

# Right to the Streets

## Legislative Theatre: Policy Report

In summer 2023, a group of young people and adults from North Trafford came together to build a play reflecting their lived experiences with safety in parks, on public transport, near schools, in the roads, and more. This initiative was part of the Right to the Streets project, led by GM Moving and Trafford Council, which aims to tackle sexual harassment and violence so that women and girls have the freedom to move around safely, and was led by Legislative Theatre practitioner Katy Rubin.

The play addressed several issues around safety in public spaces including: gendered harassment and bullying in school and college settings; sexual harassment at tram and bus stops; disruption to public transport and public safety due to football matches and intoxicated fans; lack of community spaces for young people and adults to participate in, outside of school and work hours; lack of safety in poorly lit, unkempt parks; lack of training or support in how to interrupt gendered harassment or violence; and difficulty in accessing support from the council, the police, tram inspectors, or other authorities.




On 21 September, in a public Legislative Theatre event, local audiences improvised and tested policy interventions and drafted proposals, and then debated and amended those proposals collaboratively with a team of policymakers, which included representatives from Trafford Council, the GMCA Women and Girls Equality Panel,

Trafford Community Collective, Greater Manchester Police, and Transport for Greater Manchester. Finally, the proposals were prioritised via an audience vote, and policymakers were asked to make commitments to action.

## Policy Proposals

### Policy Issue 1: Prioritising safety on public transport (3rd audience priority)

1. **QR codes to be located on tram seats, allowing riders to connect to GM Police live chat, in case of witnessing or experiencing an assault. (This feature is set to be introduced as a pilot in select trams shortly.)**
    - a. Should be accompanied by a phone number (not just 999) if riders don't have data or smartphone access.
    - b. Free WIFI should be provided on public transport to enable access to this live chat (and other support and information).
    - c. This live chat should offer a triage system, allowing residents to chat with charity or advocacy groups if desired, in addition to the police. Some residents may not feel safe speaking to police or may not want to press charges against their attacker. Chat responders should have expertise in supporting people experiencing sexual harassment and be available to chat in various languages.
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2. **Ongoing and regular training should be provided for staff and sub-contractors at TfGM, (including sexual harassment, racism, transphobia and various other kinds of harassment), and should be mandated in new Bee Network contracts.**
    - a. Training should be co-created and co-delivered by people with experience of sexual harassment, and who ride public transport. Training should be offered in different formats (e.g. online, in person etc.).
    - b. Riders should be able to give feedback on safety and support offered in service delivery, which should directly influence new contracts and commissions.
    - c. These training programs should be supplemented with transparent and up-to-date GMP crime/police data.
  3. **Free public transport should be provided for everyone.**

- a. Extend the current offer (free travel is already available for those aged 16-18 and 65+) to other groups who would benefit most.
- b. TfGM staff and officers should prioritise accessibility and safety over revenue and fare collection/evasion.

## Commitments to Action:

### Sarah Elliott, Transport for Greater Manchester:



- Will feedback to TfGM management on training for staff and contractors, to find out what is currently being done, report back, and suggest any recommendations from the above that are not already being delivered.
- Will report back in detail on the QR pilot roll out, including how the tech elements will work, as well as how the triage system will operate, and will suggest the accessibility recommendations above.

### Pete Zanzoterra, Transport for

### Greater Manchester:

- Will write to GM Transport and Active Travel Commissioners and the GM Mayor to share the calls for free transport for all, and free WIFI available on public transport.

## **Policy Issue 2: Education campaigns against harassment, and bystander intervention training (1st audience priority)**

1. **Culture-change campaign against harassment and violence, and in support of being an active bystander, particularly for boys and men, to be rolled out throughout Greater Manchester schools, sports institutions, and public spaces.**
  - a. Initiate a culture change campaign through training, education and early intervention, against sexual harassment, catcalling and gendered violence. This should involve having conversations and targeted campaigns with boys/men/staff in schools, institutions (such as football colleges and sporting arenas), and other public spaces (e.g., gyms). Given that some men feel vilified with regards to harassment issues, it is important to also address the broader issue of male socialisation. Model and demonstrate the actions and behaviour we *do* want to see, not just what we *don't* want to see. 'This IS OKAY;' not just 'this is NOT OKAY.'
  - b. Training and communications for everyone to be an active bystander –

everyone has a role to play. To be delivered in a range of settings across GM, for youth and adults, men and women.

- c. These training can be delivered by workers from existing public sector organisations in these spaces, and codesigned by both young women and men. Role models and sports figures can be engaged to help deliver the message.

## **Commitments to Action:**

### **Councillor Jo Harding, Trafford Council:**

- Continue to build on work with schools on Violence Against Women and Girls, and make connections with the Mayor's Office to roll out these training programmes across GM.
- Lobby policymakers in GMCA, particularly the Violence Reduction Unit and Gender-Based Violence Strategy. Commitments should turn into concrete delivery: large-scale roll-out of bystander training and anti-violence campaigns for men and boys.

### **Josie McMeeking, GM4Women:**

- GM4Women is already delivering training, and commit to include “allyship” sessions in all training. Will kick off with the next training at Bolton University, to focus on Positive Masculinity with men and boys, and what we want interactions to look like.

### **Anabel Butler, Pankhurst Trust & GMCA Women and Girls Equality Panel:**

- Will share the relevant concerns with the GMCA Violence Reduction Unit, the Gender Based Violence Board members that sit on the Panel, and feed it into the ‘Is This Ok’ campaign.

### **George Devlin, Trafford Community Collective:**

- Will adopt a more holistic approach to activities.
- Will focus on embedding more co-creation/co-production in violence prevention work.

## **Policy Issue 3: Making parks and public spaces safe and welcoming (2nd audience priority)**

1. **Engage youth workers to deliver activities in parks and open spaces.**
  - a. Youth workers should be deployed in parks and public spaces to organise activities and make spaces feel welcoming; the safety of those workers also needs to be ensured, through improved lighting and upkeep, and ongoing dialogue with youth workers. These activities should be prioritised over uniformed police officers in parks.
2. **Utilise partnerships within communities (VSCE groups/councils) to make**

**areas more appealing, e.g. “Friends of Parks” organisations.**

- a. Small grants distributed to community groups (Friends of Parks groups) help to mobilise park activity, improvements. As demonstrated through RttS project community grants: small pots of money can have a big impact for volunteer groups. These grants should also support redesigning and activating existing built spaces in parks (barns, etc) for programming.
- b. Fund community-led activity before increased police presence.

**Commitments to Action:****Scott Wolstenholme, Greater Manchester Police**

- Will work with youth groups to better understand issues/barriers to safety and security in parks and public spaces.
- Will improve relationships with Friends of Parks groups across Trafford.
- Will meet with youth workers and community groups face-to-face to discuss these issues.

**Nicola Waterworth, GM Ageing Hub**

- Will focus on integrating more intergenerational activities to link older people with youth groups.