

Southwark IRIS Project

January 2019

The IRIS Programme (Identification and Referral to Increase Safety), is a domestic abuse programme for primary care. In Southwark, IRIS has been jointly commissioned and funded by the Council and the CCG with the IRIS Project worker, the IRIS AE (Advocate Educator), based at Solace, the specialist domestic violence service for Southwark. The IRIS programme consists of three parts:

1. Training: Training around domestic violence, its impact on health, as well as dealing with disclosures, is provided to all participating GP surgeries. The free training is run by the IRIS AE, who is a Solace officer and the IRIS Clinical Lead and is available for both clinical and non-clinical staff.
2. Referral: Once trained, clinicians are able to refer patients directly to the IRIS AE based at Solace, who is able to offer support to the patient straight away, as well as providing feedback to the clinician as long as the patient is receiving support from her. All patients over 16, of any gender, can be referred.
3. Support: All patients who have been referred are then able to receive support from the IRIS AE for up to 9 months. This might include practical support such as safety planning and reducing the current risk, exploring safe options to leave, or support around housing, social services, immigration and benefits. It might also include emotional support, and further referrals such as for Solace's counselling service.

IRIS achievements to date

Since the IRIS inception in July 2015 the following outcomes have been achieved:-

Activity	Number
Number of practices fully trained	20
Numbers of practice staff trained	329
GP Referrals to DA Service	270