IRISi interventions

IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026



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2025-2026 in summary by Medina Johnson CEO



2025–26 was a year of significant financial and organisational challenge for IRISi and we undertook substantial organisational restructuring. Despite these pressures, the team continued to deliver our core programmes, maintained relationships with national and international partners, contributed to policy development and created opportunities for future growth. We developed our strategy for 2026 and continued work to strengthen the organisation's financial and operational sustainability.

National delivery and development of IRIS programmes continued in 33 areas. A number were decommissioned due to a lack of sustainable funding and prioritisation of domestic abuse as a public health emergency. No commissions were secured for new IRIS programmes in the reporting year due to the financial precarity of most integrated care boards and the promise of national funding for the general practice response to domestic abuse from the Steps to Safety Programme.

ADViSE programme development and delivery in sexual health settings continued in two areas alongside evaluation activity designed to strengthen the evidence base and inform future programme development.

"It has been a fantastic programme, and I am very grateful for the support I received. I would not be where I am now without them." – Survivor who accessed ADViSE

We launched the health visiting model in one site, extending the reach of specialist domestic abuse support within new healthcare settings. 72 professionals were trained, achieving 100% of the health visitor and family hub workforce in Sutton. 32 referrals were received from health visitors and family hub workers across the 9 months the pilot was operational. Survivors who completed support consistently reported improved wellbeing and confidence, in addition to feeling listened to, safer, and more able to cope.

"I feel safer knowing that there is support for me, I lived with this for so long before speaking to my health visitor, the support I received has enabled to make the right decisions for me and my children and have now moved away to be near my family"

We made important progress in strengthening the quality and consistency of programme delivery with development of the IRIS accreditation framework.

"We're delighted to celebrate this important milestone for IRISi. The framework recognises the quality, consistency and impact of local IRIS programme delivery and we're particularly proud to celebrate the majority of our delivery areas achieving a Gold accreditation – our highest standard."- Mel Goodway, Director of Programmes and Innovation

A significant achievement was securing a contract for the Oral Health and Domestic Abuse Programme across a large London ICB area.

We welcome the recognition in the VAWG strategy, published in December 2025, of the need for the health system to respond to domestic abuse and the Steps to Safety programme reflects this with considerable investment coming to support its rollout. We are proud to have influenced decision makers in this space through our 19 years of evidence based work and impact. We hope Steps to Safety will offer IRISi opportunities for our work.

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Some of 25/26's Achievements



IRIS KENYA

Our 12-month programme of funded IRIS-K work continued through to December 2025, alongside dissemination and knowledge-sharing activity arising from the programme. Four communities of practice across three counties in Kenya continue to meet to promote the programme while we seek sustainability and development funding.

UKHSA

Our relationship with UK Health Security Agency developed and we co-designed and delivered an IRIS Train the Trainer course in Bermuda, leading on the launch of a pilot IRIS programme in Bermuda. Our relationship with UK Health Security Agency continues to provide opportunities for international work during 2026–27.





EL SALVADOR

We presented at the International Justice Mission conference in El Salvador which created opportunities for potential collaboration around international funding and global opportunities.

POLICY AND PRACTICE

IRISi continued to use its expertise and evidence to influence policy and practice at national and sector level, attending sector and government meetings. This policy and influencing work enabled IRISi to bring the experience of frontline healthcare-based domestic abuse support into national conversations about health, domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.





POLICY AND INFLUENCING

We contributed to a range of high-profile policy and influencing opportunities throughout the year and contributed via sector feedback to the development of the national Violence Against Women and Girls strategy, launched in December 2025.

ACCREDITATION

The framework recognises the quality, consistency and impact of local IRIS programme delivery, with areas achieving Bronze, Silver or Gold accreditation depending on how closely their delivery reflects our best-practice standards and the outcomes they are achieving. We celebrate all these areas with the the majority, achieving a Gold accreditation – our highest standard.

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GOLD ACCREDITED IRIS SERVICE

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Our Impact in Numbers

Celebrating the positive changes made this year

814 training sessions took place

- **3,695** healthcare professionals undertook initial training
- **2,122** healthcare professionals completed refresher training

1,135 different healthcare settings

engaged with IRISi programmes, either through referrals, connections or trainings.

14% growth in referrals

Areas with established IRIS sites have had their highest referral numbers to date, with on average 14% growth on the previous year.

7,224 referrals were made for patients

affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Of those who gave patient feedback:

- 95.9% feel safer as a result of the support
- 96.4% feel more able to cope
- 75.3% visit their doctor/nurse less than before

Training

IRISi delivered five Training for Trainers courses, supporting the development and upskilling of 29 new members of delivery partner teams.

IRISi's programmes deliver what survivors need — and what the system can't afford to lose

IRIS practices are 30 times more likely to make a referral

1 in 4

People experience domestic abuse in their lifetime

4.8 times better value than the flu jab

IRIS is at least 4.8 times better value for money than the annual flu jab.

THE IMPACT WE MAKE. THE FUTURE WE MUST BUILD.
Our impact. Our ambition.

Behind every referral into IRISi's programmes is a person who deserves to be heard, believed and supported. At the heart of every statistic and piece of data we share is the opportunity to change a life.

In 2025–26, despite significant challenges, IRISi continued to champion a healthcare response to domestic abuse and sexual violence — equipping professionals, strengthening services and influencing policy to create meaningful change for women and girls. We can only do this through the vital partnerships with front line delivery services and local health champions. We continued to develop new approaches, strengthen the quality of our programmes, build partnerships nationally and internationally, and bring the expertise of healthcare-based domestic abuse support into policy and practice.

But our work is far from finished.

Our vision and mission have always been for domestic abuse and sexual violence to be recognised as healthcare issues and for a healthcare system that responds to this safely and consistently. Every survivor must have access to a compassionate, appropriate and trauma-informed response, and the opportunity to access specialist support, regardless of where they live or which healthcare professional they encounter.

Our people. Our partnerships. Our strength.

IRISi is made up of a small team of passionate, dedicated women united by a shared belief: that healthcare can and must play a vital role in ending violence against women and girls.

This year has asked a great deal of our organisation and of the people who make it what it is. Through uncertainty, change and challenge, our team has continued to show extraordinary commitment, expertise, compassion and determination.

Every programme delivered, every partnership nurtured, every professional trained, every policy influenced and every opportunity pursued reflects the collective effort of our people.

Much of this work happens behind the scenes, but its impact reaches far beyond our organisation — . into healthcare settings, professional practice and, most importantly, the lives of women and girls.

To everyone we work with, our team, commissioners, front line delivery partners, healthcare partners, victims and survivors :

Thank you.

Thank you for your dedication, your courage, your creativity and your unwavering belief in the difference this work makes. Thank you for standing alongside survivors, supporting one another and continuing to turn our shared vision into action, even when the path has been difficult. We recognise and honour all that you bring to IRISi. Our achievements are yours, and the difference we make is a testament to your commitment.

The future is ours to shape. Will you join us?

A safe, informed and compassionate healthcare response to domestic abuse and sexual violence should never be a postcode lottery, an optional extra or dependent on short-term funding. It must be an integral part of how healthcare works. We cannot achieve this alone.

We need commissioners to invest in sustainable, evidence-informed programmes. We need healthcare leaders to champion change within their organisations. We need policymakers to recognise the essential role of healthcare in responding to violence against women and girls. And we need partners, funders and allies to stand with us in making this vision a reality.

Join us in building a future where every survivor is recognised, every response is trauma-informed, and everyone affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence can access the support they need to be safer and to thrive.

Together, we can help transform healthcare responses, strengthen the systems around survivors and create lasting change for women and girls.

"The support that the IRIS project has provided has been so vital in my healing journey. [The Advocate Educator] was the first professional that I felt listened to me and validated what I have experienced. Thank you for this service."

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Contact us!

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Investing in training and onward referral support is cost-effective, time-saving, and life-saving: Domestic abuse costs the NHS £2.3 billion per year (Home Office, 2019).