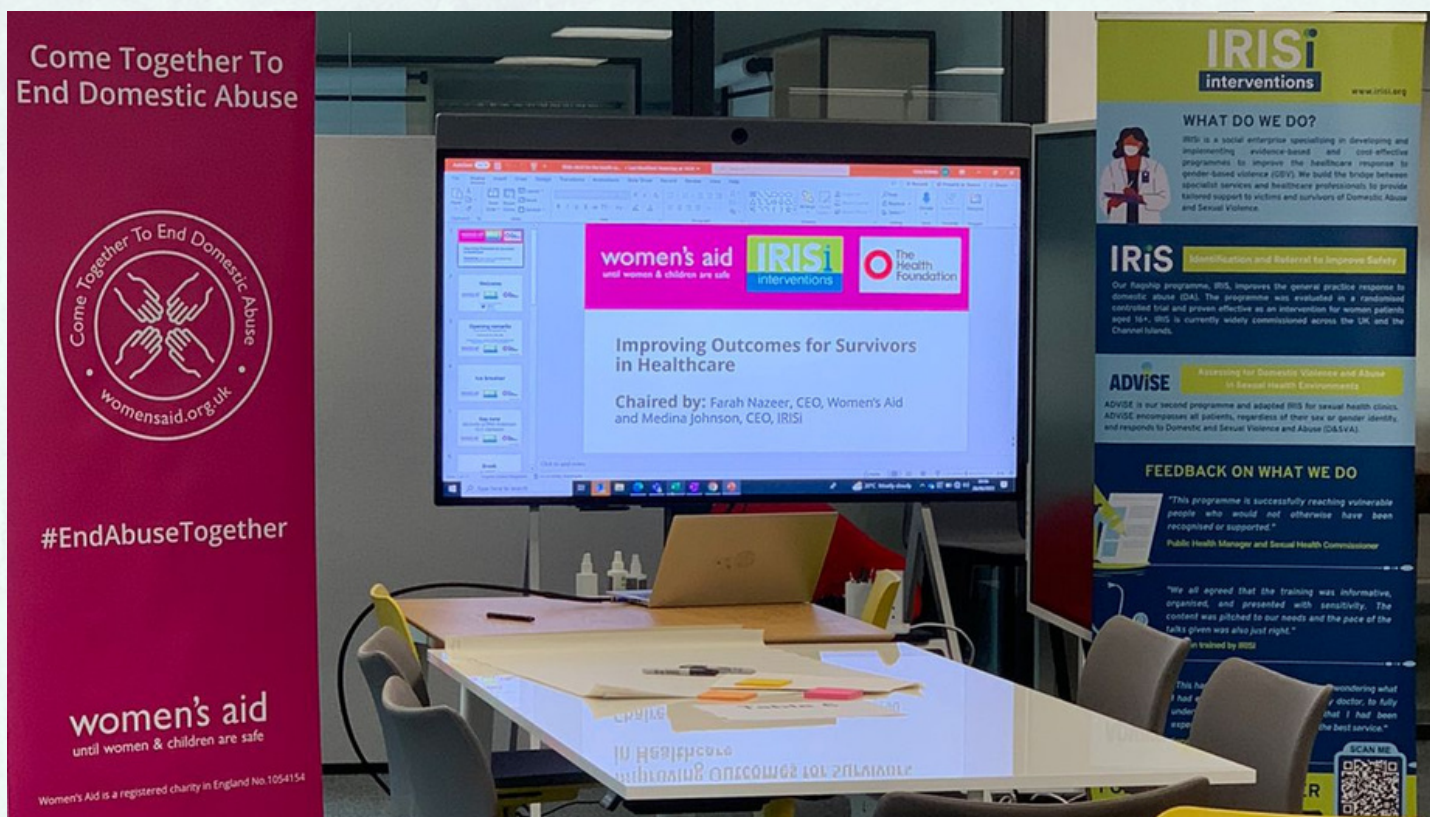




IRISi NEWS

May-Aug 2023
Vol.16



AFTER THE HEALTH SUMMIT AND NHS ANNOUNCEMENT, IRISi IS READY TO COLLABORATE WITH ICBs TO ENHANCE THE HEALTHCARE RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

IRISi's mission centres on improving the healthcare response to gender-based violence (GBV), which has led us to successfully develop and implement two programmes. IRIS aids general practices in identifying and referring domestic abuse victims while ADVISE adapts the IRIS model for sexual health clinics. These initiatives have shown the unique opportunity healthcare settings offer for the early identification of survivors and the vital role of trained clinicians in referring these patients to specialist services. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by NHS structural transformations, recent developments, including announcements made during a health summit in collaboration with Women's Aid and the Health Foundation, offer a promising outlook for a more responsive healthcare approach to GBV.

Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) across the UK were requested to appoint new Domestic Abuse and Violence leads at the executive level, with a focus on prioritising

abuse victims in their Joint Forward Plans and enhancing policies to support staff and patients facing domestic abuse.

This development signifies a significant step in acknowledging domestic abuse as a public health concern, with the new role potentially resulting in cost reductions within public services.

The recent announcement also holds significant potential to positively impact IRISi's work, as our interventions are tailored to specific healthcare settings and undergo rigorous evaluation for evidence-based effectiveness. "We believe we can effectively meet the demands of Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) by offering cost-effective solutions aligned with their needs", says Medina Johnson, CEO at IRISi.

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BUILDING A SAFER LONDON FOR ALL:

LONDON'S VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT COMMISSIONS IRISi INTERVENTIONS TO STRENGTHEN THE HEALTHCARE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In a stride towards creating a safer London for all, the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) has taken one more important action to address Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse (D&SVA) within healthcare settings. Building on the success of the 7B Programme, which implemented IRIS in 7 different boroughs of London, the VRU has commissioned IRISi to manage grant funding and implement our two interventions, [IRIS](#) and [ADVISE](#), in collaboration with various specialist organisations across London. This powerful partnership reflects a shared commitment to providing essential support for those affected by Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, marking a pivotal moment in recognising and assisting individuals who often remain unheard and unsupported.



As a result of this partnership, IRIS is now being delivered by the London Black Women's Project in Newham; by Aanchal in Redbridge; and by Refuge in Richmond and Kingston. Alongside IRIS, the ADVISE programme has also been launched in collaboration with nia at Homerton Hospital/Homerton Trust and Advance at St. Mary's Hospital/Imperial Trust.

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Lib Peck, Director of London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), expressed the unit's unwavering commitment to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls:

“Our investment will provide vital support for healthcare practitioners to offer support for those affected by domestic abuse through targeted services. No one should suffer in silence, which is why this investment is so crucial as it will reach those who are not usually recognised or supported with the services they desperately need. Our partnership with the healthcare sector and domestic abuse specialists highlights that together we can prevent violence against women and girls.”

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[Click here to read it in full](#)

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.

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HIGHLIGHTS



IRISi CELEBRATES THE SUCCESS AND EXPANSION OF THE ADViSE PROGRAMME IN SEXUAL CLINICS ACROSS GREATER MANCHESTER

A special event took place in May 2023 to celebrate the success of ADViSE in Greater Manchester, the first area to ever implement the programme for victims and survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse (D&SVA) accessing sexual health clinics. Since its launch in 2021, the intervention developed by IRISi has made a great impact by providing comprehensive training and establishing an enhanced referral pathway for healthcare professionals and administrative staff working in these settings, enabling them to better identify and respond to the signs of D&SVA during consultations. The event brought together stakeholders and partners directly involved with the great results achieved during the first year with survivors who shared their experiences of the initiative.

“We were honoured to have survivors joining us at the event. Some shared their thoughts remotely, while others attended in person to express how ADViSE has positively impacted their lives. The overwhelming message from survivors, Advocate Educators (AEs), and clinicians was that ADViSE is invaluable, and we must

work together to ensure its continuation”, said Charlotte Chappell, ADViSE Lead and Senior Regional Manager.

ADViSE has been running in Manchester, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford in partnership with Manchester Women’s Aid, Stockport Without Abuse, Trafford Domestic Abuse Services (TDAS), JIGSAW Support, and Locala. The Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership has provided funding for sexual health clinics operating across these areas, which are all covered by The Northern Contraception, Sexual Health & HIV Service at Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI), a part of the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT). Recently, the commissioning team announced the extension of the programme for another year.

[Click here to read it in full](#)

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE IRIS PROGRAMME, [CLICK HERE](#).
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ADVISE PROGRAMME, [CLICK HERE](#).