

Local Area Coordination in Nova Scotia as part of an international eco system

Executive Deputy Ministers briefing

Thursday, 28th May 2026

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Agenda

Objective: to provide an overview of Local Area Coordination in the context of the HRR and system reform and to enable stronger partnerships as well as identify opportunities for wider development

- Introductions (Tracey Taweel) 5”
- Local Area Coordination in the Human Rights Remedy (Maria Medioli) 5”
- Local Area Coordination history, evidence, framework and fidelity (Eddie Bartnik) 10”
- Progress with Local Area Coordination in Nova Scotia (Tricia Murray) 10”
- Broader UK experience with Local Area Coordination across social care and health (Nick Sinclair) 10”
- Questions and discussion re Local Area Coordination 10”
- Questions and discussion re HRR Annual Report 10”

Local Area Coordination in the Human Rights Remedy

- Key Direction 1 : Individual Planning and Coordination
- Transition from Care Coordination to new roles: Local Area Coordinators, Intensive Planning and Support Coordinators, Eligibility Funding and Assessment Coordinators, new Peer Support For Planning program
- Key investments in recruitment, training and ongoing review and development to ensure high quality and effective implementation.

LAC History – Australia and International

- Originated in Western Australia (WA) 1988 in Albany, state-wide by 2000
- Successive development in some other Australian states and territories, notably Queensland, NSW, ACT, NT and Tasmania
- National strategy in Scotland from early 2000, projects in NI, Ireland, England and Wales (broader social care/health) from 2008
- New Zealand as part of New Model/Enabling Good Lives reforms
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (AUS) from 2013 incl WA NDIS
- WA Department of Communities Local Communities Coordination 2018
- Singapore from 2019, Canada from 2024 in Nova Scotia
- Refocus efforts Scotland and Ireland, new frontier Finland

LAC approach is a small scale lever of large scale change – driven by evidence and 30+ years of uninterrupted learning

- WA 25+ Evaluations including State-wide Ministerial Review and Value for Money study (highly valued, strong outcomes at individual, family and community level, multiplier effect/value for money, alignment with reforms, drives learning)
- Productivity Commission national case study of WA
- National reviews – Scotland, New Zealand and various England and Wales
- Where design and implementation have fidelity, strong consistency in results across many countries and settings over a long period of time – Chapter 3 Fidelity and sustainability
- Not just tack on but part of reform in delivery model
- WA has the best whole system reform evidence base and England/Wales the best evidence base beyond disability.
- Proven as “small scale lever of large scale change” (eg WA)

Evidence and outcomes 2021(40+ studies)

From Bartnik and Broad 2021 p78

System Outcomes	Individual, family, community outcomes
Reductions in	Increased natural, supportive relationships.
• Isolation and loneliness	
• Visits to GP surgeries and A&E	Increasing community resources and connections
• Referrals to Mental Health and Adult Social Services	Increasing mutual support in communities
• Dependence on health, social care and housing services	Greater confidence in the future
• Evictions and costs to housing	Better knowledge of/ connection with local community resources
• Safeguarding concerns	Improved access to relevant information – choice and control
• Dependence on formal support and day services	Improved health and well-being
• Anti-social behaviour and police call outs	Better control and self-care of own health, social needs, housing
Strengthening families, enabling child protection workers to focus on addressing child safety.	Families better able to continue in caring role
Reach across people from diverse backgrounds	Increasing access to volunteering, education, employment
Financial benefit/value for money 4:1, Social return on investment 4:1	Avoiding crisis through early help
Joint/ integrated funding – whole system, sustainability	More able to build own resilience - needing services less.
Wessex AHSN (2018) Improved health and well-being outcomes	Improved access to specialist supports
System wide “prevention” and “post service intervention” offer – prevent, delay, reduce	Staying strong and connected through austerity and Covid, mutually supportive neighbours and communities

Framework of Design and Practice | Foundations

Local Area Coordination is underpinned by a clear **Vision, Charter and Purpose** across the globe that provide guidance and direction on how it should be implemented. However, the practices of Local Area Coordination must always be adapted to be culturally appropriate and relevant to the communities in which it operates.



Vision

*All people live in **welcoming communities** that provide **friendship, mutual support, equity and opportunities** for everyone*



Charter

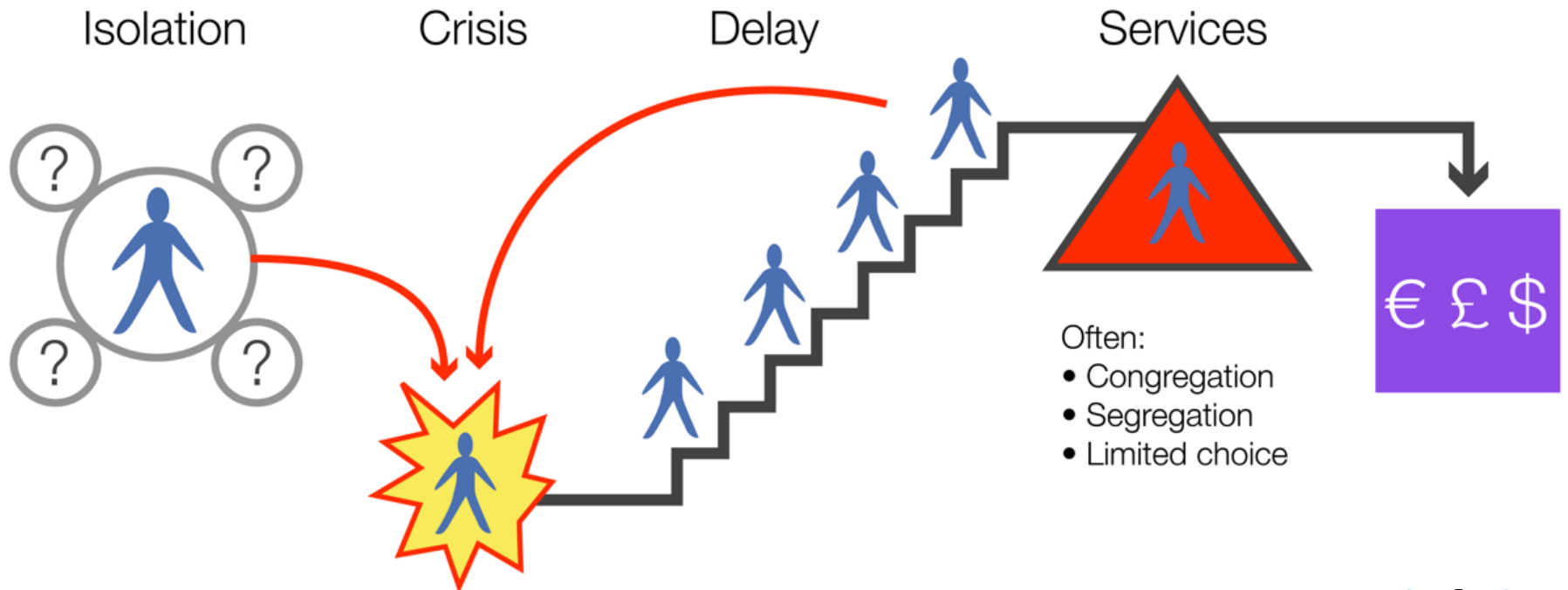
*To develop partnerships with individuals with disabilities and their families/support networks as they build and pursue their **goals and dreams for a good life** and with local communities to strengthen their capacity to **welcome, include and support all people as valued, contributing citizens***



Purpose

*Local Area Coordinators work to **increase the capacity and resilience of individuals, families, communities and service systems** and to reduce the need for or reliance on funding and services, wherever possible.*

From: waiting for crisis, eligibility & services



TO: A personal, local, human approach

Defined geographical area – Located in/connected with community. Place based

Easy to access – no eligibility, local, mobile

Think natural first – build on assets and contribution of people and community

Whole person, whole family, whole community

Voluntary relationship

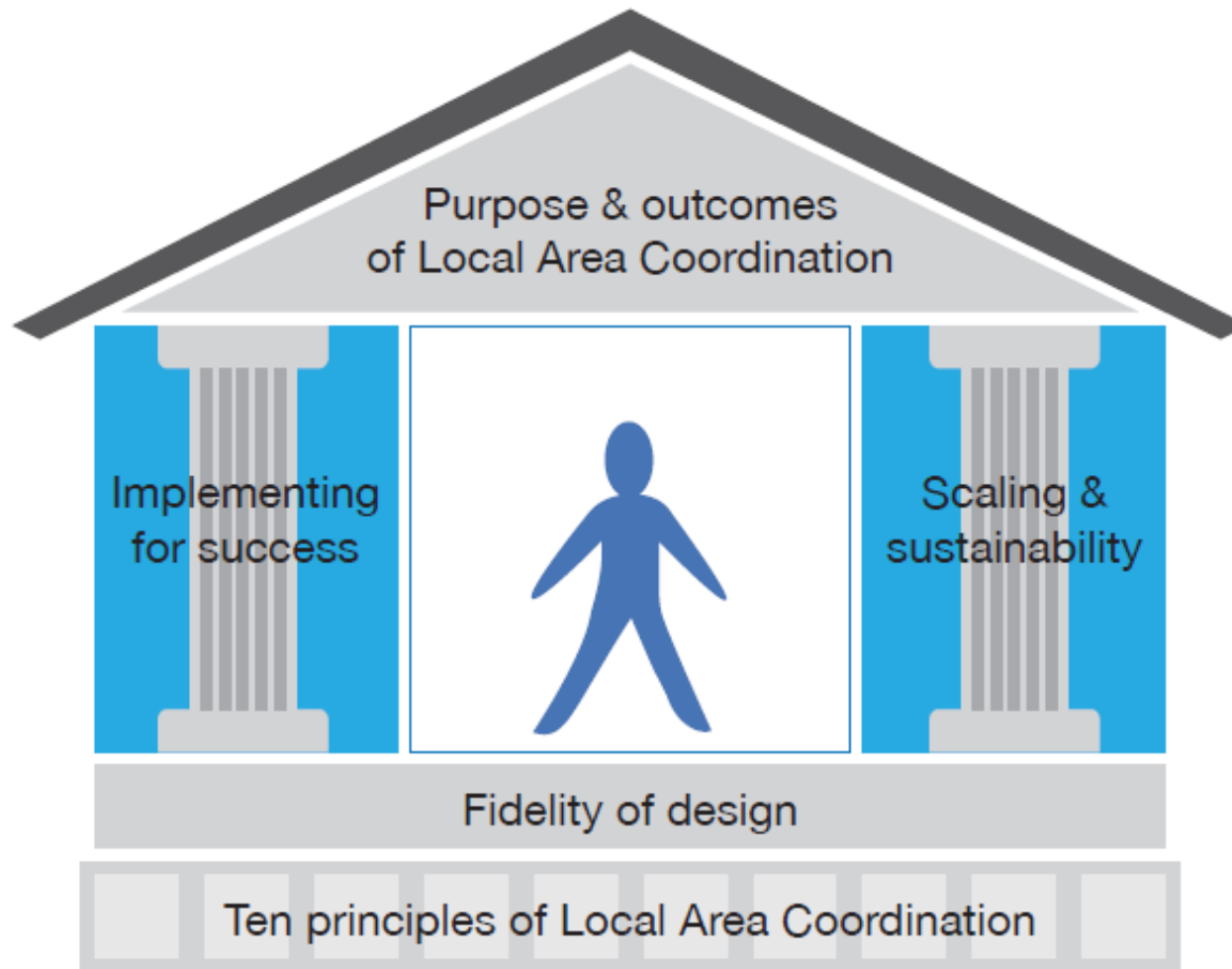
Not time limited, but avoids dependency

Intentional partnership working with local people, communities, organisations, services

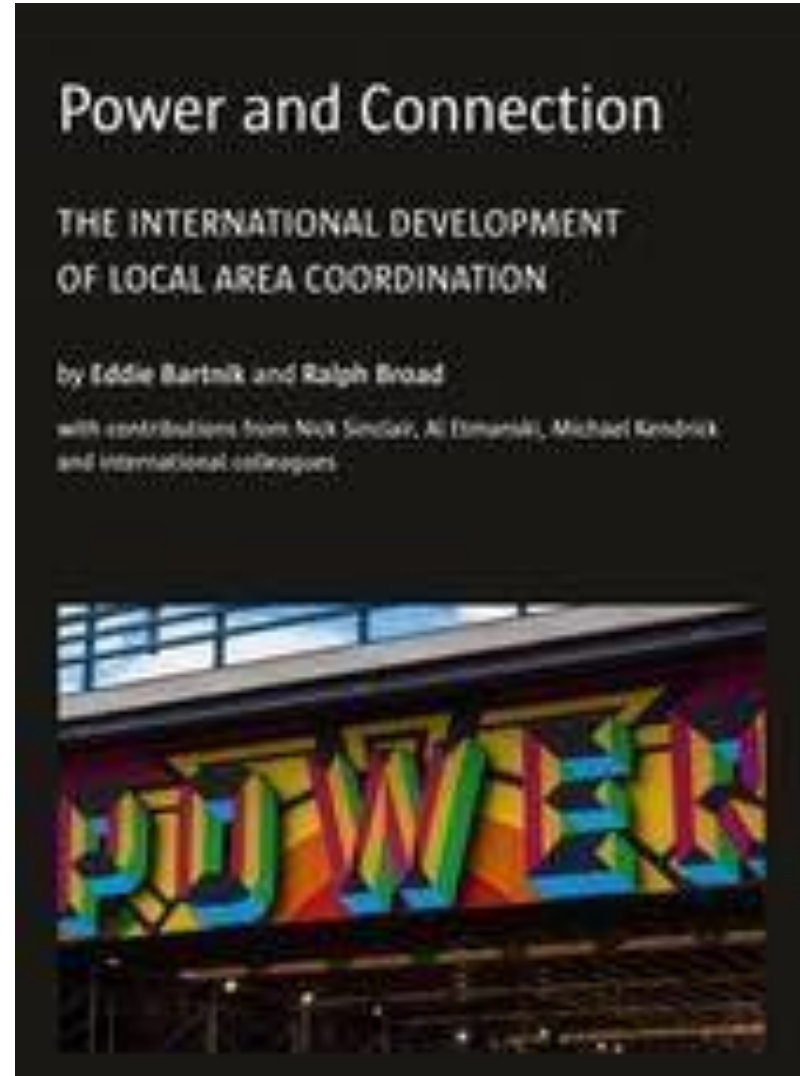


The Building Blocks of Local Area Coordination

Fidelity and Sustainability (incl rating scale)



2021 International Book launch



Progress with Local Area Coordination in Nova Scotia

- Recruitment and strength in variety of backgrounds
- Commitment to training and cultural changes
- Areas now covered and populations working with
- Reflections on overall progress, successes and challenges

Broader UK experience with Local Area Coordination across social care and health

- Local Area Coordination Network for England
- Scope of Local Area Coordination and broader focus across social care and health
- Some key areas of evidence and progress

Questions and discussion

- Local Area Coordination
- Human Rights Remedy Annual Report