University of BRISTOL

reprovide
Reaching Everyone Programme of Research On Violence In diverse Domestic Environments

iris+
Enhanced Identification and Referral to Improve Safety

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Feasibility of a training and support intervention for general practice to improve the response to women, men and children exposed to domestic violence and abuse (DVA)

Information sheet for adults

We are inviting you to take part in a research study which aims to find out the feasibility and acceptability of a training and support intervention to improve general practice responses to people exposed to domestic violence and abuse. In the current pilot phase of the study, we would specifically like to find out if our data collection and recruitment methods work and how we could further improve our referral system and support service.

Before you decide if you want to take part or not, we would like to explain why the research is being done and what we are asking of you.

Please take time to read this letter carefully. You may want to talk about it to other people if you want and if this is safe to do so.

Why have I been invited to take part in this study?

You have been invited to take part because you have been referred by your GP to the IRIS+ advocate educator.

What will happen to me if I take part in the study?

If you agree to take part in this study, the researcher will arrange a meeting or phone conversation with you. During this meeting/conversation the following steps will take place:

1. The researcher will first of all explain to you what the study is about, will give you a chance to ask questions and will ask you to sign a consent form to show that you agree to be involved.

2. If you do decide to take part in the study, the researcher will ask you to complete a questionnaire about your general health and well-being and your past and/or current experiences of domestic abuse. If you have a child or children aged 8–18, you might also be asked to complete a questionnaire about their health and wellbeing.

3. We will then contact you again in a few months time and ask you to complete the questionnaire again.

4. You may be also asked to have an interview. If you decide to take part in the interview study, the researcher will ask some questions about how your GP and IRIS+ advocate educator have provided information and support to you in relation to domestic violence or abuse. The researcher will also ask you about how you think support from your GP and IRIS+ advocate educator could be improved.

Why is this study being done?

Previous studies have shown that GP training and intervention can improve the identification and referral of women who are victims of domestic violence and abuse. We also know that GPs want specialist training and support around identifying and supporting men who are affected by domestic violence and abuse and children who are exposed to domestic violence.

We will be testing a training and intervention programme to see whether it can help GPs to identify and support men and children, as well as women, living in households where there is domestic violence and abuse.

This study has two aims:

1. To understand your experiences of being referred to, and receiving support from, Nextlink. This is so we can improve the referral and support process.
2. To test whether the questionnaires and interviews are acceptable to participants and to see what changes we could make to make them more accessible.

Do I have to take part?

No, definitely not. It is completely up to you whether you take part or not. Our researcher will answer any questions you may have about what taking part in the study involves for you.

If you do decide to take part, you are still free to say that you don't want to continue at any time during the questionnaire/interview completion without giving a reason.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Taking part in the study will help us to identify how we can improve support and identification of adults and children living with domestic violence and abuse.

Taking part in the study will also help us to train and support health care professionals so that they are able to ask patients about domestic violence and abuse in appropriate ways.

What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

The questions in the questionnaire or/and interview may make you feel uncomfortable or distressed. You do not have to answer any question you don't want to. The researcher will be able to talk to you during and after the questionnaire/interview completion.

Our main concern is your safety and we will always do our best to contact you in a safe way. For example, we will only phone you at times when you tell us it is safe to do so and using contact details which you tell us are safe to use. We will also arrange a safe place to meet you. Alternatively, you can also choose to complete the questionnaire on the phone or on your own in your own time and send it back to us by post. You can also choose to complete the interview by phone.

Other information

In recognition of your time and expenses, you will receive a £10 shopping voucher to say thank you for taking part in the questionnaire study and another £10 shopping voucher if you also decide to take part in the interview study.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any concerns about any aspects of the study, you should contact the researcher (see the top of this letter for contact details). S/he will do her best to answer your questions. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, please contact: **research-governance@bristol.ac.uk**

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. Access to your data will be limited to the research team only. Interview audio recordings will be destroyed upon transcription. Transcripts and questionnaire data will be stored securely for up to ten years, but will have your name and address and any other personal identifiers removed so that you cannot be recognised from it. The only exception to this confidentiality will be if you disclose information which suggests a risk of serious danger to any person (including yourself). For example, the research team has a legal obligation to share information with Children's Social Care if we think that the safety of your child is at risk.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of this feasibility study are likely to be published as a report. The results of this study will inform the design of future research. Copies of anything we write will be available from the research team. You will not be identified or recognisable in any presentation of the findings.

If you wish we can share the findings with you by email or post.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is sponsored by the University of Bristol and funded by the National Institute for Health Research. The research is carried out by a team of researchers who are based at the University of Bristol.

Has anyone checked that the study is well-designed and ethical?

The study was looked at by an independent group of researchers from other universities before it was funded. Another independent group, a Research Ethics Committee which included healthcare professionals and lay members, assessed whether the study sufficiently protects your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. This study has been approved by South West - Frenchay NHS Research Ethics Committee.

If you decide to take part in the study, you will be given a copy of this information sheet. You can take this home or talk to us about where else the letter might be kept safely if you like.

Please ask us if anything is not clear or if you would like to know more before you decide.

You have the right to decide whether or not you wish to take part in the study.

You can contact the REPROVIDE IRIS+ team by email**:** iris-plus@bristol.ac.uk
or by phone: 07814870429

Thank you for reading this and for considering taking part in this study.