



Enhanced Identification  
and Referral to Improve Safety

**Study contact:**

University of Bristol,  
Bristol Medical School  
Centre for Academic Primary Care  
39 Whatley Road, Bristol, BS8 2PS  
Tel: 07814870429  
Email: [iris-plus@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:iris-plus@bristol.ac.uk)

**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 parents/carers**

We are inviting your child 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 families 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 for children.

Before you decide if you consent for your child 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 can talk about it to other people if you want and if it 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 and your child have been referred by your GP to the IRIS+ Advocate Educator/support worker.

**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 face-to face meeting with you and your child at a safe and convenient place.
- The researcher will first of all explain to you what the study is about and will ask you for your consent and your child's consent if you decide that you do want to get involved.

- If you do decide to take part in the study, the researcher will spend about 10-20 minutes with your child – depending on how much they want to say. The researcher will ask your child about their experiences of having a support worker - what is good about it and what could be improved.
- All information which is collected about you and your child will be kept strictly confidential. Any information about you and your child will have your name and address removed. Access to your data will be limited to the research team only. Interview audio recordings will be destroyed upon transcription. Interview transcripts and questionnaire data will be stored securely for up to ten years, but will have names and addresses and any other personal identifiers removed so that your child and your child's family, friends, school, etc. cannot be recognised from it. The only exception to this confidentiality will be if you or your child disclose information which suggests a risk of serious danger to any person. In particular, the research team has a legal obligation to share information with Children's Social Care if we think that the safety of a child is at risk.

### **Why is this study being done?**

- We know that GPs want specialist training and support around identifying and supporting children who are exposed to domestic violence.
- We are testing a training and intervention programme to see whether it can help GPs to identify and support children, as well as their parents and carers, living in households where there is domestic violence and abuse.
- This study has two aims:
  1. To understand children's experiences of receiving support from Nextlink so we can improve the support offered.
  2. To test whether the questions we are asking children and young people make sense to them and see what we can do to improve our questions.

### **Does my child have to take part?**

- No, definitely not. It is completely up to you whether your child takes part or not. Whether your child takes part or not will not affect any services you receive now, or in the future. Our researcher will answer any questions you may have about what taking part in the study involves for you and your child.
- If you, or your child, don't want to continue at any time during the interview, you do not have to give any reason and interview will be ended.

### **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 children living with domestic violence and abuse.

### **What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?**

- Some of the questions may be difficult for children to answer. The researcher will always try to make sure your child is happy and comfortable and make sure that options are given for the interview to be stopped or paused.

- Our main concern is your safety and the safety of your child. 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.
- If you have any concerns that your child taking part in the interview may increase the risk of harm to you, your child or anyone else then please talk to the researcher.

### **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](mailto:research-governance@bristol.ac.uk).

### **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

- The results of this feasibility study are likely to be published as a report. Copies of anything we write will be available from the research team. You and your child 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 and your child's 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 your child to take part in the study.

**You can contact the Reprovide/IRIS+ team by email: [iris-plus@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:iris-plus@bristol.ac.uk)  
or by phone: 07814870429**

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