

IRISi NEWS

IRISi
interventions

May-August 2022
Vol.12



IRISi CELEBRATES THE OUTCOMES OF THE IRIS IN 7 BOROUGHES PROGRAMME

The IRIS in 7 boroughs Programme officially ended in June 2022 and this was marked at an in-person event that took place at the Royal College of General Practitioners. Developed by IRISi, the IRIS Programme was funded by the [Violence Reduction Unit \(VRU\)](#) in 2019, providing specialist domestic violence and abuse (DVA) training, support, and a referral programme for General Practices in 7 boroughs in the capital.

The first three sites – **Tower Hamlets, Croydon, and Barking and Dagenham** – were launched the week before the first pandemic lockdown in 2020. The remaining four sites – **Brent, Ealing, Westminster, and Hammersmith and Fulham** – were implemented in October 2020. The initiative was delivered in collaboration with local, specialist DA organisations: Asian's Women Resource Centre, Advance, Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid, FJC, nia and Solace Women's Aid.

OF THE 838 WOMEN REFERRED TO THE 7B PROGRAMME BY THE END OF MARCH 2022, 82% HAD RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM AN AE. THERE WERE 95 WOMEN REFERRED TO THE LOCAL MARAC, 20 TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND 69 TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE.

To close the event, Lib Peck, Director of VRU, said: "We have a big thing to celebrate here, which is a model that works and works for a lot of different people. Our work from now on must be going out and talking about this impact and talking about how we need to move from relatively few boroughs to all the 32 in London. We need to advocate for the mainstream funding of an initiative like this".

[Read more](#)

London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) will be commissioning the IRIS in 4 Boroughs Programme!



Following the great results from the 7B Programme, London's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) have commissioned IRISi to manage grant funding and to deliver the IRIS Programme in 4 boroughs where it has never operated before: **Newham, Redbridge, Richmond and Kingston**. We would like to congratulate the partner agencies who have been successfully recruited to deliver this work. We will be working with:

- [London Black Women's Project](#) in Newham.
- [Aanchal](#) in Redbridge.
- [Refuge](#) in Richmond and Kingstone.

[READ MORE >>](#)

A milestone in Middlesbrough: more than 100 referrals made by General Practice teams!

My Sisters Place has now received over 100 referrals from clinicians within General Practice in Middlesbrough, which means many victims and survivors of domestic abuse have had the opportunity to access specialist support since they launched the IRIS programme last year.

Leanne Smith, IRIS Advocate Educator, says: "I am pleased with the enthusiasm we have received from GP surgeries who have completed our IRIS training. Completing the training has upskilled clinicians to recognise domestic abuse with a particular focus on identifying coercive control".



IRISi would like to congratulate My Sisters Place and all the clinicians who took part in the IRIS training and can now recognise patients affected by domestic abuse, ask them about it and refer them in to specialist support.

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.

Click here to follow us >>



HIGHLIGHTS



PRESSURE STUDY

We know that nine million people in England and Wales have experienced domestic abuse, and research indicates that healthcare professionals themselves face an especially high risk. The **PRESSURE study** is NIHR-SPCR funded project which aims to explore the experiences of healthcare professionals and to identify the support options for staff in general practice and community healthcare.

The first stage of the study is identifying any staff domestic abuse policies in general practice and community healthcare settings. If your practice or healthcare setting has a policy relating to staff experiences of domestic abuse, please could you email it to Dr Alison Gregory (alison.gregory@bristol.ac.uk) and Dr Sandi Dheensa (sandi.dheensa@bristol.ac.uk). There will also be an upcoming survey to explore the domestic abuse experiences of healthcare staff and the people who support them. Please watch this space and disseminate it in your practice and/or networks.



SAFE CARE AT HOME

The Home Office and Department of Health and Social Care are undertaking the Safe Care at Home Review. Most people have excellent and wonderful care provided by agency carers, family, personal assistants or friends. Unfortunately in a small number of cases people are harmed by the people providing their care. The Review has looked at the protection and support available to people who have care and support needs and had wide-ranging discussions with people who are experts by experience or work in the sector.

Before we conclude the Review we would like to offer another opportunity to organisations and individuals to provide a response to the following questions:

- Are people providing care given enough support? What does good support for the person who is cared for, and the person caring look like?
- Are there adequate protections in place to make sure that people are not harmed in their own home by someone providing care? What if anything could be improved?

Please reply by 16 September 2022 to the email safecareathomereview@homeoffice.gov.uk.