



**Above:** Signing of the Roll and portrait hanging at the Assize Hall with Hon Mrs Justice Andrews DBE, Hon Mr Justice King, His Honour Judge Stockdale QC, the Lord Mayor of Manchester and borough mayors

## What a difference innovation makes!

**Right:** Police cadets with the High Sheriff and consort Dr Tariq Shah outside the Police Museum



ON THE 12 April 2018, I was honoured and humbled to become High Sheriff of Greater Manchester. In my acceptance speech I shared my aspirations for the year ahead and announced that I would be setting up 'Team High Sheriff', a platform for engagement between my office and the youth of Greater Manchester.

My vision for Team High Sheriff is founded on the principle that 'young people matter' because when they are engaged appropriately, the contribution they make towards the betterment of society is exceptional.

This is illustrated by the more than 30 police cadets who accompanied me in the Great



## News from and about members

Manchester 10 km run on 20 May 2018. We raised more than £2,000 for three charities including the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund.

A core aspect of Team High Sheriff is to work in partnership with young people, having conversations with them about issues they really care about, such as looking after their physical health and mental wellbeing, their concerns about employment, housing, social inclusion, crime reduction, community cohesion and the lack of opportunities available to access education and vocational training.

I have also appointed Team High Sheriff ambassadors. They facilitate and co-lead conversation forums with young people that are specifically designed to upskill them in areas such as leadership, team building, communication and social skills.

Team High Sheriff was formally launched at Manchester City Football Club Etihad Stadium on 15 August with the support of the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and the Under Sheriff. More than 60 young people and organisations that support them attended and feedback has been excellent.

I have also established key networks with strategic partners in the business and voluntary sector to ensure that what young people learn in our conversation forums is translated into meaningful practice through work-based placements, funded apprenticeship schemes or voluntary work experience. UKFast in particular has supported me on this journey and their young apprentices have been instrumental in the design of the [teamhighsheriff.com](http://teamhighsheriff.com) webpage.

Our next event will take place at UKFast on 15 November 2018. Five hundred young people will take part in a conversation forum about the mental health and wellbeing of our youth.

In addition to setting up Team High Sheriff, I have had the privilege of attending and supporting numerous voluntary sector organisations, award ceremonies and civic events, including the prestigious portrait hanging and signing of the roll at Manchester Crown Court. Team High Sheriff ambassadors supported this historical ceremony and enjoyed the spirit of the occasion immensely.

As High Sheriff I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Greater Manchester. They have welcomed my appointment and embraced Team High Sheriff in a manner that has helped to inspire, engage and bring together people of all ages and all backgrounds. And, if this wasn't enough, in August I was humbled to be nominated as one of 25 women in England to have statues made of them in a campaign called 'Put Her Forward' aimed at promoting the contribution that living women make



Left: At the unveiling of the 'Put Her Forward' statue

to society. On 2 September 2018, my 35 cm statue was unveiled in St Peter's Square, Manchester.

And so my journey continues and I eagerly look forward to the next six months of change, excitement and more innovation. I sincerely hope that my year will make a difference to the lived experience of young people. By showcasing and valuing their contribution as experts by experience, I hope they will feel that their involvement is acknowledged, valued and celebrated.

◆ Dr Robina Shah MBE JP DL  
*High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2018-19*

Below: Launch of Team High Sheriff – High Sheriff with Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr June Hitchen, Chief Constable Ian Hopkins, Mayor's consort Cllr Carmine Grimshaw and Under Sheriff David Cam

