



Report for Councillor Sam Cohen, Elected Member
Greater Manchester Police Authority
October, 2011

RECENT CRIME STATISTICS - GENERAL TREND AND POSITIVES FOR BURY

The latest figures show total crime has been reduced by 4.6% in the first six months of the financial year. This means 455 fewer victims of crime when compared with the same April to September period in 2010. Serious acquisitive crime and domestic burglary showed reductions of 13% and 26.9% respectively.

- For the year to date, Bury is meeting its targets in relation to the reduction of: Serious acquisitive crime, domestic burglary and anti-social behaviour.
- Bury is also meeting its detection targets for vehicle crime and serious sexual offences.
- 80.8% of service users are satisfied with the overall service provided by the police in Bury. The target is to increase this to 85%.
- 4.5% of people responding to GMP Neighbourhood Surveys perceive a high level of anti-social behaviour in Bury. This is better than Bury's target of 5.6%.
- Although Bury is not meeting its target for victim satisfaction overall, it is within 10% of the target. Bury is currently meeting the target for satisfaction with actions taken by the Police.
- For the year to date, Bury is not meeting its target for overall crime reduction or the reduction of vehicle crime. Bury is however, within 10% of its target for overall crime reduction.

(Data from GMP monthly bulletin, data to the end of September 2011)

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act has now become law. This means the replacement of Police Authorities with elected Police and Crime Commissioners. The Commissioner will be scrutinised by a Police and Crime Panel, an independent body made up of Councillors from each of the Local Authorities in Greater Manchester, together with a minimum of two co-opted members.

The first elections will take place on 15 November 2012.

Support to policing

The 90-day statutory staff consultation for the Support to Policing came to an end on 28th September.

A special Police Authority meeting was held on Friday 7 October when Members approved the issuing of 218 redundancy notices to Greater Manchester Police staff. With 231 vacancies across the Force, every effort will be made to redeploy staff before the end of the three month notice period. As a result of police officer vacancies and transfers already completed, 107 police officers will be redeployed to frontline duties by January 2012.

Public Enquiry Counters

At a full Police Authority meeting on Friday 23 September, GMP outlined the findings of a review into the public use of police enquiry counters, which revealed a dramatic fall in the number of people visiting police enquiry counters.

The review is part of a wider public consultation exercise involving more than 2,500 people to help shape public access to police services in the future.

It also supports the work the Force is doing to make savings of £134 million by 2015.

Analysis shows that the Force can continue to meet public demand with fewer enquiry counters. The proposal is to keep 22 of the 55 enquiry counters open. These are the busiest and their hours would be tailored in line with customer demand and would save the Force nearly £1.5 million.

A formal 90-day statutory consultation period with staff and Unison about the proposal commenced on Monday 26 September.

The proposal follows analysis of the number of people using public enquiry counters and takes into consideration the results of a public consultation exercise on-line, face-to-face and at public meetings.

The analysis also showed that the number of visits had fallen by almost half since similar research was undertaken in 2009, from 1,039,721 down to 532,320. It also revealed that nearly half of visitors to enquiry counters are generated by the organisation itself through appointments.

This means that enquiry counters are very expensive to run with the cost ranging from £6.38 up to £100.40 per customer, with an average cost per visitor being £14.11.

The majority of people (76 per cent) from the public consultation exercise who had contacted the police in the last five years had done so by telephone.

Disorder in Manchester and Salford

Following the disturbances of the 9 August in Manchester and Salford, GMPA has received 280 claims for compensation under the Riot Damages Act. This equates to approximately £5M.

In addition, GMPA and GMP have publicly praised Sainsburys for deciding not to make a claim for damages to their stores.

The following statement was issued, week commencing 26th September:

Cllr Paul Murphy, GMPA Chairman, said: "On behalf of GMPA I would like to thank Sainsbury's for deciding not to make a claim against the authority under the Riot Damages Act. With an estimated cost of more than £8M this decision means one less burden on our local policing budget – a budget that has already been cut by £134M.

"The disturbances of the 9 August had a devastating impact on local people and our focus is on ensuring that damage to our communities is repaired as quickly as possible while maintaining and strengthening local policing. It's excellent to see that a major retailer like Sainsbury's shares this commitment and their decision not to submit a claim means we can concentrate more of our budget on what matters the most – providing an effective, quality police service that meets the needs of our communities across Greater Manchester."

Policing Today, Policing Tomorrow Meetings

Hundreds of people have taken the opportunity to question those in charge of policing in Greater Manchester.

Throughout the summer, GMPA, in partnership with Greater Manchester Police (GMP), hosted twelve Policing Today, Policing Tomorrow events across the region to give the public the chance to have their say and discuss the issues that matter to them.

Chairman of GMPA, Cllr Paul Murphy, and Chief Constable Peter Fahy visited each borough to talk to the public, made up of local residents, local councillors, businesses and community groups, about the challenges facing the police in the future and answered many questions from the floor.

Much of the questioning was about the cuts and how police are going to continue to reduce crime with less people and assurances have been given that GMP is committed to making sure officers are deployed on the frontline.

There has also been huge support for the work PCSOs do in the community and reassurances have been given that their roles will be secure until at least March 2013.

A number of issues have been raised by the public during these meetings, and the answers to some of these questions can be found on the police authority's website: <http://www.gmpa.gov.uk/ptpt-questionsanswers.htm>

The issues raised included:

- The future of Police Community Support Officers.
- How the cuts will affect the excellent relationships the licensing trade currently has with the Police.
- Concerns about loss of Homewatch administrators
- Better access to Police Officers and PCSOs.
- Locations of Police stations
- The policing of walking days (specifically religious walking days).
- Treatment of young people and Police attitudes.
- The future of police stations and front enquiry counters.
- Sharing rooms/buildings with other agencies.
- The role of the Community Relation Officers.
- The introductions of Police Commissioners and the inevitable costs this will incur.
- The targeting of crime hotspots, and whether this displaces crime from one place to another.