



Identification and Referral to Improve Safety

Respond, Refer, Record

Welcome to the latest issue of **IRIS NEWS** – keeping you informed and up to date with the implementation of IRIS across GP surgeries in Southampton.

Congratulations to LORDSHILL HEALTH CENTRE, WESTON LANE SURGERY AND LADIES WALK SURGERY who are the city's latest additions to the IRIS Roll of Honour. The IRIS team look forward to working with you all in the coming months.

OVER HALF OF ALL SURGERIES ARE NOW SIGNED UP FOR IRIS!

We have reached the half-way point: **20** of the **38** Surgeries in the city have signed up for IRIS so far and are at various stages of the programme. 16 of these surgeries have completed the package of training and are now officially 'IRIS DV-AWARE'. The IRIS training calendar continues to fill up into the autumn so if you have not yet signed your practice up, now is the time to add your name to the list! You can get in touch with a member of the team using the details on page 2.

Feedback from recent GP and reception/admin training sessions includes:

- "I think this is a brilliant service (should have been around years ago!)"
- "Very useful and applicable, thank you"
- "Most informative that I have been on, very useful"
- "Very informative and educational"
- "Excellent presentation".
- "Impressive presentation knowledgeable/passionate. Did very well with questions posed."

To date, the (AEs) have received **60** referrals for patients requiring support in relation to DVA. 15 of these clients have been referred onto the IDVA service because a need for specialist high-risk support was identified

(Continued on page 2)

"There isn't a victim, child or perpetrator who doesn't have a GP... This means that GPs are in a unique and trusted position to help victims through early identification and signposting to specific support services."

Diana Barron, Chief Executive of CAADA, as quoted by the Royal College of General Practitioners: 'New Guidance helps General Practices Respond to Domestic Abuse' May 2012.

IRIS ROLL OF HONOUR

Congratulations to all of Southampton's IRIS DV-Aware practices:

Chessel Practice
Regents Park Surgery
Alma Medical Centre
Newtown Health Clinic
Burgess Road Surgery
Bath Lodge Practice
Linfield Surgery
Stonham Lane Surgery
Bitterne Park Surgery
Old Fire Station Surgery
Canute Surgery
Woolston Lodge Surgery
Spitfire Court Surgery
Lordshill Health Centre
Weston Lane Surgery
Ladies Walk Surgery

IRIS TRAINING UPDATE

Over the coming months we are looking forward to meeting and continuing to train the teams from:

St Peters Surgery
Cheviot Road Surgery
Grove Medical Practice
Nichols Town Surgery

NEWS FLASH

FUNDING FOR IRIS CONTINUED!

We are delighted to announce that IRIS Southampton has recently received continuation funding from August 2013 to August 2014. This funding comes from the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and ensures the IRIS team can continue their education, training and support work across the city. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both the CCG and the members of the IRIS Steering Group for the support they have continuously offered to the IRIS team since the start of the Project.

Recent patient feedback includes:

- "Have been really helpful and supportive and have put a lot of things into perspective."
- "Emotional, but listened to and heard."
- "Reassured that I will get the support I need in future."
- "It's nice to have someone else to speak to, that can give helpful advice"

For further information on any aspect of the IRIS programme please contact us using the details below. The team are always happy to answer any questions you may have.

**** IRIS News will now be quarterly.
Next edition: October 2013 ****

"After my first meeting I feel so much better and stronger. I feel the IRIS AE understands what I am going through and will be a huge support."

IRIS patient - Southampton

IRIS CLINICIAN EXPERIENCE

Dr Trish McQuoney is a senior partner at Air Balloon surgery in Bristol, a large practice serving over 12,000 patients in the central working class area of St George. The surgery was invited to take part in IRIS when it was in its initial pilot states, and Trish's experiences are detailed in the IRIS Commissioning guidance.

"This was a new approach for us, and like many people we were understandably worried that patients would be upset if we asked them [about domestic abuse], or would find it intrusive...but the IRIS research team provided plenty of evidence to show that when relevant, patients welcome being asked."

Trish believes the ability to refer patients onto the Advocate Educators played an important role in the success of the project: "without this we wouldn't have had the right support in place to be able to positively encourage patients to disclose."

Trish has been a partner at the surgery for 23 years, getting to know her patients well. However, she describes IRIS as "a complete revelation" and adds "I have been amazed by some of the disclosures that have occurred. For example, I had known one of the patients who disclosed to me for 21 years. In that entire time I had no idea that she was living with a very controlling and psychologically abusive husband, and that this abuse played a key role in her health problems. I've also had women in their 60's and 70's disclose. These women have put up with it for so long, but when offered the right support they are capable of making really brave decisions and changing their lives for the better."

If you are interested in becoming an IRIS practice or want more information we'd love to hear from you:

TEL: 023 80 332 669

EMAIL: iris.southampton@aurorand.org.uk

EMAIL (SECURE):

iris.southampton@aurorand.cjsm.net

**You can find out more about IRIS at:
www.irisdomesticviolence.org**