



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.

Following the launch of IRIS Southampton in the Autumn, the last couple of months have kept the IRIS Team very busy!

Session one of the training has now been delivered in several surgeries. Chessel Practice have completed both session one and session two and are soon to complete their package of IRIS training with a session for the admin & reception team.

Training sessions have been well-received, with one staff member commenting *‘Very informative, eyes now wide open’* and one recently-trained practice offering the following feedback:

“The feedback from the staff was extremely positive, both the content and the presentation was delivered at just the right level, in the right amount of time and in a comprehensible and clear way. The advocate was very accommodating to our needs as a Practice and it's nice to have an educator that is so experienced in this complex field. We all look forward to part 2 of the training in January.”

Has your practice recently undergone the IRIS training? If so we'd love to hear your thoughts, suggestions and comments – please get in touch using the details at the bottom of page 2.

Now that IRIS training has started, the Advocate Educators (AEs) are beginning to receive referrals for clients needing support: 6 referrals have been received to date: 4 of those clients remain open to the service and 2 cases have now been closed. Feedback from IRIS clients so far has included:

“I felt isolated with all my worries. Although I know a lot of people, I couldn't speak to any of them about it”

(Continued on page 2)

“On Average, survivors of abuse experience more operative surgery, more visits by and to doctors, more hospital stays, more visits to pharmacies and more mental health consultations over their lifetime than non-victims. Women who have depression, PTSD or are suicidal as a result of DVA have approximately twice the level of usage of general medical services and between three and eight times the level of usage of mental health services.”

IRIS Commissioning Guidance, Bristol University 2011

IRIS TRAINING UPDATE

14 surgeries have now signed up to take part in the IRIS programme. In the few weeks the team have enjoyed delivering IRIS sessions to the teams at

**Chessel Practice,
Newtown Surgery
and**

Alma Medical Centre
Over the coming months we are looking forward to meeting and training the teams from:

**Weston Lane Surgery
Regents Park Surgery
Bitterne Park Surgery
Old Fire Station Surgery
Stoneham Lane Surgery
Canute Surgery
Burgess Road Surgery
Bath Lodge Practice
Ladies Walk Surgery
Woolston Lodge Surgery
St Peters Surgery**

Keep your eyes open for the **IRIS roll of honour** in 2013 – practices that have completed their IRIS training and are now equipped to offer their patients a gold-standard service in relation to DVA.

To sign your practice up for IRIS please contact us using the details on page 2.

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DID YOU KNOW?

54% of UK rapes are committed by a woman's current or former partner – Walby and Allen, 2004

"It's been fantastic having someone else to talk to and I didn't feel judged. I felt people wanted to listen and help me. I'd always felt that because [of my husband's job] I wouldn't have anyone to turn to"

Our Advocate Educators, Jacques and Georgie, recently attended a national IRIS AE networking event in Nottingham. This was a great opportunity to meet the other IRIS AEs across the country and to share practice. Both AEs left the event feeling "very fortunate" to be part of IRIS, both nationally and in Southampton.

Now is the time to join the surgeries on page 1 and get your practice signed up for IRIS training in 2013!

Learn more about Domestic abuse and its impact on your patient population, gain confidence in 'asking the question' and meet the Advocate Educators who can offer direct support to your patients.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a restful New Year, from all at IRIS Southampton

Meet the IRIS Team

The IRIS Model brings primary care and specialist third sector organisations together to deliver services. The IRIS Advocate Educators come from Hampshire-based Advocacy and support service Aurora New Dawn.

Aurora New Dawn was founded in 2011 by a small group of women with over 30 years of collective experience working in the violence against women and abuse sector. The organisation was created in direct response to the public sector cuts threatening service provision to victims and survivors of violence.

Aurora has built strong partnerships with organisations across all sectors which have been central to the operational success and long term sustainability of the organisation.

Aurora's CEO, Shonagh Dillon says:
"We are delighted to be offering the IRIS service in Southampton. Aurora recognise that by providing a referral route via GP's we are utilising one of the safest and earliest opportunities for survivors of domestic abuse to seek support. A GP is often the linchpin of early advocacy and support to women and their children experiencing domestic abuse and the IRIS service is vital to making the residents of Southampton safer."

"Since the training we have been able to pick up more cases and have been able to help women and children who had previously been unable to talk about their abuse."

IRIS GP

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

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EMAIL: iris.southampton@aurorand.org.uk

EMAIL (SECURE):

iris.southampton@aurorand.cjsm.net

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