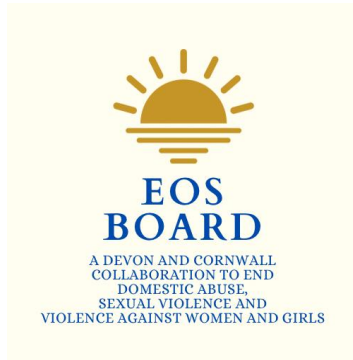
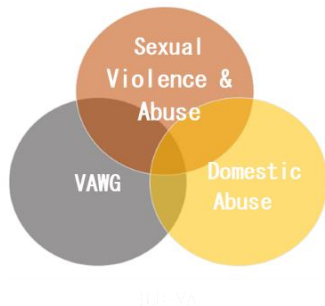




What is the EOS Board?

EOS, in Greek mythology, is the goddess and personification of the dawn, who rose each morning to deliver light and disperse the night. This name was chosen for the Board to articulate the intention to create opportunities for change and positive outcomes for people experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Devon and Cornwall.

DASV and VAWG continue to present the highest overall risk to communities across the southwest peninsula. Our residents deserve consistent and effective responses that provide them with safety and support, from crisis through to recovery, regardless of their location or personal circumstances, along with a commitment to prevention and early intervention, working towards eradicating domestic abuse and sexual violence and violence against women and girls from our communities.



The diagram illustrates the intersecting nature of domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls.

The EOS Board was established in 2019 to cement a collaborative partnership of Commissioners and Strategic Leads with responsibility for the delivery of domestic abuse and sexual violence services across the local authorities of Devon, Torbay, Plymouth, and Cornwall.

Board members include representatives from Local Authorities, the Devon Integrated Care Board, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), and Victim Support (Strategic Delivery Partner for the OPCC).

The EOS Board was founded because we collectively identified the need to work more collaboratively across the peninsula to improve outcomes for those affected by DASV and VAWG, create opportunities to maximise impact by working together and to address shortfalls across the Peninsula.

EOS members work individually and collectively to creatively challenge structures and seek opportunities to grow stronger together, united around the following values: compassion, courage, respect, collaboration and open and honest communication.

The inception of the EOS Board with its trailblazing partnership foresaw the importance of collaboration when commissioning DASV services, soon to be recognised in law in the new Victims' and Prisoners' Bill. The bill introduces a duty to collaborate between local policing bodies, tier one local authorities and Integrated care boards, working in a police area (Devon and Cornwall). The bill is currently going through Parliament, and it is anticipated the duty will become law towards the end of 2025.

The EOS shared commitments

We collectively commit to:

- Strive towards strategic and operational alignment for improved outcomes, in accordance with best practice and national direction.
- Promote and model cross boundary & sector cooperation, to encourage and develop effective working relationships between local authorities, services, and agencies, based on mutual understanding and trust.
- Identify emerging key issues, gaps and barriers and collectively problem solve, seeking innovative solutions.
- Strive for improvement across the full range of services and support available.
- Horizon scan and identify opportunities for joint commissioning wherever possible.
- Promote consistent messaging.
- Share good practice, learning and resources that promote and enhance consistency of service and responses.
- Hold operational oversight of jointly funded peninsula-wide posts.
- Hold an overview of and influence the development and implementation of relevant joint needs assessments, strategies, and commissioning intentions.
- Hold responsibility and accountability of any action resulting from the partnership.
- Strive for system change, creating sustainable and improved services informed by the voice of lived experience.

What does the EOS Do?

The EOS board has developed a shared work plan which is reviewed yearly and includes activities that we recognise will align to the commitments above.

The EOS board has collectively resourced a co-ordinator role who is responsible for holding the action plan and driving the actions forward with the support of the Board.

The EOS board meets monthly to review the action plan and progress activities aligned with the commitments.

The EOS board uses its collective voice to advocate for the needs of DASV & VAWG victims across the Peninsula on a regional and national level.

The EOS Action plan 2023-2024

- To map, support and co-ordinate best practice and shared learning of a Whole Housing Approach including a review of the Sanctuary scheme and the progress of managed reciprocals across the Peninsula.
- To monitor and report on the challenges and achievements of the LGBT+ IDVAs in Devon and Cornwall.
- To audit and compare quality standards for DASV safe accommodation providers across the Peninsula.
- To undertake a review of the refreshed Needs assessments across the Peninsula to identify further gaps in service provision and to review priorities for the EOS board.
- To promote the work of the EOS board by means of a shared communications plan across the Peninsula and at a national level where appropriate.
- To identify and co-ordinate opportunities for jointly commissioned funding bids across the Peninsula.

- To create a competency framework in respect of mandatory training for DASV services across the Peninsula.

EOS Achievements

- Co-ordinated by the OPCC, a number of successful funding bids including to the Domestic Abuse Fund 2018/2020, National IDVA/ISVA Fund 2021 to 2025, Perpetrator Fund 2020/2022 and Covid Funding during the pandemic.
- During the Covid pandemic we worked collaboratively to sustain the delivery of services, listening and learning from our services and communities to ensure victims and survivors of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence were able to access and receive support.
- Webinar series delivered across the Peninsula to housing officers on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 parts 1 & 2.
- An extensive analysis of the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessments for Devon, Cornwall, Torbay & Plymouth was undertaken and the gaps in provision of services for those with protected characteristics were mapped across the Peninsula.
- Following on from this analysis, the EOS partnership decided to focus on learning disability as a protected characteristic across the Peninsula
- In December 2022, the Women's Centre Cornwall was awarded the Partnership Facilitator Learning Disabilities pilot with a view to ensuring DASV services across the Peninsula are as inclusive as possible and recognise and eliminate barriers and meet the needs of people with learning disabilities who are victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- A letter to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's office was signed off by the EOS board in January 2023 highlighting how the Violence against women and girls protected characteristics funding criteria excluded the very "by and for" services it sought to include.
- Signhealth training on how better to support deaf clients experiencing DASV delivered to DASV services across the Peninsula.
- Extensive research undertaken as to what elements of the Whole Housing Approach each area (Devon, Cornwall, Torbay and Plymouth) has and those organisations who have achieved DAHA accreditation across the Peninsula were mapped.
- An extensive audit of the mandatory training DASV services across the Peninsula receive and thereafter an analysis of gaps and themes in training identified. This will inform future work in creating a competency framework in relation to mandatory DASV training to be implemented across the Peninsula.
- Phase 2 of the older people's pilot project (which commenced in Cornwall) was extended to cover the Peninsula and its aim is to build on work to date and respond to the recommendations in the older people's pilot (OPP) report by developing, piloting, and evaluating the improvements needed for greater access to and provision of services for older people.
- Funding was secured by the EOS board to implement the sexual violence pathfinder to improve care for adult victims and survivors of sexual assault and abuse with complex trauma related mental health needs so that they can recover, heal and rebuild their lives. The aim of the pathfinder is to embed a trauma stabilisation offer in all domestic and sexual violence services in Devon and Cornwall, with clear pathways into trauma processing support and a multi-agency commissioning strategy to sustain sexual violence trauma focused provision.