



## 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.

Happy New Year from all at IRIS Southampton! We start 2013 with a huge **well done** to both **CHELSEL PRACTICE** and **REGENTS PARK SURGERY** - Southampton's first IRIS 'DV Aware' practices. Chessel completed all of their training earlier this month and today Regents Park has joined them on the IRIS roll of honour.

The list of surgeries already signed up to IRIS can be found opposite. If you haven't signed up yet why not get in touch with the IRIS team using the details over the page - we are happy to answer any questions and can arrange to come and see you and talk through the programme if you feel this would be useful.

Having delivered several sessions so far and had the opportunity to meet a number of practice teams across the city, here are some frequently asked questions about the IRIS programme & training sessions.

1. The package says there are two sessions for the clinical team. Can we attend one but not the other?

The content of each session is different and it's really important that there is full attendance at both of the Clinical sessions. The IRIS training has been designed to provide the most possible learning about DVA in a time frame that is as concise as it can be and which respects the time constraints on General Practice. Sessions are always kept to 2 hours maximum.

2. Is it possible to reduce the length of the training sessions?

Again, the training is designed to offer the maximum possible learning whilst also being mindful of the time constraints for GP's and practice staff. A lot of planning has gone into the training package at a national level to ensure it is sufficient and covers what is necessary to ensure a quality service to patients experiencing DVA. We always advise that practices allocate the full 2 hours required for the session. If you have any concerns or queries about timings please do not hesitate to contact the IRIS team who will be happy to talk the package through with you and answer any questions you may have.

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"Each year more women suffer rape or attempted rape than have a stroke, and the level of domestic abuse in the population exceeds that of diabetes by many times."

- Department of Health 2011

### IRIS ROLL OF HONOUR

Congratulations to Southampton's first IRIS DV-Aware practices:

**Chessel Practice, and Regents Park Surgery**

The IRIS Team look forward to working with you all in 2013!

### IRIS TRAINING UPDATE

**15 surgeries** in the City have signed up to take part in the IRIS programme so far. Recently the team have delivered sessions in

**Newtown Surgery, Alma Medical Centre and Bath Lodge Practice.**

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

**Weston Lane 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  
Linfield House Surgery**

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

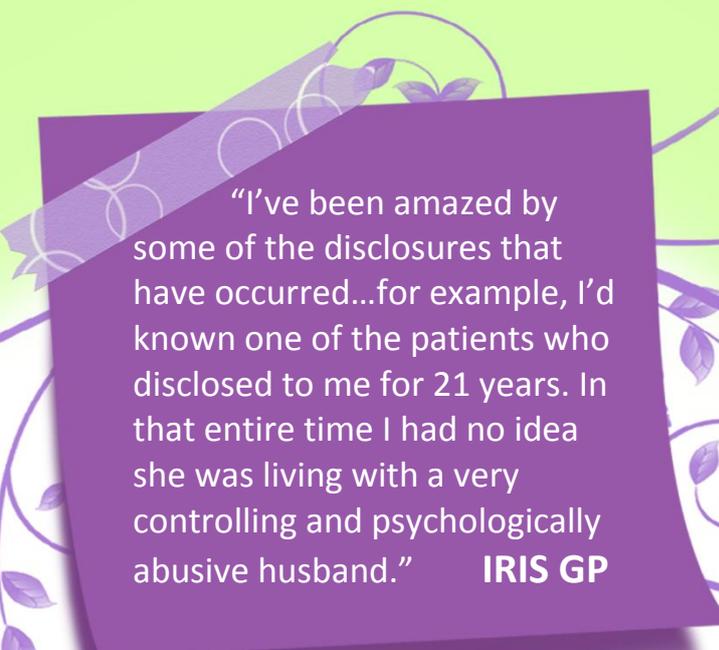
## DID YOU KNOW?

In a study by Shelter, 40% of all homeless women stated that domestic violence was a contributor to their homelessness. Domestic violence was found to be “the single most quoted reason for becoming homeless”

(Cramer and Carter, 2002).

3. Not everyone from the practice can attend the training on the date arranged. Can we still go ahead?  
The team will work with you when booking sessions to try & ensure the dates and times are convenient for your practice as a whole. IRIS aims to ensure a consistent standard of training and knowledge across all practice staff. On that basis if there are very small numbers in attendance then training may have to be re-booked or additional sessions arranged.
4. What support does IRIS offer to male victims? And what about perpetrators?  
IRIS is a targeted intervention for female patients aged 16 and above experiencing DVA. However, care pathways are provided for all patients for whom DVA is an issue, including information and signposting for male victims and for perpetrators.

**\*\*Next Issue of IRIS News: March 2013\*\***



“I’ve been amazed by some of the disclosures that have occurred...for example, I’d known one of the patients who disclosed to me for 21 years. In that entire time I had no idea she was living with a very controlling and psychologically abusive husband.” **IRIS GP**

## Meet the IRIS Team

Medina Johnson is the National IRIS Implementation Lead and is based at Next Link Domestic Abuse Services in Bristol. Medina was the IRIS Advocate Educator in Bristol during the research trial and her role is now to support other areas to implement the IRIS model. Medina says:

*“We are now working with 11 areas of England where IRIS has been commissioned. In austere economic times and during a period of great change within the NHS we are encouraged by this uptake. IRIS bridges the gap between primary care and the third sector. It is great to know that so many health care practitioners are benefitting from specialist training on domestic violence and abuse, like that offered by the IRIS team in Southampton, and have a direct care pathway into specialist support for their patients. Practitioners report feeling better equipped to support their patients when there are issues around domestic violence and abuse which impacts significantly on both emotional and physical health and wellbeing. Southampton has embraced IRIS and in a short period of time the sign up from practices has been good. I would encourage all practices who have not yet got involved to book their training now and benefit from the expertise of the IRIS team.”*

**Medina can be contacted at:**

**[medina.johnson@nextlinkhousing.co.uk](mailto:medina.johnson@nextlinkhousing.co.uk) and  
0117 925 0680.**

**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](mailto:iris.southampton@aurorand.org.uk)**

**EMAIL (SECURE):**

**[iris.southampton@aurorand.cjsm.net](mailto:iris.southampton@aurorand.cjsm.net)**

**You can find out more about IRIS at:  
[www.irisdomesticviolence.org](http://www.irisdomesticviolence.org)**