

# Case Study: Greater Manchester Police PB



# Greater Manchester Police – Participatory Budgeting

Like all police forces, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) has to deal with serious and organised crime on a daily basis. This can range from those who sell illegal cigarettes to large scale fraud or serious violence. What GMP has in common with other police forces is that those who are engaged in serious and organised crime live in neighbourhoods that are policed by neighbourhood teams.

GMP had taken account of the number of people involved in activity associated with serious and organised crime and recognised the value of a different approach to tackling this difficult issue.

MutualGain had been successfully working with GMP in the areas of Cheetham Hill and Moss Side, helping them to create a new relationship with communities through training and delivery of a [World Café](#) and [Appreciative Inquiry](#).

However, the second cohort was to consist of 15 Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who were being attached to a specific operation to tackle Serious and Organised Crime. Having had experience of [Participatory Budgeting](#) (PB), in one area, the force decided to use this method to look at serious and organised crime through the lens of engaging communities.

The 15 PCSOs were trained in the principles, values and processes of PB and they, along with officers from each of the ten divisions, were supported in developing their events through a specifically designed supported delivery programme.

This programme included a series of Executive Workshops delivered to senior police and partners in each of the ten divisions. This resulted in a greater sharing of resources and on a number of occasions, partners contributed to the pot of money being used for PB. The events were delivered across Greater Manchester between November and February and each one attracted an average audience in excess of 100.

The PB process resulted in 44 supported delivery sessions being delivered, 11 PB events (South Manchester had two), £461,000 worth of projects being submitted and 152 out of 257 projects being funded.

In addition to this, during or just after the events the PCSO team learned about a number of serious and organised crimes and criminals in their respective area. This included information in relation to loan sharks and armed robbers.

The feedback from the PCSOs included the fact that through their learning, they had managed to learn about their community in six months, instead of the two years that it would normally take.

Following the delivery of the 12 PB events, a serious incident in Salford prompted a necessity to conduct further community engagement. The PCSOs put their learning into action and held a further series of PB events.

If you think Participatory Budgeting could be a useful tool for your organisation, why not choose Mutual Gain as your partner for delivering an event or scheme of work? From a one off report for a specific consultation, or an overhaul of your current engagement activities, Mutual Gain has the experience and skill to deliver. For a no obligation discussion about your requirements, contact our Business Development Lead, Owen Miller: T:07835 304699 E:owen@mutualgain.org

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Whatever your engagement needs, MutualGain has the skills and experience to help you achieve your goal, whether you want to upskill your staff, meet your statutory obligations on engaging communities, or involve the public in an important decision or behavioural change -we can help you in the following ways:

## Training

MutualGain provides a range of training for your employees and stakeholders, from one day courses to full capacity building packages which teach a number of different engagement techniques. All of our courses are highly customisable and we work with you to ensure your staff are learning the skills they need from people who have experience of carrying out these methods across the public and charitable sector.

Trainees rate our one day programmes at 5/5.

## Supported Learning and Delivery

Our supported learning and delivery programme goes beyond the one day training to building the capacity of staff or residents to deliver engagement and listen differently to those they serve.

Our extensive experience in event delivery, coaching and partnership working, combined with our training and support packages ensures that your staff feel confident in delivering engagement events and strategies. We work with you at every stage of the planning, delivery and analysis phases to reinforce your learning and pass on best practice.

Our capacity building programme was recently evaluated by Durham University to show that social capital built through strengths based approaches delivered by MutualGain reduces crime and ASB significantly.

Our associates have worked with a variety of NHS organisations, Police, Planners, and Central Government to support engagement and commissioning staff to establish new methods of engagement and integrate them within current working practices.

**Coming soon:** We have just been approved as a **'centre to deliver OCN qualifications and accredited courses'**, and are in the process of securing accreditation for our supported delivery programme of training and capacity building in social capital.

## Delivering your Engagement Activity for you

Don't have the time or the staff to deliver a meaningful engagement process? Our team is here to support you. We use the power of your local population to gain insight into current issues as well as areas of good practice so that you can make better, more informed decisions. From the popular technique of Participatory Budgeting to the broad learning opportunities found using the World Café method, MutualGain can deliver events and processes which will change your organisation and your stakeholders' perspectives on any 'problem'.

We'd love to talk to you about working with your organisation. For more information, please contact our Business Development Lead:

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