

ALCOHOL PROJECT

MAGGIE FINDLAY was educated at St. Joan of Arc Convent, Coloma College of Education and Exeter University. Her background is in education, training and counselling. After moving to Cornwall from Somerset, she trained and worked with Relate for four years, after which she joined the then Cornwall Council on Alcohol (now Cornwall Alcohol and Drugs Agency - CADA) as Education and Training Officer and Counsellor. In 1990 she was appointed Director and has been deeply committed to the development of the work of the agency and the Cornwall Substance Misuse Service.

In 1992 CADA was awarded a direct Government Grant to develop a pilot project attaching a Substance Misuse Therapist Counsellor to the Health Centre on St. Mary's. The project was awarded a certificate of merit for innovative work in 1994.

Other interests include riding, painting, and her addiction is to sailing.

SUMMARY Historically, Cornwall had a very limited alcohol and drug service that did not embrace the Isles of Scilly. CADA's Pilot Project that ran from 1990-93, deploying Substance Misuse Therapist Counsellors in 23 training surgeries was not able to offer the service to the islands. CADA was awarded a specific government grant to provide a counsellor to work one day a week in the Health Centre on St. Mary's. This service has been running for five years, has become an integral part of the work of the agency and is now funded by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Health Authority.

The Cornwall Substance Misuse Service is funded by the District Health Authority, the Social Services Department of Cornwall County Council and the Probation Service. It is the first comprehensive, co-ordinated service of its kind in the country, incorporating a number of statutory and non-statutory providers working together with the funding bodies. CADA, as one of the members of the consortium of providers, has the benefit of a range of expertise upon which to call. Through the work done by CADA on Scilly, this expertise is made available to the islanders.

Owing to the independent nature of an island community, a number of anomalies arise when trying to provide a comprehensive Substance Misuse Service. Confidentiality is one of the major considerations. People are more willing to present themselves for help because they know that the Counsellor leaves the island at the end of the working day. This inevitably has cost implications which have been accepted by the District Health Authority. Other cost implications centre round the provision of Residential Rehabilitation for those people unable to complete their

recovery in the community. It requires careful monitoring to ensure that the needs of residents and their families have adequate services provided for them.

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