

IRISi NEWS

IRISi
interventions

Aug-Sep 2021
Vol.06



IRISi and SATEDA start delivering the IRIS Programme in Swale

The IRISi team welcomes SATEDA, our new social franchise partner organisation. Together, we have started delivering the IRIS Programme to general practices in Swale in September 2021. Former CEO at SATEDA, Dr. Liza Thompson, explains why it is so important to bring a Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) training programme to clinicians and access to specialist advocacy to patients to the local area:

"Some of the health inequalities in Swale are quite vast. We have very affluent areas and areas of very high deprivation and where that's most recognised is in health inequalities. So, we believe that Swale is a really good area to have a pilot for Kent of the IRIS programme and see what difference it will make to the health inequalities, but also to the number of referrals that we receive into SATEDA from GP surgeries".

"ONE OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE IRIS PROGRAMME IS THE TRAINING THAT IS PROVIDED TO GP PRACTICES, AND WE BELIEVE THAT DVA IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS. EVERYBODY SHOULD BE RESPONDING TO DVA WHEN THEY SEE THAT THERE'S A PROBLEM" - DR. LIZA THOMPSON, FORMER CEO AT SATEDA

If you are a clinician or a commissioner and you believe the IRIS Programme can benefit your primary care response to Domestic Violence and Abuse, please email us at info@irisi.org.

[Access the article](#)

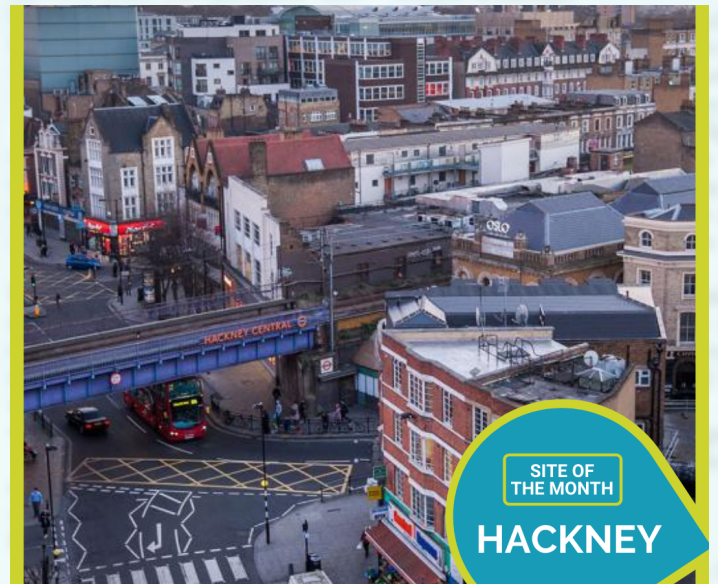
Healthcare professionals can no longer charge patients to provide medical evidence of DVA



The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent in April of this year and it was conceived to provide further protections to the millions of people who experience Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) and strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators. One important provision, established by section 80 of the Act, came into effect recently: from now on, healthcare professionals are prohibited from charging a victim of Domestic Abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid. [READ MORE>>](#)

#IRISchievement: this month, Hackney is in the spotlight!

It is impossible to tell the story of IRIS without mentioning one of the first sites to ever deliver the programme. Hackney held its first training sessions in 2007, alongside Bristol, right after the Health Foundation awarded funding for a randomised controlled trial of the initiative in both areas. Since then, 40 General Practices teams have been trained on how to identify and respond to Domestic Violence and Abuse. As a result, between 2014 and 2021, over 900 women from Hackney were referred into and assisted by the IRIS Programme in partnership with the nia project. [READ MORE>>](#)



HACKNEY

- **Launch date:** September 2007.
- **Specialist Partner organisation:** the nia project.
Practices trained: 40 practices trained to date.
- **Women referred by year:** 151 (2014/15); 187 (2015/16); 152 (2016/17); 171 (2017/18); 100 (2018/19); 126 (2019/20); 160 (2020/21).

"I think a lot of women would end up without support if not for their GPs making a referral to IRIS, as there may be no other place for them to talk about what's going on. We have come across some cases where a GP appointment is the only appointment a woman is 'allowed' to attend on her own, and without the abusive partner." - **Emma Mc Manus, Senior IRIS AE**

Would you like to give us a hand?

Do you have something to share about IRISi or the IRIS Programme - such as the impact your IRIS programme is having, suggestions or feedback? We would love to hear from you! Please email us at geisa.davo@irisi.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

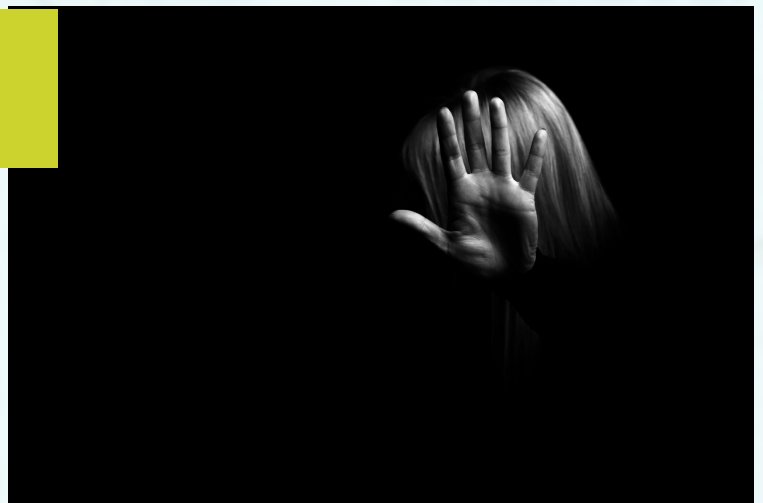


IRISI TEAM UPDATES

Following the expansion and development of its programmes, IRISI's made some changes in the team. Lucy Downes is now our new IRIS Network Director, while Annie Howell becomes IRISI Development Director. We also welcome our new Regional Manager, Heather Aboulgasem, who has already started working in her new position. Soon, we will also be introducing our new Finance and Governance Director!

RESEARCH IMPACT

The University of Bristol has featured the work of the Domestic Violence and Health Research Group at the Centre for Academic Primary Care on its new multimedia platform showcasing research that has had a significant social impact. You can read about the creation and development of the IRIS Programme! [READ MORE >>](#)



**Let us help you
so you can help
your patients.**

Domestic Violence and Abuse can be an invisible disease. We can help you to recognise the symptoms during consultations.



*"If it wasn't for the IRIS training,
I would have never asked further
questions and probably never
thought about it again.
I will now be attending MARAC for
the first time in my 20 year career."*

- Clinician trained by the IRIS Programme