

# The Gaia model:

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## An integrated approach to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in Lambeth

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016

## Background - Lambeth pre 2012

- Lambeth ranked as the highest volume borough in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) for reported Most Serious Violence against Women
- Fifth highest volume of reported domestic violence offences (out of the 15)
- Data from the National Domestic Violence helpline showed that Lambeth had the highest amount of calls from all London local authorities
- 1,683 Domestic Violence Offences
- 319 out of 326 authorities in the country (326 being the highest) for sexual offences

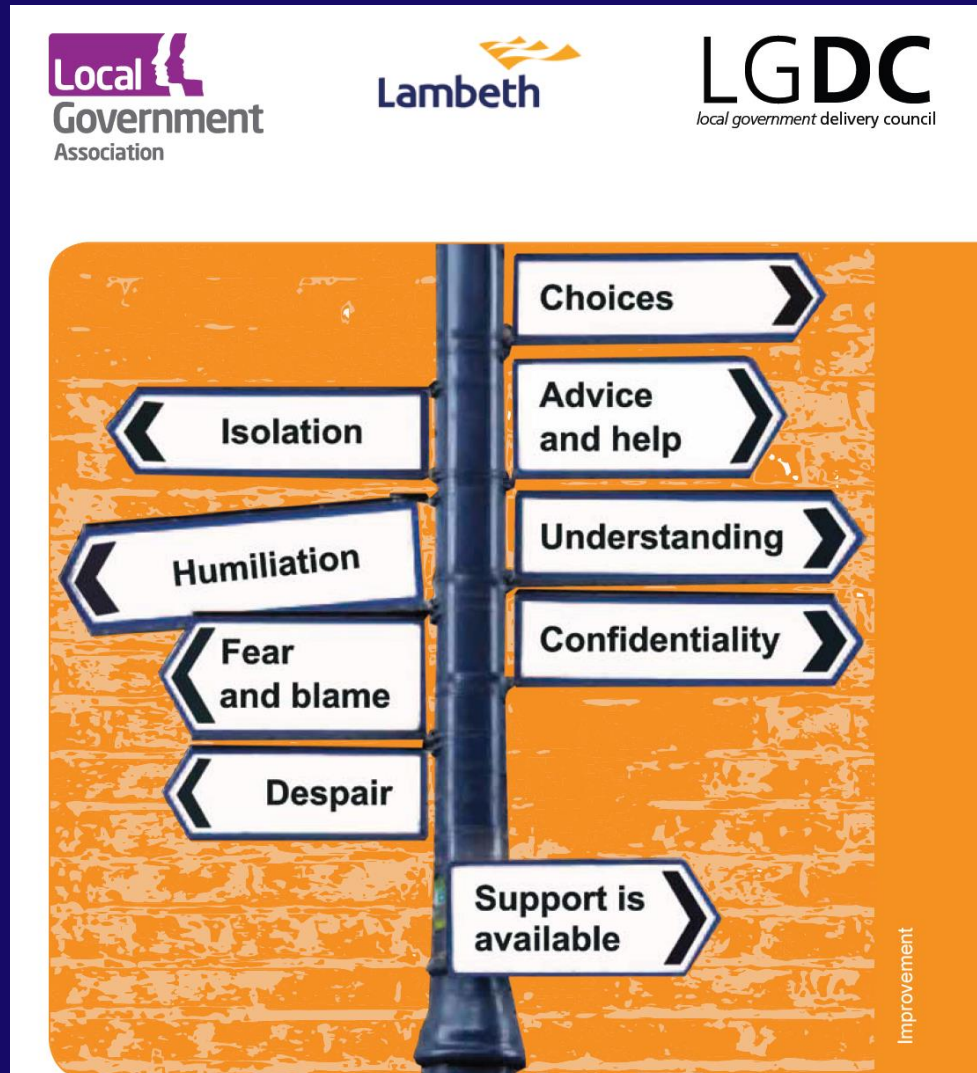
# The creation of the Gaia centre

- integrated VAWG strategy and service - all forms of VAWG under one roof and approach
- existing service was somewhat fragmented - consisting of various different schemes - users unclear as to how the process worked
- duplication - wasting valuable resources

# The creation of the Gaia centre

- age range covered by the existing services was not designed to address issues relating to younger service users
- the commissioning team brought together a range of funding streams to commission one service model
- aim was to support approximately 1,200 victims per year by 2014 – 50% increase on previous provision.

# The creation of the Gaia centre



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# What did user engagement tell us?

- specialist VAWG services are highly valued
- co-located VAWG service provision is highly valued
- pro-active contact highly valued
- full needs assessment on first contact useful BUT explanation needed
- friends and family critical in determining subsequent success of help-seeking
- low level of awareness of service provision
- lack of available childcare
- long waiting times

# What did user engagement tell us?

- women use services across borough boundaries – the experience in one affects view of other
- Children's Social Care involvement a key barrier to accessing help
- *how* a service is delivered v. *what* is delivered
- terminology and jargon off-putting and alienating
- peer support is very highly valued
- critical regarding the lack of prevention work.

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# The creation of the Gaia centre

- All eight strands of VAWG
- Single referral pathway
- Childcare
- Peer mentoring/support – volunteers
- IGVA and outreach service
- Community engagement
- Sanctuary scheme
- Early Intervention workers – age 13 - 17 yo
- Co-location of IRIS and ISVA
- Support men and women



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# Outcomes

- 65% decrease in fear
- 38% risk reduction
- 74% decrease in injuries
- 95% increased feelings of safety
- 91% improvement in quality of life
- 86% increased confidence in accessing help and support
- 51% end to all types of abuse and controlling behaviours
- 54% conviction rate for perpetrators

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# Achievements

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- High referral number (and from partner agencies) – 1,431 in 2015
- High number of self-referrals – average 35%
- Continued financial support and use of varied money sources
- Continued political support – manifesto commitment

# Achievements

- Early Intervention service is growing - new CCG funding
- Community Engagement
- Integration – Ascent / Pan-London IDVA service
- Numbers for VAWG strands increasing
- Multiple VAWG strands – between 70-90%

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# Lessons learnt

- It works
- Persistence
- Funding
- Commitment
- Integration
- Publicity

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# Contact details

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