

KATE GREEN
**DEPUTY MAYOR
OF GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Date: 6th October 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

**SUBJECT: His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
Homicide Prevention Report**

I write in response to the recent HMICFRS Homicide Prevention inspection report. I would like to start by saying that Homicide Prevention is an important area of focus for us in Greater Manchester.

I was pleased to see that Greater Manchester Police (GMP) was part of the initial inspection by HMICFRS and worked alongside them to review the data and documentation. The review evidenced the work of GMP and I was encouraged to see that the governance of GMP's Homicide Prevention Strategy was noted by HMICFRS in its report as an example of clear and effective leadership. I can also share that GMP has appointed a Strategic Lead to deliver a coordinated response to homicide prevention and that this role will be further supported by senior personnel each responsible for one of the themes that contribute to homicide.

There will be a Strategic Oversight Board to detail how thematic work across each strand contributes to prevent homicide and the GMP Homicide Prevention Strategy, led by the Homicide Prevention Steering Group, will enable this to happen.

The work and data captured is critical, and the Performance Team continue to provide details of GMP's drug-related homicides to Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Substance Misuse Team to inform our work on Drugs and Alcohol. Greater Manchester's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have recruited an analyst and researcher to create bespoke monthly tactical district products and I know that GMP already contributes to the VRU data dashboards and that these are extensively used to support data sharing.

Having spoken with Chief Officers at GMP, I can provide the following update in response to the recommendations for policing.

HMICFRS Recommendation 1 – By 31 August 2024, chief constables in England and Wales should devise an approach to make sure their force can, on a sufficiently frequent basis, produce an analytical report concerning its death investigations. This will help the force to:

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- 1) **Better understand the pattern of death reports across the force area, drawing on force data and information gathered by other organisations, including the NHS and local authorities; and**
- 2) **Identify any linked series of death reports**

I have spoken to senior leaders at GMP about the processes in place to respond to suspicious deaths and how these are reported, recorded, and reviewed by appropriate GMP officers and have been assured that any further actions are agreed and set.

I've been assured that GMP responds to all suspicious deaths as a Special Procedure Investigation (SPI) until suspicious circumstances can be ruled out. An SPI is responded to and investigated by an officer with appropriate SPI accreditation.

Details of all deaths dealt with by GMP are recorded on a 751 Death Report, with copies uploaded onto GMP's Death Recording Database. All sudden and unexpected deaths reported in the community are initially attended by GMP response officers. A referral form is completed each day for each district Detective Chief Inspector, which includes a brief summary of each death, natural or unnatural for them to review and ensure that there has been an appropriate response.

HMICFRS Recommendation 1 – By 1 December 2023, chief constables should make sure their force can quickly identify lessons from homicides and serious violence incidents. The process should be capable of involving partner organisations when appropriate, so that lessons can be learned more widely.

All homicides that meet the criteria within a Domestic Homicide Review, Child Safeguarding Practice Review or Safeguarding Adult Review are already considered for preventable factors and identification of early learning. GMP's Safeguarding and Investigation Review Team conduct all these reviews for GMP and follow a well embedded process of identification, recording and dissemination of learning.

There is regular communication to the Public Protection Governance Unit, who ensure that all learning is assessed, recorded, and tracked. This procedure has a governance structure in place and responds to the Quarterly Performance Review and vulnerability boards.

I understand that for homicides and major crime investigations which do not fit within the statutory safeguarding reviews, GMP conduct a homicide prevention review within the Major Crime Investigation Review. The investigative review was also adjusted in early 2023 to include homicide prevention considerations.

The review included a swift early analysis of an incident to review GMP and other agencies' response and to assess the multi-agency arrangements in place. There is also a Strategic Organisational Learning Board as a place for all Force-wide learning to be shared.

The recommendations by HMICFRS help improve GMP's understanding of what causes homicide and serious violence, of how the Force has worked individually and with other professionals to safeguard the public and to identify lessons, good practice and learning.

If there is anything further that I can provide in assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Kate Green

Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester

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