Representation, Care and Voice – Agendas for action

In February 2021 we set out three agendas for action based on our analysis of how women's greater level of informal care work impacts on women's participation in politics, both in formal participation and in exercising their voice. During the year the Participation Group members have identified and supported a number of opportunities to create change. We have summarised these here, along with our further planned actions for 2022 and the addition of a fourth agenda for action to support more women of colour to formal participation in politics.

• Maternity, paternity, parental and/or adoption leave for councillors

After the Participation Group discussion at the 2021 scorecard event, the Fawcett Society submitted a Freedom of Information request to the ten GM councils asking whether there was a formal policy(s) in place, or other means by which provision would be made for a councillor who had recently given birth or become a parent or carer for a child.

- Stockport is the only council that identified a formal policy is in place in response.
- **In 2022 we will continue to campaign for councils to put formal policies in place to support councillors as parents and carers.**

• Informal care and informal campaigning

Research into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic indicates that more people have become carers, and that women continue to disproportionately take on unpaid care responsibilities. Many of these carers are younger and often also have childcare responsibilities. The care responsibility of many carers has increased during the pandemic. The Government has put forward proposals to introduce a day one right to one week's unpaid leave for carers.

- **In 2022 we will look further at how to highlight the available data on carers in Greater Manchester; and consider how the voices of carer's are heard in Greater Manchester, and the good practice that can support this.**

• The experience of care

In 2021 the needs and voices of some of our most frail and vulnerable citizens were lobbied for. As a result carers, older women and disabled women were acknowledged and included following consultation on the GM Gender Based Abuse Strategy.

- **In 2022 we will continue to seek opportunities to raise awareness of the voices and needs of vulnerable women, including older and disabled women.**



- **Representation of women of colour as Councillors**
- **In 2022 we want to work with elected members, GM Women & Girls Panel and other organisations to identify further actions that can be taken to address the under representation in formal politics of women of colour.**
- **We encourage all Greater Manchester councils to collect diversity data relating to councillors that is not available at a national level.**

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