Local Government Association

# Delivering services at the local level – the implications of LAAs
# 25 November 2008

Cllr. Ann Lucas
Local Government Association

promoting better local government

# The Local Government Association (LGA)

Local Government Association

- national voice for over 400 local councils in England and Wales
- 20,000 local councillors
- councils have a duty to promote social, economic and environmental well-being
- councils work closely with the police to and other partners reduce levels of crime and disorder in their communities

# Domestic violence – bringing local agencies together

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Councils can:

- facilitate local partnership structures and lever commitment
- promote effective information sharing
- raise awareness of the true costs of domestic violence
- tackle the root causes to provide solutions

# LAAs
# boring bureaucracy?

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*‘A Local Area Agreement sets out the ‘deal’ between central government and local authorities and their partners to improve the quality of life for local people’*

CLG statutory guidance

# Local Area Agreements – what are they?

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- 3 year agreements
- councils with partners in the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)
- negotiated with the Government Offices
- agreed and signed off by the Secretary of State
- since June 2008, LAAs in place for all 150 unitary and county councils in England
- Different arrangements apply in Wales

# What's new about the new Local Area Agreements?

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- A 'single conversation' with government: the only place targets can be negotiated
- Within framework of community strategy, includes local and national targets, brought together in one partnership agreement
- Partner organisations have new 'duty to co-operate'

# LAAs and domestic violence

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- no single agency can deal effectively and safety with the effects of dv
- exactly the sort of initiative that fits within the LAA structure
- a number of local areas are using LAAs to pool funding and resources to tackle dv

# Cost of domestic violence (2005-6)

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- Overall cost estimated at £25.3 billion

  Includes costs:

  – to public services – £3.4 billion
  – in lost employment – £3 billion
  – Cost to victim – £18.9 billion

*Source:*
*House of Commons*
*Home Affairs Committee report - May 2008*

# Cost breakdown - to services:

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- Criminal justice - £1.1 billion
- Health services -£1.5 billion
- Social services  - £0.25 billion
- Housing - £0.17 billion
- Civil legal £0.3 billion

# National indicators:

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- **NI 32** repeat incidents of domestic violence
- NI 34 – domestic violence murder
- N1 15- serious violent crime rate
- NI 20 assault with injury crime rate
- NI 26 specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence

# DV as an LAA priority

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- Seventy-five local areas in England identify

  **NI 32** - tackling domestic violence as a priority for all partner agencies
- Case studies on IDeA website include:
  - London Borough of Croydon
  - East Riding of Yorkshire
  - Telford and Wrekin
  - Oxfordshire

# Croydon and domestic violence

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- The Family Justice Centre (FJC) funded through LAA.
- co-locating essential services in a central and accessible area for those sections of the community who need them most
- ensuring the new centre supports and protects children, young people and families most at risk

# Croydon dv programme -objectives

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- improve services for victims
- innovative model of working
- improve partnership working
- demonstrate cost effective improvements
- improve performance and achievement of LAA targets

# Croydon – family justice centre

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Serving over 500 families each month, the centre hosts professionals from over 30 agencies including:

- Criminal justice system agencies
- Social services
- Medical and mental health
- Faith-based and child advocacy professionals

# Croydon: key lessons learned:

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- timely information sharing in risk assessment
- consistent multi disciplinary teams as opposed to teams who are co-ordinated but not co-located
- Benefits to victims and agencies in streamlining service provision
- understanding of partners targets, practices and systems when working together to support clients/victims
- an onsite network of skilled practitioners

# LAAs - further information

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IDeA (Improvement and development agency) - partnerships and places library

www.idea.gov.uk

(part of the LGA group)

www.lga.gov.uk