

# IRISi NEWS

**IRISi**  
interventions

Oct 2021  
Vol.07

## THE ADVISE PROGRAMME

# Greater Manchester teams are now ready to go!

### Greater Manchester is the first area to ever implement the ADViSE Programme

The ADViSE Programme supports sexual health clinicians to identify and respond to women affected by Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and provides them with a simple referral pathway to specialist services. Recently launched by IRISi, the initiative has been implemented for the first time as a year-long pilot in four Greater Manchester districts, thanks to funding from the **Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership**. In total, 10 sexual health clinics in **Manchester, Stockport, Tameside** and **Trafford** will take part in the programme and the delivery teams were all trained in October 2021. All of the clinics are covered by **The Northern Contraception, Sexual Health & HIV Service at Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI)**, which is part of the **Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT)**.

IRISi has recruited 4 specialist organisations to work with across each area: **Manchester Women's Aid; Stockport Without Abuse; Trafford Domestic Abuse Services (TDAS); and JIGSAW Support (Part of the Jigsaw Homes Group).**

**"WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ORGANISATIONS AND COLLEAGUES ACROSS GREATER MANCHESTER AND TO BE LAUNCHING THIS WORK", EXPLAINS MEDINA JOHNSON, CEO AT IRISI.**

[\*\*Access the article\*\*](#)

# AVA launches its early findings from "Stuck in the Middle with You Project" in collaboration with IRISi



## Menopause & Domestic Abuse: Early Findings from AVA's Stuck in the Middle with You Project

AVA recently launched its "Menopause & Domestic Abuse: Early Findings from AVA's Stuck in the Middle with You Project", which was developed in collaboration with IRISi. This document explores the experiences of women who have been through domestic abuse and menopause, bringing together key findings from focus groups held in May 2021. A "Brief Guidance for Staff and Clinicians in General Practice" was also launched as a result of the same initiative. [READ MORE>>](#)

## #IRISchievement: this month, Bridgend in the spotlight!

Over the last few years, the IRIS Programme has considerably expanded across Wales. In 2021, one more Welsh area started delivering the initiative to the local General Practice teams: since February, 11 practices in Bridgend have been trained and are now ready to identify and refer women who are being affected by Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA).

The IRIS Programme was implemented in partnership with Safer Merthyr Tydfil.

[READ MORE>>](#)



## BRIDGEND

- **Launch date:** February 2021.
- **Specialist Partner organisation:** Safer Merthyr Tydfil.
- **Practices trained:** 11 practices trained to date.
- **Women referred by year:** 19 in 2021.

*"In my experience, women that have never contacted the police or a local DVA Agency due to fear, guilt, shame, might feel they can share their experiences safely with their GP, many of whom would only do so if prompted through enquiry by the GP."*

**Vanesa Ghigi, IRIS Advocate Educator**

## 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).



# HIGHLIGHTS

## PAPER OF THE YEAR

The IRIS Programme is effective even outside a clinical trial, when implemented in 'real world' General Practices, according to the study **"Improving the healthcare response to domestic violence and abuse in UK primary care: interrupted time series evaluation of a system-level training and support programme"**, which has just been awarded the "2020 Royal College of General Practitioners' Research Paper of the Year" by demonstrating that the IRIS Programme improves considerably the response of GPs to DVA: **after being trained by the initiative, 205 general practices in London reached a 30-fold increase in referrals for women identified as possible victims of DVA.** [READ MORE>>](#)

### RESEARCH ARTICLE



Improving the healthcare response to domestic violence and abuse in UK primary care: interrupted time series evaluation of a system-level training and support programme

Alex Hardip Sohal<sup>1\*</sup>, Gene Feder<sup>2</sup>, Kambiz Boomla<sup>1</sup>, Anna Dowrick<sup>1</sup>, Richard Hooper<sup>1</sup>, Annie Howell<sup>3</sup>, Medina Johnson<sup>3</sup>, Natalia Lewis<sup>1,2</sup>, Clare Robinson<sup>1</sup>, Sandra Eldridge<sup>1</sup> and Chris Griffiths<sup>1</sup>

*Congratulations*

**2021 RCGP  
RESEARCH  
PAPER OF**



## WELCOME!

IRISi welcomes **Megan John**, our new Finance and Governance Director! Megan is a qualified accountant and started her career as a farm secretary before heading into accountancy practice where she qualified in 2009 and became a fellow of the ACCA in 2014.

## MIGRANT VICTIMS

Without access to public funds, many migrant victims are forced to stay with their abuser or face homelessness, destitution or deportation. For that reason, we back the Domestic Abuse Commissioner who is calling for the Government to put **#SafetyBeforeStatus**. [READ MORE>>](#)

**Safety  
Before Status**

Improving pathways  
to support for  
migrant victims of  
domestic abuse