



# Cornwall's Local Area Agreement September 2007 Briefing

For further information, papers, minutes of meetings and details of events visit:  
[www.cornwallstrategicpartnership.gov.uk](http://www.cornwallstrategicpartnership.gov.uk)



## LAA Outcome Leads Away Day

The 6 monthly Away Day for LAA Outcome Leads returned to the Berlewen Building on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2007. It informed on the imminent changes driven by the LAA 'super-refresh' and the mainstreaming of the LAA process. Progress on the Sustainable Community Strategy was presented along with LAA alignment with the ESF programme. The remainder of the day focussed on individual case studies on Sustainable Tourism, Domestic Violence (see article below), Smoking, Child Poverty, Migrant Workers and Worklessness followed by workshops based around developing links between these themes and the other 32 improvement priorities being delivered across the LAA, as we look to add further value to the LAA process.

Some more general information and all the presentations from the day are available via [this link](#)

## Domestic Violence

*"Made me realise I wasn't to blame"*

*"given me useful information to help me get my life back on track"*

*"Made me aware of ways to protect myself.....without your help I would have been beaten to a pulp"*

*"Made me more confident and better able to cope with the pressure of court proceedings etc"*



The case studies at the LAA Away Day involved real life examples to really drive home the message about the impact of the LAA towards delivering priorities across Cornwall. Through highlighting Domestic Violence as one of the 38 priorities within the LAA, funding has been allocated in order to tackle this issue through the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service. Below is an example case study from the IDVA Service:

*A police referral; a young woman, (Mary), had just turned eighteen was assaulted by her partner; she had been in this relationship for eighteen months. The family also consisted of a child who was seven months old; this child had been placed on the child protection register due to previous domestic violence incidents and failure to protect.*

*My first contact was via phone and a visit was arranged. Mary was staying at a family member's house because she was afraid of her partner, and would not return to her flat. On my first visit we discussed a safety plan, although the offender had bail conditions to stay away from the family. The house Mary was staying in was a secure one, but Mary did at some point want to return to her flat. A sanctuary assessment was completed on Mary's flat and the hardening of safety on her flat was carried out; this consisted of locks on the front door, a spy hole and window locks. Mary changed her mobile number and ceased all contact with the offender and decided to end the relationship. The external door to the flat where Mary lived was broken and did not close; I made contact with the housing provider and arranged for the door to be fixed and the security code to be changed as the offender was aware of the code. Mary was nervous about returning to her flat and firstly we discussed visiting during the day with a friend and spending a couple of hours there and (con't)*

### USEFUL LINKS:

- [Previous Issues of LAA brief](#)
- [Cornwall Strategic Partnership website](#)
- [Cornwall's LAA document](#)
- [LAA refresh](#)
- [Request an LAA Stakeholder Pack](#)
- [Strategy & Action](#)
- [Objective 1 on Convergence](#)

\*\*\* DIARY DATE \*\*\*

Sustainable  
Community Strategy  
Workshop

5<sup>th</sup> October  
Falmouth Maritime  
Museum

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slowly increasing the time until she gained in confidence and stayed over for a night. After a week Mary felt confident enough to return to her flat full time.

Mary had understood the violence caused against her was abusive but had not considered any other aspects of domestic violence. Together we looked at the power and control wheel, the escalation of domestic abuse and the dynamics of domestic violence; this amazed Mary. What she believed to be 'normal' behaviour was actually abusive; for example, her partner would shout at her for walking noisily, so Mary would try to walk around her flat trying not to make any noise, her knees cracked. In addition, the offender controlled what she could wear and who she could speak to.

Because of the huge case loads IDVA's only work with women for a short period of time during the crisis point; if a court case is in the future phone contact will continue and support will be offered during the court case. Mary described feeling very lonely and confused after the incident and wanted continued support. A referral was made to women's aid and family support at the children's centre. Mary's case resulted in a positive outcome in court; the offender pleaded guilty and was ordered onto the IDAP programme. (Agencies IDVA contacted during the case; Police, Social Services, Housing Association, Solicitor, Probation, Women's Aid, Children's Centre, Health Visitor, MARAC).

For more information on the Domestic Violence outcome please contact Dina Holder. Manager, Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service, Tel 01208 76466 [dina.holder@wrasac.plus.com](mailto:dina.holder@wrasac.plus.com)

## Update on the Sustainable Community strategy development



### Development of Cornwall's Sustainable Community Strategy

You may be aware that we are holding a workshop on the 5<sup>th</sup> October to start developing the issues papers for the Sustainable Community Strategy. If you are unable to attend the workshop, you will still be able to get involved and join 'Issues Papers Task and Finish Groups' after the workshop. We would like to reassure you that this is only the beginning of the process; there will be many opportunities to get involved in the coming weeks and months.

Please contact Gemma Stephenson ([gstephenson@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:gstephenson@cornwall.gov.uk) or telephone 01872 32 2278) for further information.

### Draft evidence report published

The **draft** evidence report to support work on the Cornwall Sustainable Community Strategy is now available on the LINC website at <http://www.cornwallstatistics.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=39873>. We acknowledge that there is still some way to go with this piece of work, and we will be seeking help from a wider range of colleagues now we have something reasonably substantial to start with.

## Other News.....

### LAA Dry-run negotiations: Final Report: Headline Messages - September 2007

The report from Communities & Local government outlines the headline findings of the LAA dry-run negotiation process which was undertaken between April and July 2007. This exercise was undertaken in preparation for the introduction of new LAAs as set out in the Strong and Prosperous Communities: Local Government White Paper. To see the report, follow [this link](#).

### Negotiating New Local Area Agreements

This is the first part of two-stage guidance (from CLG) on the negotiation process for negotiating a new LAA. This first part tells the 'narrative' of each level of government with respect to the LAA process. It also incorporates the lessons learnt from feasibility testing, helps to 'de-mystify' the negotiation process and helps to set expectations that each can have of each other. To see the report, follow [this link](#).