

# IRISi NEWS

**IRISi**  
interventions

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## ADViSE is now running in **BRISTOL AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Bristol and South Gloucestershire sexual health clinics are now enrolled on ADViSE, an intervention developed by IRISi to improve the identification and response to both Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in these settings. The pilot project aims to help survivors to disclose their experiences to staff who are then able to offer a direct referral to a named specialist for support.

The project is jointly commissioned by **Bristol City and South Gloucestershire councils** and is now being delivered in collaboration with **Next Link Plus** (Bristol) and **Next Link** (South Gloucestershire), who operate local domestic abuse support services. This summer, over 40 sexual health clinic staff from across Bristol and South Gloucestershire began their training with the local ADViSE team and Next Link on how to better identify, respond, and refer patients who have experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence. All staff, from nurses and doctors to chaperones, receptionists and medical secretaries are key to the success of the intervention and are being trained.

**IN MANCHESTER, WHERE ADViSE IS ALREADY RUNNING, A SERVICE USER SHARED: "IT HAS BEEN NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE I CAN SPEAK TO WHO I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TRUST, SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN ABLE TO TELL ME THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN MY FAULT AND I'M NOT GOING MAD, BUT IT WAS MY EX'S BEHAVIOUR THAT WAS WRONG AND WAS MAKING ME FEEL THAT WAY. I'M NOW BETTER ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THEY CONTROLLED AND ABUSED ME."**

ADViSE originates from a successful, evidence-based 12-week pilot that provided ADViSE training for staff in two sexual health clinic sites in Bristol and Tower Hamlets in 2014.

[Read more](#)

## After being implemented in Wolverhampton, IRIS is now running across the whole Black Country area



The IRIS Programme was first implemented in Sandwell in 2015. Two years later, the intervention was expanded to Walsall and then, in 2018, Dudley also came on board. More recently, in October 2022, IRIS was implemented in Wolverhampton, which means that it's now running across the whole Black Country area with one main goal: to enable local General Practices to better identify and refer women being affected by Domestic Abuse to specialist support.

[READ MORE>>](#)

## Changes to online medical records: if in doubt – document it – then block it out

From November 1st, 2022, patients in England and over the age of 16 will be able to access more detailed information from their medical records through online apps. Access to this will become automated so that all patients, unless restricted by the general practice, can access the service. Currently, patients request access which allows decisions to be made by practices about whether it is safe for a patient to have access or not.

Unless access to the record is restricted by GPs, all patients will be able to see consultation notes and codes which are added to the record after the launch date. General practices who have already been IRIS trained will already be aware of how they should be recording DVA in their patient's medical record. This includes the very clear guidance that when documenting DVA clinicians should:



CHANGES TO ONLINE MEDICAL RECORDS:  
IF IN DOUBT – DOCUMENT IT –  
THEN BLOCK IT OUT

We want clinicians to continue to document Domestic Abuse but to do this safely by hiding online visibility.

"Use the online visibility function to hide this consultation from patient online access". Clinicians should continue to adhere to this guidance. Clinicians might also want to hide other medical information from online visibility for those patients in abusive relationships. For example, information about sexual or reproductive health. [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](mailto:geisa.davo@irisi.org).

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