

IRISi NEWS

IRISi
interventions

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#IRISiWelcomes DASU and starts delivering the IRIS Programme in Denbighshire

The IRISi team welcomes DASU, our new partner organisation. Together, we have been delivering the IRIS Programme to general practices in Denbighshire from January 2022 – which means that the intervention has now been implemented across almost all Wales.

Rhiannon Edwards, the local Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Advisor, 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: “We have wanted to bring this programme to North Wales for at least the last 5 years. We expect to see greater engagement between GP practices and the specialist services, smoother and more efficient referral pathways, better trained and better-informed clinicians and practice staff,

but above all, we want to see victims of domestic abuse accessing the most appropriate support at the earliest time possible”.

According to Rhian Lewis, Service Manager at DASU, it became urgent to bring a new approach to tackle DVA in the area due to the pandemic: “DASU have seen an increase of 40% in referrals (including high-risk referrals) since COVID. We have seen an increase in the length of support needed and an increase in the complexity of the needs of our clients. Referrals from primary care have always been quite low to our services and this will give us an opportunity to intervene earlier as well as supplying a wraparound suite of services for our clients in Denbighshire”.

[Access the article](#)

If a victim of Domestic Abuse dies by suicide, consider requesting a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)

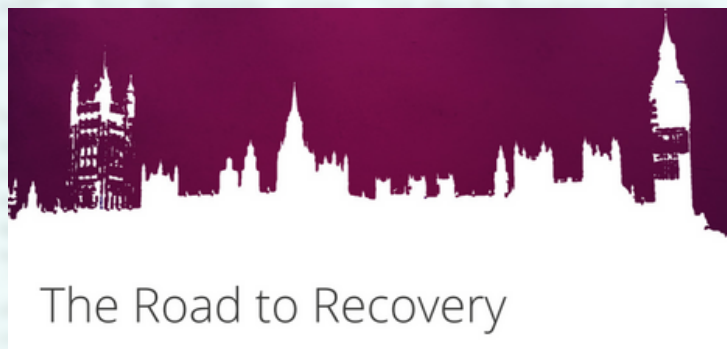


IRISi is working with partners across the sector to ensure if there is a death by suicide where there has been a disclosure of domestic abuse that this is raised locally and a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is considered. The IRIS Programme training for general practice teams will now highlight that when there has been a disclosure of abuse by a patient in general practice, and the patient later goes on to die by suicide, general practitioners should ask the Community Safety Partnership to consider commissioning a DHR. This will support learning for local agencies, build our evidence base and understanding, and, we hope, prevent further deaths.

The Road to Recovery: meeting the Mental Health Needs of Domestic Abuse Survivors

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic Violence and Abuse launched an inquiry into mental health and domestic abuse in July 2021 with oral and written evidence received from survivors, specialist domestic abuse organisations, health experts and academics. The APPG examined the experiences of survivors and the specialist services working to meet their needs. The Group are clear that despite an increase in media and political attention over the last decade, there continue to be many barriers and challenges facing survivors when trying to access help for their mental health needs. The APPG therefore has the following recommendations:

- Domestic abuse, and its impact on survivors' mental health, should be recognised as a public health priority;
- Embed a whole-system approach to prioritising domestic abuse across NHS Trusts, with a focus



on tackling victim-blaming culture and structural inequalities, and setting a clear vision for success;

- Improve the data collection and monitoring of the mental health needs of survivors by requiring;
- Ring-fenced funding for specialist community-based services and 'by and for' services in the forthcoming Victims' Bill, and increased funding for specialist refuges through Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act. [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.