

## **Greater Manchester Magistrates Association Branch**

**Branch AGM 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

### **Chairman's Report**

Dear Colleagues,

This report provides an overview of the work of the Executive Committee in the previous twelve months. This will also be my last report as Chairman after some 8 years in the role.

It is with great pride that I look back over this period and note how this branch has grown in to, what must be the most active MA branch in the country, this has been achieved by a dedicated Executive Committee, the tireless work of our MiC team, to all of whom I offer my sincere thanks and admiration.

#### **Membership:**

The membership of the GM Branch continues to grow, we encourage individuals to join the branch at every opportunity, be that at their swearing in ceremony, in the retiring room or in conversation. The branch capitation of 8% of our membership fees, gives us a baseline funding of circa £2K per annum.

I am very thankful that the expenses of our MiC team are now met by HMCTS and not the branch, which is great news given the phenomenal number of visits they undertake.

#### **Knife Crime Prevention Initiatives:**

The Executive Committee has recently been awarded a specific grant from GMCA to fund Virtual Decisions taking their interactive VR 'experience' in to a number of schools within GM

### **Contextual Awareness Visits:**

Autumn will see the launch of our autumn program of Contextual visits to various partner agencies. There will be a mixture of some regular visits such as HMP Manchester & Forest Bank, with a return after a few years to GMP Mounted Division & GMP Dog Unit. Look out for the notification.

### **Year 6 Mock Trial Competition:**

This year was the first year that we have held preliminary heats at Tameside Magistrates Court, Stockport Grammar School, which in total included 34 schools, 340 children with the intention of having a final with 12 schools, however, the standard, was so high it was agreed to keep the final at 16 teams.

The 2025 Year 6 Mock Trial Competition took place on 26th June at Hemsley House, The Crescent, Salford. We had 16 teams, 146 Y6 pupils, competing, 24 Y6 Teachers attended, and all 10 Boroughs of GM were represented.

There were 8 Mock Trials, facilitated 16 Knife Consequences Workshops and worked with GM Partner Agencies on site for the day with displays and demonstrations, these included Early Break Young People and Family Service, GMP, GM Fire & Rescue Service, TfGM Travel safe and the British Transport Police, Crimestoppers.

My thanks go to everybody who supported the event in particular Rachel Medcalfe for the organisation. Prizes were awarded on the day, by the GM Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Diane Hawkins DL.

The Lord-Lieutenant made the presentation of the prize for the Court Reporter prize at Horwich Parish CE Primary school, Paul Brearley JP DL and Kirsty Hart JP attended St Thomas' CE Primary School, Heaton Chapel, Stockport to present the Court Artist prize.

The competition is financially supported by many benefactors to whom I am very grateful for their continued support:

Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust, GM Combined Authority, Beaverbrook Charitable Trust, Hemsley House Ltd.

### **Magistrates in the Community:**

Our MiC Team have seen a 24% increase in activity, with a substantial increase in visits / presentations to 245 up from 197 the previous year engaging with 11,419 individuals. We have 35 active MiC presenters in GM. In addition to presentations to schools, colleges and Community groups, the partnership with GM Police for training their Police Recruits at Salford University, MMU, GM Fire & Rescue Service, Street Doctors, Crucial Crew, B-Safe Salford

I would like to thank the officers of the branch and the members of the Executive Committee, members of MiC and members who support the branch in so many ways, without their efforts in addition to our magistrate duties the branch would be nothing. Thanks also to HHJ Berkley and DJ Carr for their support throughout the year, which is much appreciated.

I am confident that the branch will move forward in a very positive, energetic and collaborative way in the future.

### **Greater Manchester Branch Executive Committee Officers:**

Patron:	District Judge Paul Carr [Rtd]
President:	His Honour Judge Andrew Berkley
Chairman:	Paul Brearley JP DL
Secretary:	Peter Faulkner JP
Treasurer:	Gary Palmer JP
Training Officer:	Paul Brearley JP
MIC/ Coordinator:	Rachel Medcalf JP

Best regards

Paul Brearley JP DL

Chairman.

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16<sup>th</sup> September 2025.