



GREATER MANCHESTER  
**POLICE**



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL



OPERATION

# VULCAN

PICCADILLY

# ADULTS



# OPERATION VULCAN PICCADILLY

**In Autumn 2022, Greater Manchester Police launched Operation Vulcan to clear the areas of Cheetham Hill and Strangeways which were once rife with the counterfeit goods trade and associated organised crime.**

Eleven months on and the area today paints a very different picture, with over 200 counterfeit shops shut down, over 220 arrests, and violent crime and public order offences reduced by 50 per cent.

A combination of relentless law enforcement by police and unwavering support from dedicated partners has brought real change to the area.

Greater Manchester Police and partners vow to bring the same vigour and enthusiasm to improving Piccadilly Gardens to create that very same dynamic sense of change.

Piccadilly Gardens is a business and retail hub in the heart of Manchester. It's well-connected to the rest of Greater Manchester via numerous public transport links and has a fantastic array of businesses and leisure facilities - including cafes, restaurants, shops, bars and pubs - making it an ideal place for commuters, shoppers and those looking to socialise and use the green space. It's a major route through the city used by around 150,000 people every day.

Like most urban centres however, its heavy footfall, connections and wealth of surrounding businesses can also make it attractive to criminals.

The built-up nature of Piccadilly Gardens and various escape routes unfortunately also help to facilitate crime by placing it in the minds of criminals as an opportune place to commit offences.

GMP has already deployed extra officers over Friday and Saturday evenings to help control the criminal activity during these times of particularly high footfall. Although robberies and thefts have been successfully reduced, drug supply, violence and anti-social behaviour remain a priority for police.

Operation Vulcan – Piccadilly is the multi-agency response designed to tackle these problems once and for all and make Piccadilly Gardens hostile to criminality and a safer space for people to live, work and socialise.



# AIMS

**Work in partnership to create a safer community for people to live, work and socialise in, driving long-term change for the better.**

Make Piccadilly Gardens a hostile environment for all levels of criminality.

Build on the success of existing multi-agency operations in the area, supporting the force and partners as we improve the overall area.

Enhance analytical activity and information sharing to ensure vulnerable people are safeguarded.

# PROPOSALS

**We know that policing alone cannot effectively and sustainably tackle the issues in Piccadilly Gardens, and the investment of time and resources from partners will be crucial once again.**

The successes in Cheetham Hill can be attributed to the coordinated partnership approach as we jointly solved the wide ranging and deep-seated issues affecting their communities.

Using the same proactive style of policing, and building on learning from this model, this multi-agency operation will now deploy to Piccadilly Gardens.

# VISION AND REGENERATION

**Manchester city centre has seen major development projects that have attracted commercial investment and as a result, the business community has grown across the city region. These regeneration projects include NOMA, First Street, Spinningfields, Ancoats, Mayfield and St John's, with Piccadilly Gardens set to join this redevelopment portfolio.**

Manchester City Council has appointed designers to come up with a scheme to transform the area into a welcoming, flexible and family-friendly Mancunian public space. The design will also seek to promote safety and is well lit with clear sight lines.



# ILLEGAL STREET DRUGS

## OBJECTIVE:

**To tackle the illegal drugs trade and reduce drug related crimes in Piccadilly Gardens.**

- To protect the most vulnerable, raising awareness of the risks and offering diversionary options to reduce drug use and safeguard users.
- To take a zero-tolerance approach to drug offences, pursuing the criminal networks intent on causing harm to people dependant on drug use.

## GMP'S COMMITMENT:

### WE WILL:

- Work closely with partners to improve the levels of community intelligence relating to drug supply and known nominals which can be shared and learned from.
- Improve understanding of drug misuse and the impact on the communities and businesses located at Piccadilly Gardens.
- Have a strong and persistent presence around Piccadilly Gardens and adjoining streets, actively targeting those involved in the supply and purchase of drugs at Piccadilly Gardens.
- Ensure consistent messaging is shared with local residents, businesses, and visitors, sharing positive outcomes, reassurance messaging and encouraging the use of Crimestoppers as a means of sharing intelligence.
- Raise awareness of the damage caused by drugs trafficking and signpost support agencies to those most vulnerable.



# ROBBERY AND THEFT FROM PERSON

## OBJECTIVE:

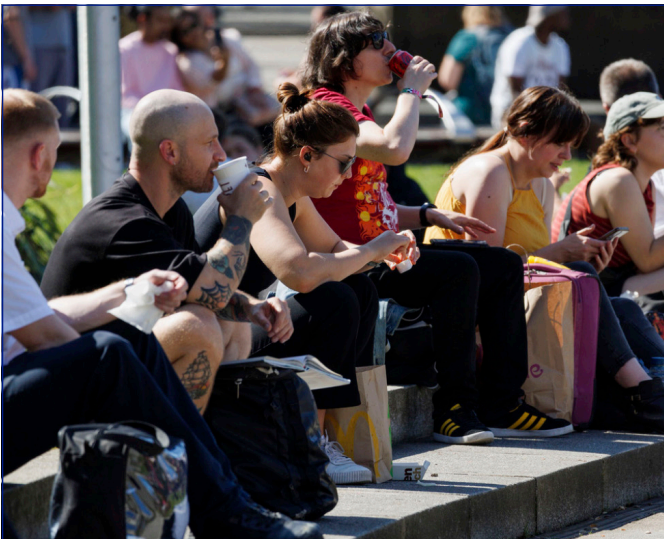
**To significantly reduce the risk of visitors and residents of Piccadilly Gardens falling victim to robbery and theft from person offences.**

- To pursue the criminal's intent on targeting people in and around Piccadilly Gardens.
- To support the investigations of every report of robbery and theft from person in the area.
- To provide overt and covert policing deterrents to those who feel that Piccadilly Gardens is a place where they can commit this type of offending.
- To reduce risk to vulnerable people and help prevent people from becoming victims by providing crime prevention advice.

## GMP'S COMMITMENT:

### WE WILL:

- Work closely with partners to improve the response to community intelligence concerning those committing this type of offending.
- Provide a strong response to reports of theft from person and robbery via visible police presence and robust investigations.
- Improve analysis and the use of intelligence to identify those committing repeated crimes, target them across Greater Manchester, and use partners to tackle long-term offending.
- Raise awareness of the risks of falling victim to such crime during key periods via communication channels and community engagement.
- Improve the use of stop search, targeting those committing this crime type.
- Ensure consistent messaging to local communities, providing positive outcomes, pushing the benefits of Crimestoppers and providing pathways for community intelligence and community feedback (positive and negative).



# HOMELESSNESS AND BEGGING

## OBJECTIVE:

**To reduce aggressive begging and associated anti-social behaviours such as open drug use, intimidation, and threatening behaviour towards members of the public.**

- To work with partners to improve Piccadilly Gardens and experiences of residents, visitors, and businesses through the effective management of begging.
- To work with partner agencies to identify those at risk of homelessness and provide housing advice, assistance and support to those with wider health, emotional and well-being needs to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping.
- To support partners who provide a responsive outreach service to those sleeping rough to help move them off the streets and towards recovery.
- To support individuals to find and remain in stable accommodation and to meet their wider support needs.

## GMP'S COMMITMENT:

### WE WILL:

- Help people who sleep rough or beg get the support they need and help them to tackle the underlying issues that led them to begging or sleeping rough - for example mental health, addiction or debt issues - to help them sustain a permanent home.
- Consider when criminal enforcement should be carried out - where a criminal offence has been committed and there is evidence to substantiate it and where it is proportionate.
- Refer people known to be begging to the Street Engagement Hub.
- Encourage street kitchens to link in with homelessness services which can provide wider, long-term support.



# SERIOUS AND VIOLENT CRIME

## OBJECTIVE:

**To protect the vulnerable, disrupt offenders and prevent serious and violent crime from occurring.**

- To provide consistent high visibility and covert police presence in order to detect and deter serious violence.
- To prevent violent disorder involving large groups fighting in Piccadilly Gardens.
- To disrupt those who commit violent offences and carry knives or other offensive weapons in Piccadilly Gardens.
- To protect vulnerable people and raise awareness of the risks associated with violent crime.

## GMP'S COMMITMENT:

### WE WILL:

- Provide support to the numerous policing operations that are already in place to tackle serious violence in Piccadilly Gardens - such as Operation Sycamore.
- Provide a consistent and visible police presence in the area, utilising stop search where appropriate to keep people safe and prevent violence from occurring in the first place.
- Respond robustly to all instances of disorder, utilising the full range of GMP's tactical resources.
- Engage with the local residential and business community, identifying concerns, gathering intelligence, and providing reassurance.
- Utilise community networks to involve the community in problem solving, to share information and promote public confidence.
- Encourage victims to report crime, utilising partners and charities to safeguard and offer on-going support through the judicial process.
- Conduct thorough and extensive investigations to prosecute instances of serious and violent crime.
- Safeguard vulnerable members of the community and signpost them to support services.





# EXPLOITATION

## OBJECTIVE:

**To place victims and vulnerable people at the heart of the police and partner response using bespoke safeguarding and outreach services.**

- Continue to engage with young people visiting Piccadilly Gardens to safeguard them.
- Use existing safeguarding methods to support the disruption of those that are repeatedly causing harm in and around the area.
- Continue to educate entertainment venues and hotel establishments about the risks of child criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation and how to identify the vulnerabilities of those who are missing from home.
- Make Piccadilly Gardens a hostile space for those who seek to exploit the most vulnerable in society.

## GMP'S COMMITMENT:

### WE WILL:

- Build on the success of existing, multi-agency safeguarding operations to provide a visible presence in and around Piccadilly Gardens, engaging with young or vulnerable people who may be at risk of exploitation.
- Continue to identify networks of criminality, adding to the existing intelligence picture to dismantle them at every level.
- Work across local and force-wide policing resources to provide the most suitable investigative capability to identified threats and criminal behaviours.
- Share intelligence and data on patterns and specific persons engaged in the exploitation of the most vulnerable.



# ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

## OBJECTIVE:

**To reduce instances of anti-social behaviour, utilising appropriate interventions to prevent escalation.**

- Establish clear standards of behaviour and ensure anti-social behaviour is not tolerated in and around Piccadilly Gardens.
- Robustly respond to all instances of anti-social behaviour utilising early interventions where appropriate.
- Utilising civil and criminal orders to good effect to prevent instances of anti-social behaviour occurring.

## GMP'S COMMITMENT:

### WE WILL:

- Work with law enforcement colleagues and the wider Operation Vulcan partnership to tackle instances of anti-social behaviour.
- Train our staff and partners to understand Problem Oriented Policing methodology and utilise it to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- Establish repeat locations and victims and offer appropriate support including increased police presence and safeguarding measures.
- Utilise early interventions such as verbal and written warnings, community resolutions, mediation and acceptable behavioural contracts.
- Use police and civil powers to relentlessly pursue those known to repeatedly cause anti-social behaviour.
- Adopt a multi-agency problem solving approach to understand what makes areas as susceptible to anti-social behaviour issues.
- Target known locations with partners and specialist service providers to provide community engagement and ensure safeguarding opportunities are identified and action taken.
- Work closely with GMP's serious violent crime hub and Antisocial Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT), making appropriate referrals for support.
- Regularly brief officers regarding individuals subject to civil and criminal orders to enable them to take proactive steps to target offenders and safeguard victims.



# MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Demonstrable disruption against those intent on committing drug offences, robbery, theft from person, anti-social behaviour and violent crime.
- Increase in community and business engagement which in turn provides a richer intelligence picture.
- Positive overall arrest numbers, judicial outcomes, and conviction data for offences related to this area.
- Increased rates of stop and search in the area to prevent and deter crime.
- A high number of successful referrals tracked through both policing and partner agencies.
- Qualitative and quantitative data showing positive community support for the initiatives that are undertaken thus enabling legitimate use of Piccadilly Gardens.
- Increase in the number of referrals made to safeguarding services related to child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation
- Strong data and intelligence to suggest Piccadilly Gardens is no longer desirable area for criminals to carry out their activity.



# W E C N

