



Living the values of humanity – a year to serve



Above: The High Sheriff with Ian Hopkins QPM, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, and poster competition winner Miley Rose Green

ON 12 April 2019, I completed my tenure as High Sheriff of Greater Manchester. In my retirement speech I reflected on a year that was purposeful, meaningful and hugely humbling. As High Sheriff one must work hard and demonstrate consistently the values that underpin the duties of this great Office. One must recognise the importance of showing humility and compassion and of valuing those who enrich our lives daily through their selfless and sometimes unrecognised work.

Many are paid public sector professionals working in the police, emergency services, probation, social care and the criminal justice system among others. However, many more people are inconspicuous such as our community ambassadors, family carers, and unsung heroes and heroines of all ages and from all backgrounds. Meeting so many face to face provided a precious insight into the selfless community of volunteers who generously and tirelessly support our statutory services and provide compassion when it is needed most.

It has been a great privilege to visit and commend them on behalf of the residents of Greater Manchester. However, my work with young people has truly defined my year. We all know that sometimes the voice and involvement of young people is overlooked. To address this I founded Team High Sheriff, a platform that opened doors and celebrated the extraordinary talent and excellent contribution young people are already making.

Since our launch at the Etihad Stadium in May 2018, working with my team of specially appointed ambassadors, we have organised five events and co-facilitated themed conversation forums on mental health and wellbeing, social inclusion, crime reduction, coping with change, developing resilience, enhancing self-esteem and building confidence. Over 500 young people across Greater Manchester have benefited from these events and feedback has been consistently positive.

The opportunity to hear from youth ambassadors has been invaluable. Their ability to connect with their peers and inspire them as experts by experience has led to motivated young people enjoying work-based placements, funded apprenticeships and voluntary work experience, previously considered by many of them to be out of reach.

This has been a truly rewarding outcome for all of us and one that has secured Team High Sheriff's continued presence in Greater Manchester as a core partner of the 'Meet My Future' campaign supported by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham. Collectively we will support young people to make informed choices about future careers by accessing work experience they feel motivated to explore. I am delighted that in some small way Team High Sheriff has influenced and encouraged others to give young people a voice, a place to learn and a future that they can own.

Towards the end of my year I organised an art competition inviting children aged up to 16 years from schools across Greater Manchester to design a poster with the theme 'What the police do to keep us safe'. Two winners were selected from a shortlist of 60 entries with the help of the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, Ian Hopkins. The entries were absolutely super and paid tribute to



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the excellent work our police officers, staff and volunteers do to ensure we are safe from harm.

On 3 April in the company of the borough mayors and some consul generals, I was thrilled to celebrate the achievements of Team High Sheriff at the Greater Manchester Police Museum, when the event opened with a stunning musical medley from Wright Robinson College choir. It closed with the poster competition winners, Lola Robinson, aged 11 (Moorgate Primary School, Bolton), and Miley Rose Green, aged 6 (Tonge Moor Primary School, Bolton) proudly receiving a certificate of commendation and goodie bag that included a visit to the police dogs and horses at Hough End.

This was a fitting end to what has been an extraordinary and unique year. The support from borough mayors, colleagues, friends and family, especially my husband Tariq and children, Zainab, Sulaymaan and Raabiyah, has been exceptional. Thank you all for sharing what has been and will remain, an incredibly significant and inspiring journey living the values of humanity in my year of service.

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



Left: Daniel Rimes, Lead Ambassador Team High Sheriff, with the High Sheriff

Below: Team High Sheriff Ambassadors with mayors and consuls of Greater Manchester

