



# IRISi NEWS

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Is it worth investing in  
the IRIS Programme?



## THE SOCIAL VALUE OF IMPROVING THE PRIMARY CARE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

A mixed methods Social  
Return on Investment  
analysis of the IRIS  
Programme

November 2022

### NEW RESEARCH CONCLUDES: “THE VALUE OF IRIS EXTENDS FAR BEYOND INCREASING REFERRALS TO DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES OR IMPROVING SERVICE USERS’ LIVES”.

Produced in 2022, “The social value of improving the primary care response to domestic violence and abuse: A mixed methods Social Return on Investment analysis of the IRIS programme” concluded:

- For each pound invested in the IRIS Programme, a monetary return of £16.79 is expected.
- For each pound invested in the IRIS Programme, a social return of £10.71 was obtained.

The study also demonstrated that the value of IRIS extends far beyond increasing referrals to Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) services or improving service users’ lives. At the macro level, it can make DVA more visible in the primary care system, raising it as a priority for

healthcare and shining a light on people affected by abuse who may otherwise be overlooked.

At the local level, it can connect primary care professionals, service providers and service users, creating a new route for addressing patient needs and information sharing. In terms of outcomes for patients, increased referrals combine with locally negotiated impacts such as improved feelings of safety, reduced escalation of violence, reduced medicalisation of social issues, and providing support at all stages of the relationship.

[Click here to read the booklet](#)





## DOMESTIC ABUSE STATUTORY GUIDANCE RECOMMENDS IMPLEMENTING IRIS

**Here is why all Integrated Care Boards should commission IRISi interventions to adhere to the Domestic Abuse Act**

Launched in 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act was introduced in the UK to enshrine in legislation the response to Domestic Abuse across all agencies – from the police and courts to local authorities and service providers. Issued by the Home Office under the DA Act, the Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance was published on the 8th of July 2022 and is aimed at statutory and non-statutory bodies working with victims, including children or perpetrators of domestic abuse.

It is designed to support organisations, such as the NHS, to identify and respond to domestic abuse, as well as promote best practices. Amongst other things, the document recommends:

*“Implementing the IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) Programme. IRIS is an evidence-based intervention to improve the general practice response to domestic abuse through training, support to practice teams and having a DA specialist embedded in practices. It is nationally recognised as best practice and has informed NICE guidance.”*

At the same time, NHS England also produced and shared “Domestic Abuse and General Practice”, a rapid read to all general practices, safeguarding leads, Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and Integrated Care Systems (ICS) teams across England recommending the IRIS Programme model as a strategy to tackle DA during consultations. And there is more to come. [READ MORE>>](#)

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## CASE STUDY: THE SUCCESSFUL ROLLOUT OF THE IRIS PROGRAMME IN WALES

**Currently, five out of seven local Health Boards commission the IRIS programme; the same initiative is also funded by the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPPC) in a sixth area**

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), the number of domestic abuse (DA) related crimes in England and Wales rose 6% in the year ending March 2021 to 845,734. From these, a total of 42,270 crimes were in Wales. To tackle this, the Welsh government has been acting on many fronts, including in the healthcare settings. [READ MORE>>](#)



### WOULD YOU LIKE TO GIVE US A HAND?

Do you have something to share about IRISi, IRIS or ADVISE - such as the impact of the intervention, suggestions or feedback? We would love to hear from you! Please email us at: [geisa.davo@irisi.org](mailto:geisa.davo@irisi.org).

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# HIGHLIGHTS



## CAN YOU AND YOUR CLINICAL CONTACTS IN YOUR IRIS TRAINED PRACTICES HELP TO INFORM NEW SPECIALIST TRAINING ON DA AND HARMFUL ALCOHOL USE?

AVA, a national gender-based violence charity, is running a consultation with key stakeholders to inform the update of Domestic Abuse and Alcohol Training Guidance for those working in: Substance Use services; Domestic Abuse services; GP surgeries; and Police.

The training guidance was commissioned by the Home Office in response to evidence from frontline professionals and practitioners that suggested there were gaps in knowledge and training where domestic abuse and alcohol use co-occur. The questionnaire will ask you to respond to a series of questions about your work with patients and your knowledge of domestic abuse and harmful alcohol use; it should only take ten minutes of your time. We thank you for your help and ask you to complete the survey by 11th January 2023.

Please [click here](#) to access and share the link.

## “ADVISE PROGRAMME IS SUCCESSFULLY REACHING VULNERABLE PEOPLE”, SAYS PAMELA WATT, PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGER AND SEXUAL HEALTH COMMISSIONER IN TAMESIDE

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*“(...) Now that the ADViSE Programme has been running from our sexual health service for a number of months, we can see the number of referrals increasing. However, it is also important to recognise that these referrals are rarely straightforward cases, but are often complex, needing specialised and targeted support and further mirroring the levels of concern highlighted by sexual health staff. Cases have also been identified that were previously unknown to support services, again further highlighting that the ADViSE Programme is successfully reaching vulnerable people who would not otherwise have been recognised or supported. I look forward to working with ADViSE in Tameside in the future.”*

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REMEMBER: IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ADVISE PROGRAMME,  
[CLICK HERE](#) TO ACCESS OUR COMMISSIONING PROSPECTUS!