

# Manchester City Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team Newsletter

July 2024

## To Contact us:

Live chat [Home](#) | [Greater Manchester Police \(gmp.police.uk\)](#)

Our live chat service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can use this service to report crime and get advice and information.

Call [101](#) for non-emergency enquiries.

If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service on 18001 101.

In Emergencies call **999**



## ***Message from Superintendent, Nicola Williams***

Our work as a dedicated Neighbourhood Team across the City to support our communities, to get to victims quickly, prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and keep people safe continues.

Over the past month, I have seen many examples of hard work, commitment and joint working with our partners, to come together to listen to and respond to the needs of our communities, we want all who frequent our City to be and to feel safe and know that the Police are there for them.

June has been a busy month policing a number of protests and responding to incidents where peaceful protest has crossed the line into criminality. GMP has now launched a team of dedicated officers to investigate all such criminality. To date 21 reports of criminal damage GM wide are being investigated inclusive of the incidents in the City Centre where the windows of businesses have been smashed and red paint thrown over the buildings. 13 people have been arrested in connection to the reports, 8 have been charged with offences and 5 remain on bail whilst the investigations continue. We are working closely with the impacted businesses, MCC and CityCo to provide support to victims, witnesses, and members of staff; crime prevention advice; reassurance and ensure those responsible are identified and brought to justice. We recognise that there will be people who wish to participate in peaceful and organised protest. However, these incidents of damage have crossed the line into criminality and I would like to reassure you that such behaviour won't be tolerated and we will take action.

June also saw the launch of Operation Venditio, as of the 24<sup>th</sup> June all student officers deployed to the City of Manchester North, Central and South following initial training and a period in company with a tutor constable are coming to the City to work alongside our Neighbourhood Teams deploying predominately to the commercial sector to work with our partners and come together to tackle retail crime and anti-social behaviour, this will be a rolling programme. They have received some additional training at the Town Hall, are being supported and given clear direction to patrol our city on foot and will become proficient in key skills. We want our students to work alongside our existing officers, engage with communities, help build public trust and confidence, gather and submit intelligence, act to prevent offences, where offences have occurred work with victims to support them and take appropriate action against those who have offended. We are considering all outcomes, for example out of court disposal, community resolutions for first time offenders, this can be a real deterrent to intervene early and prevent future offending, whilst also targeting those that frequently offend looking at greater sanctions, charges, working with MCC to obtain Criminal Behaviour Orders and for our most prolific custodial sentences to reduce harm. We are all looking forward to making a success of this initiative, giving our students a really valuable experience at the start of their policing career with positive results for the City. I hope you will see our increased presence, please speak with our officers!

Our City Centre Neighbourhood Crime Team (NCT) launched in May are responsible for the investigation and progression of neighbourhood crime, robbery, theft from the person and some vehicle crime across the city are now embedded and working well.

June saw the second meeting of our Independent Advisory Group launched in March, I'm pleased to report the election of a chair and deputy chair, and a growth in membership that is representative of our City communities, the meeting was productive and I see real gains for the City as we the police work with community members to listen and respond to the needs of the people.

We are anticipating a busy summer but I would like to assure you we are well prepared, once again I recognise there is more to do, my senior colleagues and I are committed to ensuring our communities have a senior team that is receptive and engaging with local issues of community safety that are important to you. Below you will see crime prevention advice and updates from your communities. Thank you for all your support and I hope that we can continue to make the City a safe place to be.

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 18:44 hours there was a report of a disturbance in Piccadilly Gardens resulting in a victim being hospitalised after being attacked with a crutch and knocked unconscious. A male adult was arrested at the scene and was later charged with assault. Due to the high profile nature of this assault and the concern it has caused, Operation Vulcan took control of the investigation. This has resulted in the identification and arrest of two suspects.

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 a 16-year-old juvenile and 18 year old male were arrested by Operation Vulcan for Violent disorder, possession of an offensive weapon and drug supply and remain in police custody for questioning. A fourth suspect has been identified and enquiries are on going to arrest this person.

Partners from the Anti Social Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT) will assist in securing Criminal Behaviour Orders on these offenders upon conviction.

Operation Vulcan are currently investigating a number of robberies that have taken place in Piccadilly Gardens in May and June. Three arrests have already been made and enquiries are on going to identify further members of a number of active robbery groups.

Operation Vulcan continue to target the repeat demand generating suspects that are offending in Piccadilly Gardens. Several arrests have been made for persons breaching their criminal behaviours (CBO's), two males were imprisoned for 20 weeks and 10 weeks respectively at court on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July. These CBO's are obtained with the assistance of ASBAT and a number of other CBO applications have been drafted for when our repeat offenders attend court in the near future.

Operation Vulcan recently held a rough sleeper engagement meeting, where a number of partner agencies discussed how to safeguard the most vulnerable members of the homeless community as well as how to manage and robustly conduct enforcement action in relation to a group who portray as being homeless but are in fact entrenched in committing crime in the city.

Suspects for Operation Bonus, an operation targeting drug supply in Piccadilly Gardens have started to be sentenced in court with the first suspect being imprisoned for 30 months.

## ***City Centre Neighbourhood Crime update – June 2024***

**From June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, Castlefield Ward and Piccadilly Ward showed the following offending:**

### ***Highest Offending in Castlefield Ward***

***Commercial – 79 Public Order, 133 Violence Offences, 154 Shoplifting***

***Castlefield – 19 Violence Offences, 9 Public Order, 7 Vehicle Offences***

***Southern Gateway – 53 Violence Offences, 43 Vehicle Offences, 30 Theft From Person***

### ***Highest Offending in Piccadilly Ward***

***Northern Quarter – 21 Violence Offences, 25 Other Theft Offences, 21 Public Order Offences***

***Piccadilly Gardens – 74 Violence Offences, 29 Other Theft Offences, 28 Public Order Offences***

***The Village – 42 Violence Offences, 28 Theft From Person, 33 Other Theft Offences***

***Chinatown – 13 Violence Offences, 8 Other Theft Offences, 6 Vehicle Offences, 6 Theft From Person***

***Piccadilly Trading Estate – 14 Vehicle Offences, 8 Violence Offences, 15 Possession of Drugs***

# City Centre Neighbourhood Policing Sergeants updates/good news

## **Sgt Stu Worthington – NPT Commercial**

In the last month we have continued to target prolific shoplifters impacting retailers across the Commercial District. We have arrested 7 of the top 10 offenders highlighted as key targets. One of these has been charged with 6 offences, with another charged with 5.

Also of note, a prolific offender was given a 24 month prison sentence in the last week for drug and theft offences.

We will continue this push in order to send a clear message to those who wish to offend.

## **Sgt Kam Hare –Northern Quarter & Piccadilly Trading Estate NPT**

The **Northern Quarter Team** are working with local Businesses and Residents regarding the Anti Social Behaviour and Graffiti.

The **Piccadilly Trading Estate** are targeting Theft From Motor Vehicles and Theft from Building Sites

## **Sgt Cara Delamore – NPT The Village & Chinatown**

My Team will be focusing on the following:  
Theft From Person in the Village

Anti Social Behaviour on the corner Bloom Street and Sackville St at the Car Park Fire Escape Stairs

China Town – Anti Social Behaviour at and Drinking issue near the Natwest Bank

## **Sgt Paul O'Donnell – Licensing Team**

**Op Safer Streets** continues to deploy additional resources from 2000hrs in a mix of uniform and plain clothes on Friday and Saturday nights targeting VAWG and personal safety in the Night Time Economy

**Op Custodian**, GMP's largest twice weekly operation continues to police the City Centre's night-time economy where around 100,000 people descend on the City Centre each night.

Licensing team continue to lead the force with licensing enforcement action. Another City Centre premises licence was suspended this week

## **Sgt Andrew Sparkes – NPT Castlefield & Southern Gateway**

The **Castlefield Team** are working hard on proactively tackling vehicle crime in the area. We are carrying out daily Vehicle Crime Prevention patrols at the NCP Car Parks

The **Southern Gateway Team** are targeting Pickpockets and providing Crime Prevention Advice to the community on Oxford Road Corridor.

## **Sgt Ian Haselden – Serious Violent Crime Team**

The SVC Team continue to co-ordinate the pro-active response to Serious Violent Crime in the City Centre. This has now been rolled out to cover the entire city centre as part of a home office funded extension to OP SYCAMORE.

Preparations are under way for the end of the school summer term on the 19/07/2024. GMP, MCC and local schools / colleges are working in partnership to manage this event.

A dedicated Policing operation will be in place concentrating on Piccadilly Gardens and the Arndale centre.

OP MAKESAFE is a training package for hotels relating to CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) and CCE (Child Criminal Exploitation). This training gives hotel staff the skills to spot exploitation in the work place and the confidence to make reports to the Police. Following its success in the city centre this training is now being rolled out across Greater Manchester

## City Centre Neighbourhood Crime update – June 2024

### Violence with and without Injury

**363 crimes**

From June 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup> there were 363 Violence with and without injury crimes recorded.

### Public Order Offences

**184 crimes**

From June 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup> there were 184 Public Order Offences recorded.



### Theft from Person (TFP)

**150 crimes**

From June 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup> there were 150 TFP crimes recorded.

### Shoplifting

**192 crimes**

From June 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup> there were 192 Shoplifting crimes recorded.



### All Other Theft Offences

**185 crimes**

From June 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup> there were 185 All Other Theft Offences recorded.

### Vehicle Offences

**159 crimes**

From June 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup> there were 159 Vehicle Offences crimes recorded.



<b>City Centre Priorities</b> Operational Priority	How are we are achieving this
<b>Protecting vulnerable people and keeping people safe</b>	<p><b>Operation Cura</b> is a joint partnership approach with educational establishments to tackle youth-based violence, exploitation, and victimisation by identifying those children most at risk of exploitation or on the periphery of crime. By notifying the relevant schools / colleges the following day it means any concerns, support or welfare needs can be addressed early and a successful intervention can be put in place to reduce risk to vulnerable people, stopping people becoming victims in the first place.</p> <p>Operation LUKA</p>
<b>Community safety - Homelessness and begging</b>	<p>We have a Street Engagement Team who work with people who beg and sleep rough, offering help and support through referrals to a multi-agency safeguarding hub. This offers a diversion from the criminal justice system and the chance to improve health and living conditions.</p> <p>The Team run the Street Engagement Hub with partners from Manchester Council, homeless charities, NHS, drug and alcohol services (CGL), the Department for Work and Pensions, Probation, Big Issues and other private / charity sector groups.</p> <p>We focus on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour within and caused by the street community by using this multi-agency, trauma informed approach.</p>
<b>Community safety - Crime at licensed premises</b>	<p>DrinkSafe anti-spiking covers are single use covers designed to prevent drink spiking made for drinking vessels.</p> <p>Be cautious if someone appears to be over-friendly and eager to get you to drink. If you get separated from your friends in a bar, pub or club, let them know where you are. If you happen to meet someone new and they ask you to go on somewhere else, introduce them to your friends and tell them where you're going</p>
<b>Neighbourhood crime: - Robbery / Theft from person / vehicle Crime</b>	<p>We continue to target Robbery Offenders in the city stealing Mobile Phones.</p> <p>We have arrested a number of offenders for Theft from Motor Vehicles and Operation SIRRUS Officers have been leafleting Cars in City Centre Car Parks</p> <p>Please don't leave any items on display in your vehicles -</p>
<b>Serious violent crime - Violence against women and girls during the night-time economy</b>	<p><b>Operation Custodian</b> and <b>Operation Safer Streets</b> are officers uniformed and plain clothes deploy in the City Centre offering Personal Safety Advice, we have been focusing on prevention work on the most dangerous perpetrators, online, in private, in licenced premises and public spaces.</p> <p>We target activity at identified high-risk and high-harm locations, including those associated with the night time economy and other large capacity venues, where women and girls feel most vulnerable.</p> <p>We ensure we get the basics right and give an excellent service when responding to incidents and investigating crimes that disproportionately affect women such as domestic abuse and serious sexual offences.</p>
<b>Serious violent crime - Offences in the</b>	<p><b>Operation Sycamore</b> is our response to tackling serious violent crime, with a focus on knife crime.</p> <p>The aim of the operation is to prevent and reduce serious violent crime, by disrupting and raising awareness of the dangers of knife crime and diverting young people away from crime.</p> <p>As part of the operation, officers regularly undertake a range of tactics including: weapon sweeps, visits to habitual knife carriers, and education sessions in</p>

# ICSP Independent Community Scrutiny Panels

The role of the ICSP is provide community oversight over the way that we use our Stop and Search powers in an effort to increase transparency with all communities across Greater Manchester; as well as build trust and confidence in the force.



**The Independent Community Scrutiny Panel is a good way of getting your communities voice heard and making positive changes for your community.**

Once every 2 months the group comes together to review Body Worn Videos of stop searches and use of Force and suggest where they could be improved- whether that be directly providing feedback to the officer involved, or through force wide training provided to all officers.

Only by hearing the issues of the communities from members of those communities can we get better as a force and improve our working practices, so it is important to us that we get as many people from as many backgrounds as possible to join the ICSP so that we can truly understand how to address any issues with the use of police powers. These scrutiny panels give you a voice that we will listen to.

Becoming an ICSP member is fantastic opportunity to play a vital part in improving trust and confidence in GMP and building better relations with our community. You will become part of a team local people working with your local policing team on a voluntary basis.

## What would I be doing as an ICSP member?

As an ICSP member you would be meeting with a group of community members and your local policing team on a voluntary basis where you will be provided with data and videos of stop searches. You will be given the opportunity to provide honest feedback on what you think as well as listening to other people's views. We also seek feedback on how our practices impact on communities, whether that is the reality or the perception, especially where disproportionality is highlighted.

**Please contact us for more information and a chat about how to become an Independent Community Scrutiny Panel**

**Member:**

Email: [citycentre@gmp.police.uk](mailto:citycentre@gmp.police.uk)



# City Centre NBO Upcoming PACT Meetings and Contact Details

## Contact the Team

*Do you have any questions? Please feel free to contact the City Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team.*

*Email: [citycentre@gmp.police.uk](mailto:citycentre@gmp.police.uk)*

## Bee in the Loop

*Greater Manchester Police have created a platform to keep you up to date with the work we are doing in YOUR area, raising awareness and to keep you safe. GMP is committed to strengthening dialogue with communities in a positive and proactive manner. Bee in the loop will allow you to choose what information you would like to know about including crime and incidents in your local area. The system is also an invaluable investigative tool and can be used to appeal for information or intelligence and help to solve crime.*

*Click on the below Link*

*[Home Page - Bee in the Loop](#)*



# City Centre Neighbourhood Policing Advice

## Crime prevention advice and support

### Theft from Person – Pickpockets - Mobile Phone Thieves – Don't let them pocket it!!!

You may have an idea of what a pickpocket looks like but they're far less likely to stand out in a crowd than you might think since blending in is part of how they avoid being caught. Here's how to spot a potential pickpocket and avoid losing your belongings to one

How to spot a pickpocket

#### The observers

These include people loitering in public places who appear to be checking out passers-by, paying particular interest to their handbags, shopping bags and where they might place their wallet or purse.

For example, be aware of individuals who appear to be focusing their attention on the waist area of others. This may be an indication of criminal intent and probable theft. But do bear in mind the fact that some people are naturally shy and do avoid eye contact.

Always follow your instincts.

#### The point of distraction

Pickpocket teams are adept at creating distractions. This could be anything from a game to a loud shout, all designed to avert your attention while an unseen accomplice steals your valuables

#### Crowding in

Thieves vary their tactics based on the location and the density of the crowd. One tactic is where a group of them push up against a victim in a crowded shop or street then quickly reach into the victim's pocket and steal their wallet, phone or purse.

#### Dirty tricks

Remember, pickpockets are very skilled at what they do. They know all the tricks and are extremely light-fingered with most of their thefts only taking a second or two. One of their tactics is 'hugger mugging' where a thief will appear to be over-friendly for no particular reason and hug you while pickpocketing you.

### REDUCE PROPERTY CRIME

Thousands of items of property are lost or stolen each year in the UK. The Immobilise National Property Register already holds the details of 20 million items of property. Add yours now to protect your property and to help the Police stop property crime.

### REGISTER

Register your property for free at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com), it only takes a couple of minutes and once you have registered you will have a better chance of getting your property back if it's lost or stolen.

### REPORT

If any item of registered property is lost or stolen report it to Immobilise via your online account. This information is then made available nationally to all the major UK Police forces via their online systems.

### REUNITE

If your registered property is recovered either the Police or Immobilise will contact you and let you know its location.

### REPORT NON-EMERGENCIES ONLINE



You can access many of our services online at [gmp.police.uk](http://gmp.police.uk)  
For emergencies only call 999, or 101 if it's less urgent

GREATER MANCHESTER  
**POLICE**



[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

# TO PROTECT IT REGISTER IT



To get started visit  
[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)



Register your property  
**FREE** and improve your  
chances of getting it back  
if it is lost or stolen

**IMMOBILISE**  
THE UK NATIONAL PROPERTY REGISTER

**FIGHT, PREVENT AND REDUCE CRIME  
KEEP PEOPLE SAFE · CARE FOR VICTIMS**

 **GREATER MANCHESTER  
POLICE**

# Be Aware – Be Alert - Crime Prevention

## Vehicle Crime

### WARNING Is your vehicle secure?

- Is your car locked and your windows up?
- Don't leave your expensive belongings like your mobile and laptop on show in your care. Remove all valuables from your vehicle when leaving it unoccupied.
- At home don't leave car keys next to a door or window - thieves sometimes break into homes to steal your car keys.
- Always lock your car when leaving it unoccupied - even if it's only for a few minutes.
- If your car has a smart key keep your keys in a Faraday pouch or a metal tin.
- Registration plates are attractive to a thief. Fit tamper proof plates and/or screws.
- Unless you can park in a garage or on your drive, park in a well lit area that is visible to other people or covered by CCTV. Thieves are less likely to break in if they can be seen.



## Robbery

### How to avoid being a victim of personal robbery

Register your valuables on [immobilise.com](http://immobilise.com) and make a note of your mobile's IMEI number by dialling \*#06#. If your phone is stolen, it can speed up the process of getting the phone blocked when reporting the number to your service provider.



You can report incidents to GMP via 101, or by using LiveChat on our website. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

## Theft from Persons

