

# IRISi NEWS

**IRISi**  
interventions

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## #ADVISE

Assessing for Domestic Violence and  
Abuse in Sexual Health Environments

### The ADViSE programme will soon be implemented in the UK!

Developed and promoted by IRISi, the **ADViSE (Assessing for Domestic Violence and Abuse in Sexual Health Environments) Programme** will be officially implemented in its first area within the next quarter.

The initiative supports sexual health staff to identify and respond to patients affected by domestic violence and abuse (DVA), helping to refer them on to specialist services, and has originated from **IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety)** – a successful, evidence-based programme in general practice which responded to patients affected by domestic abuse.

Whilst the positive impact of IRIS was rapidly expanding, it was recognised that there were some **diverse and harder to reach patient populations who may not come into contact with general practice or other primary care services.**

**SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES WERE SEEN AS A POTENTIAL AVENUE TO BRIDGE THIS GAP AND AN ADAPTED VERSION OF IRIS, THE ADVISE PROGRAMME WAS DEVELOPED.**

Sexual health clinicians are already trusted by their patients with **highly confidential, potentially stigmatising information** and are particularly adept at working in diverse populations and with vulnerable groups. Sexual health services are therefore in a strong position to support early recognition of undisclosed or unidentified DVA and offer an appropriate response. **This can improve and save lives.**

[Read more](#)

# HIGHLIGHTS

## ONLINE TRAINING

## GREAT SUCCESS!

The intense training rollout of all new IRIS training materials began on 19th May, ran over a period of 6 weeks and is now successfully completed: **approximately 75% of the IRIS network have been directly trained via our online delivery!** Recordings are available to those who were unable to commit to the training for trainers dates and all Advocate Educators and Clinical Leads of the IRIS network have received copies of the training manuals to support training delivery. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

## THROUGH THE LENS

The first of the IRISi series of **"Through the Lens"** courses has been delivered. **"The Perpetrators & Health"** course, delivered in partnership with our colleagues at the Drive programme, received high attendance and excellent repercussion: **of the feedback received, 85% rated the course '5 stars'!**



## MIDDLESBROUGH



Middlesbrough Council recently published a news story about the IRIS Programme: *"IRIS is the first of its kind in Middlesbrough and will see a domestic abuse specialist from My Sisters Place known as an Advocate Educator work in partnership with a local clinical lead to co-deliver specialist training and support in up to 12 general practices across Middlesbrough"*: [READ MORE>>](#)