THE FUTURE OF POLICING

An event with 50 of Greater Manchester’s most active citizens

Saturday 30 May 2015, 10am-12pm @ The Visitor Centre, Manchester Cathedral

Chaired by: Jim Battle, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Speakers: Tony Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner
Sir Peter Fahy, Chief Constable
Chief Superintendent Catherine Hankinson
Graham Roe, Sale Moor HomeWatch
Claire Millett, Police and Crime Commissioner’s office

Guests represented: HomeWatch and tenants’ and residents’ associations
Area-based community projects
Street Pastors and Village Angels
Food banks
Migrant communities
Multi-faith partnerships
Senior citizen groups
Youth groups and youth councils

CONTENTS

1. Purpose of the event ................................................................. 2
2. Community involvement in the changing nature of policing ............ 3
3. Managing the funding gap ........................................................... 7
4. Next steps and action plan ......................................................... 9
   Appendix 1: Q&A regarding police support for community groups .... 11
   Appendix 2: Q&A regarding policing funding ............................... 16

This report, and all presentations from the event, are also available at
http://www.gmpcc.org.uk/down-to-business/themed-forums/
For more information please email communications@gmpcc.org.uk or call 0161 793 3409.
1. PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

Greater Manchester’s public, voluntary and community sectors have dealt with millions of pounds of cuts since 2010 and budgets will continue to be slashed for the foreseeable future. Within the police service alone, £150m has been cut since 2010, and this year they have to find another £41m of savings. The cuts have resulted in organisations across the public, voluntary and community sector re-organising, reducing and in some cases disappearing, as well as thousands of staff redundancies. Police officer numbers have plummeted by more than 1,100 in the last five years.

But what effect have the cuts had on safety for individuals, families and neighbourhoods? And what can communities do to help ensure the safety of their own neighbourhoods?

In February the Police and Crime Commissioner held an event called ‘The impact of cuts on safer stronger neighbourhoods’ with local authorities, housing associations, emergency services and other agencies that have a stake in developing strong, safe and resilient communities¹. These organisations agreed that building safer neighbourhoods was the responsibility of us all, not just the police, and agencies need to work collaboratively and residents should be much closer involved.

The ‘Future of Policing’ event built on this by working with some of Greater Manchester’s most active residents to ascertain how the Police and Crime Commissioner and Greater Manchester Police can support them so they can help their neighbourhoods to be safe and to feel safe. The event was set within the context that the police are being asked to deal with different, more complex issues, and the challenges of doing this with a dramatically reduced budget.

¹ A report from ‘The impact of cuts on safer stronger neighbourhoods’, as well as presentation slides can be found at: http://www.gmpcc.org.uk/event/the-impact-of-cuts-on-our-neighbourhoods/
2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHANGING NATURE OF POLICING

After welcoming guests, Tony Lloyd re-iterated a point made at the event in February – that agencies are dealing with the same offenders, the same families and the same issues. Therefore it is crucial that we work together, and that includes working with active residents as they know their communities the best.

Sir Peter Fahy explained how some crimes have decreased (e.g. theft, burglary, robbery); however, other types of crime are increasing (e.g. domestic abuse, sexual offences and cyber-related crime). Consequently, officers are spending more time dealing with complex crimes and protecting vulnerable people. Indeed, around 40% of the demand on police concerns the safety and welfare of vulnerable people, missing people and those with mental health problems.

Since 2010 the number of police officers has decreased whilst the Greater Manchester population has increased. On average GMP is losing about five officers a week. Currently there is one officer for every 428 members of the public, compared with one officer for every 334 members of the public in 2010. The proposed funding cuts mean the situation will worsen and by 2018 there is likely to be one officer for every 541 members of the public.

GMP’s strategy to deal with rising numbers of complex cases and fewer officers to deal with them is via a combination of strong neighbourhood teams supported by specialist teams.

Chief Superintendent Hankinson re-iterated the Commissioner’s message that the police need local people to work with them in order to solve crimes and keep communities safe. She threw out some challenges for residents and asked them to think about how they are currently working and whether they could work in other ways, for example:

- How do you use your influence outside your organisation?
- Do you use other networks that are available to you?
- How can you help other people to be active and increase the number of voices identifying issues?

She gave examples of where resident-led initiatives have reduced crime and antisocial behaviour, including a Roman inspired garden\(^2\) in Castlefield and greening alleyways in Rusholme\(^3\).

Chief Superintendent Hankinson also highlighted how residents can protect themselves from being victims of crime. There is a wealth of information on the crime reduction pages of GMP’s website\(^4\) for advice on security for your home, staying safe online and dealing with antisocial behaviour.

\(^2\) Castlefield Roman garden: [http://ourcastlefield.co.uk/](http://ourcastlefield.co.uk/)
\(^3\) ‘Upping It’, Rusholme: [http://www.manchester.gov.uk/directory_record/125687/upping_it_%E2%80%93_the_terrace_square](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/directory_record/125687/upping_it_%E2%80%93_the_terrace_square)
\(^4\) GMP’s crime reduction advice: [http://www.gmp.police.uk/content/section.html?readform&s=028AEE119FECBC5580257961003AD87B](http://www.gmp.police.uk/content/section.html?readform&s=028AEE119FECBC5580257961003AD87B)
Graham Roe, from Sale Moor HomeWatch explained to guests how he has formed an association consisting of 17 HomeWatches in his area. This strength in numbers has given them added credibility with the police and local authority. Every household in the area is invited to join their local HomeWatch scheme, and they are provided with basic crime prevention advice and who to contact if they need help. The association has a strong visible presence in the area through HomeWatch stickers and cards in windows indicating the area is a ‘no cold calling zone’. The association has successfully reduced doorstop fraud through this visible presence, as well as accurate intelligence being reported to the police. They have also reduced and foiled burglaries using the same techniques. Graham urged HomeWatch coordinators to form an association and encourage more members to join. However, other HomeWatch coordinators are finding it difficult to find out who the other HomeWatch coordinators are in their area (please see Q&A on pages 15 and 16). GMP advises that their partnership teams will be able to help coordinators link with each other.

Claire Millett, the PCC’s Engagement Strategy Officer, fed back the results of a recent Public Perception Survey conducted with 1000 residents across the conurbation. Most people view GMP positively (69%, vs 25% who have negative views) – and this increases to 72% amongst people who have reported a crime. Other positive findings are that:

- 75% have confidence in GMP
- 69% agree GMP can be relied on
- 60% agree GMP deals with the things that matter

Although there is still a significant minority of around a quarter to a fifth of people who have negative perceptions and don’t feel our police can be relied on.

The survey also investigated whether people know how to contact GMP to tell them about issues in their area. We found that most people know how to contact the local police (62%) and the majority know there is a Neighbourhood Police Team in their local area (56%) although no-one we spoke to was already in contact with their Neighbourhood Police Team. Nearly half of people (48%) said they feel well informed about local policing, which is the same proportion as those who said they don’t feel well informed (4% said they didn’t know). The survey also asked whether people would be likely to contact their Neighbourhood Police Team in the future and the majority said they were unlikely to or didn’t know – 59%.

The survey also found that the vast majority of people don’t want to be involved in policing and crime issues in their neighbourhood (90%). When asked what would make it easier for you to influence decisions in your neighbourhood, the majority of people said ‘nothing’ which is likely to mean ‘nothing because I just don’t want to get involved’, or they said they wanted the police to get in touch with them – something impossible to do on an individual basis. Therefore, this presents a huge challenge for the PCC and GMP to encourage the average person on the street to be part of developing and maintaining safe communities, without getting involved in traditional ways.
Public support in policing: Discussion group findings

After the presentations, guests discussed how the police and the public could support each other more.

Better communications between police and residents was mentioned by every group. In particular residents would like:

- GMP to provide specific calls to action and to be clear about what they expect residents to do.
- GMP to disseminate concrete examples of how residents’ actions and intelligence have helped prevent or solve crimes, so the people involved feel valued and others know that their actions could also make a difference.

It was suggested that social media could be better used to improve communication, and a ‘community messaging system’ as used by other police services would also help.

A number of guests stated that clear communication is currently hindered by operational issues, such as where officers are located, shift patterns and officers having the same days off. They would like to be more involved in identifying issues and influencing change, for example in shift patterns and local priorities. There are already ways that the public can get involved – mainly through public meetings – however, these meetings could be better publicised. If there are none scheduled on the GMP’s website, members of the public are advised to contact their Neighbourhood Team to find out when the next meetings are taking place. The Public Perception Survey found that 44% of people do not know there is a Neighbourhood Policing Team in their area, and no-one was already in touch with them. This may be expected from the general public, but many of the guests – invited because they are active in their neighbourhoods – were also unaware of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. The Public Perception Survey also found that only 41% of people are likely to contact their Neighbourhood Policing team in the future, therefore it is worth GMP exploring other ways to involve residents in influencing policing in their area.

HomeWatch groups would like a more visible presence in their neighbourhoods. As an example, guests said that HomeWatch signs have now decreased due to funding cuts. Some groups would also welcome more interaction with local officers as well as information about local crime trends, who they have caught, etc, as positive results will make them feel that their actions are valued. GMP is currently developing a Service Level Agreement with the Greater Manchester Neighbourhood and HomeWatch Association, which will include provisions around sharing information with coordinators and attendance at meetings. Guests were very impressed with the model that Graham Roe described whereby he has formed an Association of 17 local HomeWatches. Others would like to replicate this in their areas but they are unable to do so because they cannot get in touch with the other groups directly and there is varied support from GMP whether they will help facilitate this. Some guests mentioned that they didn’t know who to contact within the police for support with their HomeWatch group, and said it would help if they had a named point of contact from the Neighbourhood Police Team.
Other collaborative projects that work well/ could work well included:

- Restorative justice
- Junior PCSOs
- Use of Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) to fund projects to improve neighbourhoods

Public support in policing: Questions and answers

Guests were given the opportunity to question the panel about community involvement in policing. There wasn’t time to answer all the questions and so these were submitted to GMP for a response after the event. Please see Appendix 1 for these questions and GMP’s responses.
3. MANAGING THE FUNDING GAP

Tony Lloyd then provided information about the police’s budget and the impact of the government’s cuts on the service.

Whilst there is strong evidence that Greater Manchester Police have managed funding cuts to date well, the changing nature and complexity of crime, combined with the reduction in future funding for policing poses extraordinary challenges. We are facing uncertain times; the protections afforded to education, health and pensions mean the outcome of the emergency budget in July and the subsequent Spending Review could have serious consequences for future police funding levels. Adequate funding for policing to a high standard is fundamental to ensure personal safety, economic prosperity and a socially just society.

**Budget detail**

Since the 2010 spending review, GMP has already made cuts of £134m. It is estimated that by 2018/19 a total of £287m will have been cut (a 41% reduction against the 2010 budget). To put this into context, every 1% reduction in the police grant equates to £4m, equivalent to approximately 80 police officers. These cuts - £47m in 2015/16 alone – present an unprecedented challenge for policing across Greater Manchester.

The government’s cuts to police budgets run deep across the country, but there are a number of unfair decisions which adversely affect Greater Manchester:

- Cuts to the police grant have a greater impact on Greater Manchester residents as we rely on the government for funding far more than more affluent areas, such as Surrey. Eighty per cent of our funding comes from the government whilst Surrey relies on only 50% of their funding from government. We are penalised for keeping council tax low as this makes us more reliant on government funding. Funding for police in Surrey is estimated to increase in this decade by nearly 5% whereas in Greater Manchester it will fall by almost 15%.

- This year the government has clawed back almost £200m nationally to pay for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), the City of London Police and other government projects, such as the direct entry scheme. For Greater Manchester this means a direct cut of £10m that could have paid for 200 police officers.

**Impact of cuts**

Significant savings have already been achieved through reducing back office costs, transforming how the police carry out their business, making better use of our buildings, and securing better prices when we buy things. However, 86% of the policing budget is staff-related (62% officers, 19% staff, 5% PCSOs). Therefore the majority of savings will come from reducing both officers and staff numbers.
SADLY THIS WILL STILL LEAVE A FUNDING GAP OF AT LEAST £40M

The police are not alone – local authorities, probation, prison service and welfare benefits have all been affected by the deep cuts to public services. The collective impact on the safety of our neighbourhoods is frightening.

Tony also discussed how residents could help the funding situation. A proportion of council tax goes directly towards the police service (this is known as the police precept). Police and Crime Commissioners decide the amount of council tax that goes towards the police, and last year Tony decided the proportion residents pay should stay the same as the previous year.

Currently Band D households pay £2.93 per week for policing (£152.30 per year). Increasing this by 25p extra a week, per household, would generate £8.8m more a year and would pay for 175 additional police officers. An extra 50p per week, per household, would generate £17.6m and pay for an additional 350 police officers, while £1 extra per week, per household, would generate £35m more per year and pay for 700 additional police officers.

Managing the shortfall: Discussion group findings

After Tony’s presentation, guests discussed these costs and whether they thought residents would be willing to pay more through council tax.

Views were mixed. There was some concern that people on low incomes wouldn’t be able to afford the increase, and the shortfall could be managed by reducing salaries rather than cutting staff.

Of those who said they were prepared to pay more, some said that it is important that the PCC and GMP are open and transparent and the public is informed about what the extra money will be spent on. Others said they would only be prepared to pay more if there was a guarantee that the money was spent on police officers, and it was spent in the area in which it was generated. Furthermore, many guests also said that if they are paying more, they want a greater say in how the police operate. This links to comments made in the previous discussion about guests wanting to have a say in setting local policing priorities.

At the end of the session every guest was asked to vote whether they would be prepared to pay more council tax for policing, and if so, how much. They were also asked what they thought their friends, family and neighbours would say. Eighty percent of guests said they would be willing to pay more, with half of those saying they were willing to pay £1 more per week, which would fund 700 police officers. However they thought that family and friends would be less willing to pay more. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner stressed that no decisions had been made to increase council tax to pay for policing, but it was just one of the options available, which it was important to gauge public views on.

Guests were given the opportunity to question the panel about funding for the police. Please see Appendix 2 for these questions and the responses.
4. NEXT STEPS AND ACTION PLAN

Tony closed the event by thanks guests for all their work in their communities, and reiterated his commitment to supporting them. He also said how proud he was of Greater Manchester Police, and while they can occasionally get things wrong, usually they do amazing work, and they work best when they work with local people.

A number of recommendations and actions arose during the event, and these will be incorporated into existing actions plans for the OPCC, GMP, and Greater Manchester Neighbourhood and HomeWatch Association as appropriate.

**PCC’s office to:**

Develop a business case for a community messaging system for Greater Manchester so members of the public can receive updates from GMP and other partners (e.g. local authorities, HomeWatch coordinators) about issues in their local area, for example, localised crime prevention advice, missing people, feedback when crimes are solved, including where community intelligence helped, etc.

Pilot projects across the conurbation, in partnership with GMP and housing associations, where residents can get involved in improving their neighbourhoods in non-traditional ways.

Launch a small grants fund so community groups can apply for monies that will help build safer communities.

**PCC’s office to encourage GMP to:**

Provide specific calls to action and be clear about what they’d like residents to do.

Disseminate specific examples of how residents’ actions and intelligence have helped prevent or solve crimes.

Explore alternative ways (other traditional meetings) to involve residents in influencing policing decisions in their area.

Appoint a known point of contact within each of the divisions for HomeWatch coordinators to contact and who will support setting up Associations.

Explore ways of supporting HomeWatches to be more visible in their communities, e.g. HomeWatch signs, stickers, ‘No Cold Calling’ signs.

Training for community leaders to be HomeWatch coordinators.
Guests to:

Let their friends, family, networks know about what was discussed at the event.

Let the OPCC know about ways they would like to get involved in policing and helping their neighbourhoods to be safe places to live.

Support the Police and Crime Commissioner to campaign against the cuts to police budgets by writing to your MP and Theresa May MP to reverse the decision to cuts funds to Greater Manchester.

HomeWatch Coordinators to contact the national association to run campaign to promote HomeWatch and improve its image.
APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING POLICE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

[Nb. All responses are written by Greater Manchester Police].

For further information, visit the Neighbourhood and HomeWatch Schemes part of our website.

**Qu 1:** It is sometimes difficult to know who to talk to about non-urgent issues and requests. It would be helpful if we had a nominated single point of contact with name and full contact details.

In the first instance non-emergency enquiries should go via the ‘101’ phone number. It is important to us that we offer you the best service we can with the staff we have available. Shift patterns and annual leave mean that we can’t always provide phone numbers for specific members of staff. However, each division publishes their neighbourhood teams on the GMP website (www.gmp.police.uk) along with a central contact number and email address for that team. This email account is reviewed by a number of people daily to help ensure your query gets to the right person within the team and is dealt with as efficiently as possible. You can also contact local neighbourhood policing teams through their social media accounts. A list of them can be found at: www.gmp.police.uk/socialmedia.

**Qu 2:** As well as leaflets and weekly burglary reports (which are very useful and remind our members of security points), we could do with more practical information on trends and what to be on the lookout for. Is this something the police could provide us with? Are there any regular meetings for HomeWatch coordinators covering this sort of practical information? If not, we suggest that this is looked at to improve the effectiveness of HomeWatch schemes, especially working communications with the police.

Neighbourhood teams endeavour to share as much information as they can about crime trends and ways that members of the public can protect themselves from becoming victims of crime. Information is also provided to the community via a range of community meetings including HomeWatch meetings. The frequency is determined locally by each neighbourhood. Contact details of each Neighbourhood Team can be found on the GMP website. On occasion sensitive operational data cannot be shared with community members but we aim for this to be the exception rather than the rule. We agree that there may be opportunities to explore how more useful information can be shared as requested and this will be looked into and developed alongside the Greater Manchester HomeWatch Association. In addition, the national www.police.uk website allows you to explore and compare crime and outcomes of crime in your neighbourhood.

**Qu 3:** Can the local police actively promote HomeWatch using posters, as well as news stories to be circulated via the internet?

Yes. Work is currently under way to re-design the Neighbourhood and HomeWatch page on the Greater Manchester Police website. This will incorporate the promotion of

http://www.gmp.police.uk/live/Nhoodv3.nsf/section.html?readform&s=04EB0F023E50FE5180257D190032F3CS
Neighbourhood and HomeWatch and will signpost interested members of the community to the appropriate people/places to obtain further information. The organisation will also continue to use other methods of communication to promote Neighbourhood and HomeWatch including:

- Use of press releases to promote key events and activities. For example, during Volunteers Week 1-7 June, ACC Shewan spoke about the great work that is carried out by local groups such as Neighbourhood and HomeWatch who work outside of the police organisation and who volunteer their skills and time in making their communities a better and therefore safer place to be.
- Use of GMP’s Corporate Communication branch to promote HomeWatch. For example, in advance of the National HomeWatch Awareness week, the Corporate Communications team collated good examples of HomeWatch activity in the GM area that was subsequently publicised in order to promote the work carried out by Neighbourhood/HomeWatch active citizens.

Qu 4: Can the police encourage more HomeWatch Area Associations to be formed, and have their regular meetings attended by police officers?
The positive impact of all active citizens/voluntary groups (not just Neighbourhood and HomeWatch) who volunteer their skills and time in making our communities better and consequently a safer place to be is acknowledged by Greater Manchester Police. Much work is currently underway within the organisation to develop an awareness of the positive impact of these individuals/groups and to develop the knowledge and skills to place more emphasis on the partnership between the organisation and active individuals/groups. An example can be seen from Participatory Events that were held across the whole of the Greater Manchester area at the end of 2014/beginning of 2015. Within the past twelve months, the Neighbourhood and HomeWatch Intranet pages within the organisation have been updated and guidance documents have been provided to officers and PCSOs in respect of relevant advice/processes that they should adopt. The following is a short extract from the front page “divisions are encouraged to continue to sign up new Neighbourhood Watch schemes and to remain in contact with existing schemes and coordinators ensuring that divisions have current and up to date contact details for each scheme”.

Qu 5: We have a group of 5 HomeWatch coordinators on Hale Barns who work together and share knowledge and experiences. We have tried to expand this group in the past but have been hampered by data protection issues. A Freedom of Information enquiry recently revealed that there were 43 HomeWatch schemes in Hale Barns but we have no idea where the other 38 are. Is this number correct, and if so, how can we reach the others?
There is clear legal guidance in relation to the management of personal data that Greater Manchester Police must adhere to. This restricts the organisation’s ability to provide you with other members’/coordinators’ details. Currently the method by which you can communicate with others is via your local police Partnership Team. The team will happily share communications between groups. Should you want to arrange to meet and exchange your own details personally, this may be coordinated via communication with your Partnership Team.
Qu 6: How do we get contact details for the other HomeWatch schemes in our area, so we can form an Association (such as Graham Roe’s). So far we have been unable to do this because of data protection. All we need is emails!

*Please see response above.*

Qu 7: Can local police notify local associations of new and existing HomeWatch schemes?

Yes. However, personal details of members/coordinators cannot be shared (see response above). Most schemes are also self-recorded on the OurWatch internet page which is owned by the National Neighbourhood Watch Scheme: www.ourwatch.org.uk. Contact details of other schemes are likely to be accessible via this route.

Qu 8: [paraphrased] In some areas HomeWatch meetings are poorly attended. Would it be appropriate for some HomeWatches to join other community associations that have crime and the police as a focal point for at least part of the meeting?

Combined response from OPCC and GMP:

*Both the OPCC and GMP agree that there is no problem with HomeWatches joining another community group to discuss crime and antisocial behaviour issues. It is a sensible way forward, as many other community groups also focus on crime issues and are supported by the police, and the OPCC and GMP already work with a wide variety of community groups, as well as HomeWatches. However, it is not something that would be insisted upon and it would be up to each HomeWatch to decide what was best for them locally. The Divisional HomeWatch Coordinators may have a view on the situation locally, as well as the representatives on the Greater Manchester Neighbourhood and HomeWatch Association.*

Qu 9: What type of support can the police offer to the community groups to enable them to engage and encourage residents to work with the police, e.g. BME, disabled people, youth, lesbian, gay, faith groups, etc?

A series of changes to GMP’s recruiting processes aim to identify and recruit community members into policing roles with the overall aim to make the police more representative of the community it serves. On a day to day basis we are working hard to build strong relationships with our communities so that individuals feel confident to engage with the police and to report crimes to us. A wide range of activity is undertaken and below are just a few examples.

*Force-wide examples:*

- **The GMP Pride Network with support from the Police and Crime Commissioner and Force command last year commissioned the Rainbow liveried car, which had a strong hate crime message. This car was taken to as many LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and trans gender) specific and other community events as possible force-wide, to raise awareness of not only LGBT community engagement but also of hate crime reporting. Feedback suggested the car had a strong impact on increasing community awareness and confidence.**

- **We also attended Sparkle (national Trans festival) in Manchester with a presence in the community marketplace with Trans specific branded hate crime literature, banners and promotional items. We also supported the community workshops and**
talks at the LGBT foundation during Sparkle weekend. We will again be at Sparkle in July.

- We hold monthly hate crime specific drop in surgeries at the LGBT foundation on the first Thursday of every month from 6-8pm.
- We have ran a Trans hate crime surgery and will be following this up with further focus groups, prior to the writing and launch of the report which is scheduled for 20th November (Trans Day Of Remembrance).
- We will be the first force to fly the Trans flag during Sparkle weekend, this leads on from the positive flying of the Pride flag to coincide with IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia) in May.
- Bolton division this year for IDAHO did a CPD (continuing professional development) session with licensees in Bolton raising awareness of homophobia and LGBT hate crime. The rainbow car was again visible over the weekend in the Bolton, Bury and Rochdale divisions.
- In relation to Islamaphobic and Anti-Semitic hate crimes we hold regular data sharing meetings with Tell Mama and the Community Security Trust to ensure that we are recording and capturing racial/religious hate crimes.
- In relation to disability hate crime, we have held a number of ‘Know Your Criminal Justice’ days on divisions, getting service users from disability groups and organisations to come into the police stations and courts to see the process of dealing with, investigating and prosecuting disability hate crimes.
- We have been working with Better Things (formerly Manchester Mencap) on raising awareness of ‘Mate Crime’ and we are working with Salford University on producing a specific disability hate crime awareness video.

**Divisional Examples:**

Work with our communities varies by division dependent on the needs of the particular community. All divisions meet with their community groups and attend community meetings wherever possible including Mosques, Pride, disability groups etc. Partnership and Neighbourhood Teams frequently pop in to community venues and speak with groups or individuals as an invited guest or a passing patrol to engage and build trust. Below are some examples from divisions of the specific work they are undertaking.

**Bury** division have attempted to identify certain venues where these groups meet, and which can be recognised as Hate Crime Reporting Centres. In doing this the groups have contact with the Partnership Team officers who forward any communication to relevant INPT (Integrated Neighbourhood Policing Team) officers should there be any incidents or questions that they require police assistance with. The groups are also offered hate crime awareness training if this would be useful.

**Diversity days** are organised at schools working closely with representatives from some of the groups that are represented.

**INPT officers** are encouraged to attend weekly community meetings wherever possible.
In Stockport frequent meetings take place with the Independent Advisory Group who represent community groups and work with the police in order to build trust and encourage their members to report crime or intelligence.

‘Know Your Criminal Justice’ events have also been successful with these community groups and further events are planned for this year. They are delivered across all the community groups and age ranges and cover topics such as hate crime, stop and search along with encouraging questions on any other matters.

Stockport West operate a ‘Coffee with a Copper’ beat surgery at Costa Coffee on a retail park which enables police to engage with members of the public at a location other than a police station.

Stockport Police share invites to community events with local contacts, partners and via social media and attend whenever possible.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) attend schools on their beats and provide advice and inputs to students and staff.

Regular updates are made on social media including information on Third Party Reporting Centres for hate crime.

Rochdale division are working with the Rochdale local authority cohesion hub and a GMP apprentice to design community ‘profiles’ for each ward within the Rochdale borough. The intention is to profile all 21 wards to collate information that can be drawn on at any time. The profiles will include a range of information including the Third Party Reporting Centres, Councillors responsible for the respective wards and Mosques or other religious establishments.

In Manchester police engagement events taking place within communities are publicised in advance and groups and individuals are welcome to make representations and discuss local needs at those events.

Within communities there are a number of locations identified as Third Party Reporting Centres and these are promoted locally by the establishments and on-line. The locations offer support to communities and act as a link to the police for individuals and groups that may experience hate crimes. Regular contact with both central teams and local neighbourhood staff takes place at these sites to ensure communities are supported.
APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING POLICE FUNDING

[Nb. All responses, except question 7 are written by the PCC’s office].

Qu 1: Please could you explain how the funding for policing is calculated and allocated? Is the funding based on population or is it decided in some other way?

80% of funding for GMP comes from a government grant and for 2015/16 this totals £436m, the remaining 20% (£106m) comes from council tax payers in the form of a precept included in council tax bills. The reliance within Greater Manchester on the government grant (as opposed to council tax) has a significant impact on funding when the government apply percentage grant reductions. For areas such as Surrey who only rely on government funding for 50% of their budget, the impact of a grant cut is much lower.

The funding formula is incredibly complicated and cannot be summarised into a few points, however, it takes into consideration population numbers and levels of deprivation. The government has accepted that the current funding formula is not linked to the policing needs of areas and we are awaiting a consultation document which is due on 21 July. However full details of the existing funding formula can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/guide-to-the-police-allocation-formula

Qu 2: While I realise that the increased council tax would go the police general, will it stay within the local community in which it was generated?

Qu 3: If we did pay more tax for policing, we would want our tax to be spent in our local area, not in an area elsewhere in Greater Manchester. Could this be guaranteed or would it be spent on demand?

It is not possible to align the level of locally raised council taxes with the resources available. Through the delegation of the policing budget to the Chief Constable, the Chief Constable must manage those resources to the best effect. Crime knows no boundaries. Whilst neighbourhood working is the backbone of the policing operation, the ability to move resources around is essential in ensuring that the whole of Greater Manchester is a safe place. Therefore, it will not be possible for increased council tax raised in one local authority area to be ring-fenced for that area. That said, the Police and Crime Commissioner invests almost £3m in local Community Safety Partnerships, who then spend this money in line with the issues which matter most to that area.

Qu 4: If we did pay more in council tax could we have more say in what services we can have?

The Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for consulting the public and businesses on his policing priorities and the proportion of council tax and business rates that go towards policing. The PCC’s office carries out consultation in a number of different ways including meeting residents and business owners in person as well as online surveys. The results of the public consultation have fed into his Police and Crime Plan 2014-2016, which can be accessed here: www.gmpcc.org.uk/down-to-business/police-and-crime-plan/ . Tony’s priorities, as set out in his Police and Crime Plan, form the basis for how the police operate. This is one way that the public can get involved in policing priorities. Another way is by contacting the local neighbourhood police teams to let them know the issues in your area and what you think the priorities for that local area should be.
Qu 5: If people are not willing to pay more towards the police service, how will you persuade them? And if they don’t want to pay more, what is your plan of action?

Events like today hope to share the challenge which the police service faces in Greater Manchester. Awareness raising is key to ensure that residents understand the impact of government cuts. Managing the finances is a complex process and involves a number of strands:

- Reducing costs through transforming police services and ensuring they are as efficient as possible
- Working alongside other partners in Greater Manchester to reduce demand for police services
- Potentially raising additional income though council tax (it is important to stress that no decisions have been made on this)

All this must be balanced to ensure that there is a sustainable police service which seeks to ensure personal safety, economic prosperity and a socially just society. With the changing nature of crime, and crimes against people increasing, this provides a significant challenge which we need to work together to meet.

Qu 6: Will police funding improve when the north of England gets devolved powers under the government’s ‘Northern Powerhouse’ initiative?

Details are currently being worked on with the government as to what other powers can be devolved to Greater Manchester. However, it is unlikely that funding will improve. What may happen is that funding has less strings attached to it and therefore can be used in a more effective way.

Qu 7: What are the Police Federation and GMP doing to oppose the cuts?

From GMP:

We have consistently highlighted how challenging the cuts have been for Greater Manchester Police since 2010. Tony Lloyd is fully engaged in addressing these difficult issues together with Sir Peter Fahy and GMP. He has sought to ensure that people who live and work in Greater Manchester are aware of the cuts and what they will mean, and have the chance to voice their opinions.

We have been doing all we can to minimise the impact on frontline services and redesign the way we operate in order to live within the budget we are set. We have also shown the changing nature of crime and the complex demands we have to deal with, an example being the impact those suffering from mental illness have on the service and the way we now work more effectively with partners to overcome this.

We are working together with leaders of local authorities and other agencies to help develop ways that the smaller resources available to all agencies can be used jointly and more effectively in combination to deliver services and tackle complex demands.

We are losing five police officers a week and of course this is challenging in terms of maintaining service. We have significant plans in place to cope with this. The devolution deal
for Greater Manchester gives us a huge opportunity to make sure that integration of public services at a local level enables us to cope with reduced budgets.

The really encouraging thing is that a recent independent survey showed that 75% of Greater Manchester residents have confidence in Greater Manchester Police and 69% say GMP can be relied upon. What is clear is that the public will have to work even more closely with the police, other public services and voluntary organisations in order to provide local solutions to problems.

The police can no longer do this alone and quite honestly nor should they as policing in this country is based on “the police are the public and that the public are the police”.

**OPCC addition:**
Greater Manchester’s Police Federation has recently launched a campaign #WhatDoWeStop which highlights that the police do so much more than tackle traditional crimes, such as catching burglars, breaking up fights, stopping speeding motorists and chasing down drug dealers, rapists and murderers. The campaign raises awareness that around 8 in 10 calls to the police are not about crime, and they also search for missing people, keep people safe while they wait for mental health professionals to arrive, help people threatening suicide, deliver babies, give CPR, police football matches and patrol neighbourhoods. It also lets the public know about the huge cuts to the police budget and the subsequent reduction in officer numbers, and asks,

“If these cuts do not stop, next time we are asked for help, we will have to say “no”. So it’s up to you. #WhatDoWeStop?”

The campaign encourages people to write to their MP to urge them to take action to stop the cuts. More information about the campaign, which is currently being featured on public transport across the conurbation, is available here: [http://www.gmpfederation.com/whatdowestop](http://www.gmpfederation.com/whatdowestop)