

Local Area Coordination

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The logo for the Local Area Coordination Network. It features the words "local area" in a small, dark blue sans-serif font, "coordination" in a larger, bold, dark blue sans-serif font with a light blue smile-like curve under the "o", and "network" in a smaller, light blue sans-serif font below it.

local area
coordination
network

Local Area Coordination

- International approach: Established in the 1980s in Western Australia
- Designed and developed in partnership with Community Catalysts.
- LACs are employed by councils – funded across the system with health
- 120 Local Area Coordinators.
- Based in Communities of circa 8-10K
- Reach 1 million population
- Working together as a Network
- 17 independent [evaluations](#)

CROYDON
www.croydon.gov.uk



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3 Impact Areas

Local Area Coordination has had 17 independent evaluations which have shown:

1. **People and families** achieve better life outcomes (health, wellbeing, housing, financial etc) and become connected, contributing citizens of their own communities.
2. **Communities** become better resourced, connected and more inclusive.
3. **Services** are avoided and only used when needed, reducing and diverting costs to the system (£4:£1). It generates insights that support culture change, system change, system integration and meaningful coproduction with communities.

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Citizenship

Relationships

Natural authority

Complementary nature of services

**The
Local Area 10
Coordination
Principles**

Lifelong learning

Working together

Information

Contribution

Community

Choice & control

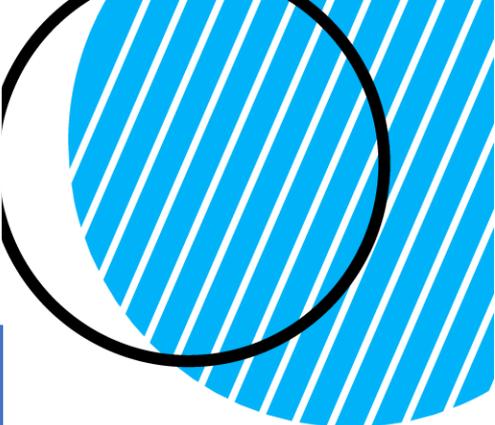
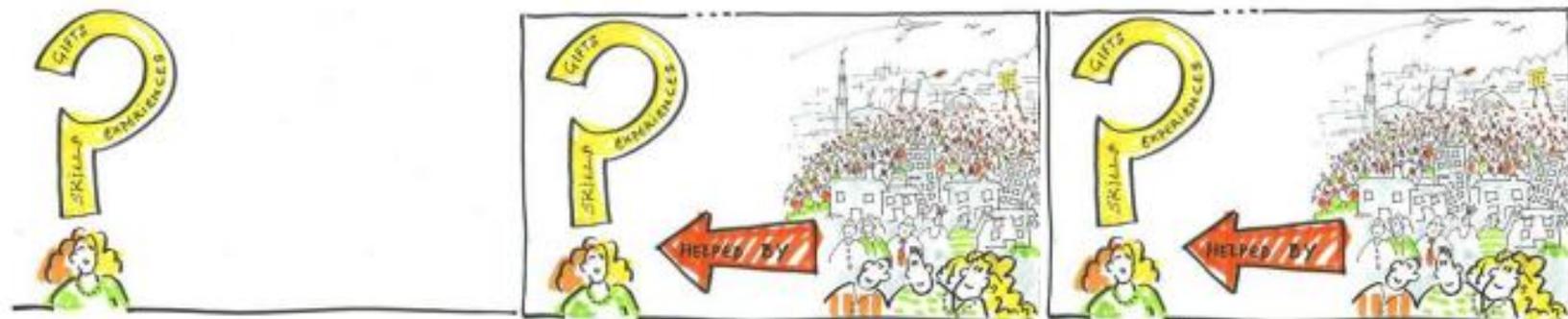


Figure 1.1.3 – The order in which Local Area Co-ordinators approach helping somebody to solve their problems³⁴



What can you do using your own skills and experience?

How can family, friends and community help?

What is the role of services + Funding?

What is the role of services and funding?

“Safe Waiting”, a practice developed in Local Area Coordination



SAFE WAITING



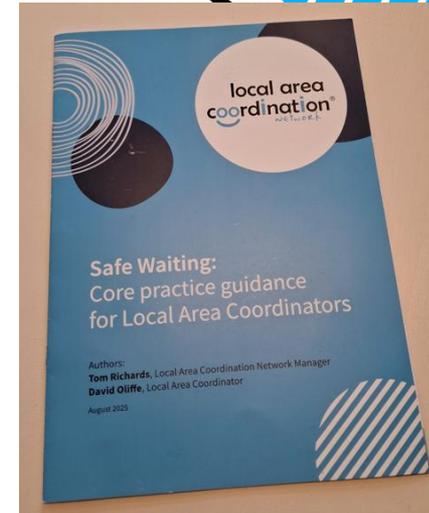
SUPPORT



<https://www.communitycatalysts.co.uk/lacnetwork/safe-waiting>

- A **professional practice** that helps people to identify a vision for their life, and a plan for how they will get there.
- **Professionals withhold their own ideas**, unless absolutely necessary and won't try to fix or rescue people, instead, supporting people to take action themselves.
- They **remain alongside** people, not taking over, while people navigate complexity and personal hardship, achieve goals and overcome problems.

Safe Waiting enables people to build their personal capacity, connections and resilience to any future challenges.



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We can support Safe Waiting practice development in other teams and contexts

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Gemma's World

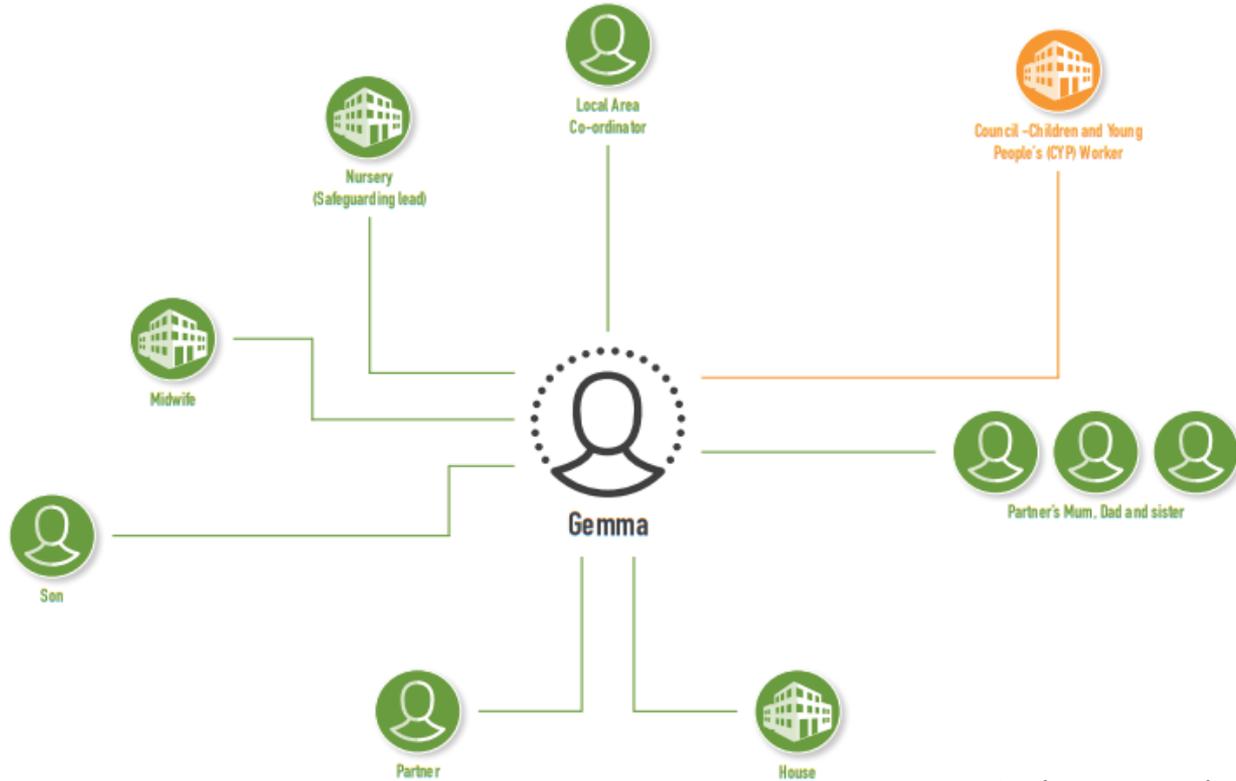
(Before Introduction to
Local Area Co-ordination)



Derby LAC Evaluation, 2021

Gemma's World

(After Introduction to Local Area Co-ordination)



Lisa's Story

- Lisa's disability and situation had left her housebound in a first-floor flat, unable to safely use the stairs.
- She was told that, for whatever reason, adaptations weren't possible, so she only had one option which was to find somewhere else to live. The OT working with her introduced her to LAC.
- Lisa had previously experienced racially aggravated abuse in other areas she'd lived and had only just found a community where she felt truly safe.
- The standard response would have been for her to be moved to whatever property became available.
- Lisa and her LAC worked slowly and patiently, with Lisa in the lead expressing her preferences and arranging for Housing to allow her to bid only in areas she felt safe, ultimately securing a bungalow on her own street.
- Adaptations were put in place, removals organised, and finances sorted. Naturally, this was a lot for anyone to arrange but, bit by bit, it was made possible with her LAC alongside her as her champion, helping her to coordinate and advocate.
- Lisa now lives independently and can get out and about as part of her community again, rebuilding a sense of safety, identity, and contribution.

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