

IRIS Swansea Bay

Welcome to IRIS Swansea Bay's first quarterly newsletter. We will keep you up to date with news from IRIS accredited practices and, highlight the many facets of domestic abuse.

This issue will focus on the question 'Why doesn't she just leave?' - a question that many people ask a woman who is living with domestic abuse.

Swansea Bay new sign ups!



Welcome to IRIS

SA1 Medical Centre
Abertawe Medical Partnership
Ty'r Felin Surgery
Kings Road Surgery
Victoria Gardens Surgery
SBUHB Managed Practice

Congratulations

Wilkes and Partners Briton Ferry Health Centre for becoming a fully accredited practice

80 patients referred to
IRIS Swansea Bay

75% of practices in
Neath have received IRIS
training since its launch in
2020

Why Doesn't She Just Leave?



Asking for help isn't easy. Women who are living with domestic abuse should not be blamed for the behaviour of the perpetrator. By asking a woman 'Why don't you just leave him?' puts the responsibility solely on the woman.

Welsh Women's Aid tells us-

'One of the most important reasons women don't leave is because it can be incredibly dangerous. The fear that women feel is very real – there is a huge rise in the likelihood of violence after separation. 41% (37 of 91) of women killed by a male partner/former partner in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2018 had separated or taken steps to separate from them. Eleven of these 37 women were killed within the first month of separation and 24 were killed within the first year (Femicide Census, 2020).

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/women-leave/>

Should a patient disclose domestic abuse to a clinician, being asked this question may result in the patient changing her mind about talking. This could result in a

missed opportunity to safeguard her, and any children living within the household. IRIS training will provide clinicians the confidence to give an appropriate response to patients who disclose domestic abuse.

Why is IRIS important to clinicians?

One of our trained clinicians talks about the impact that IRIS has had on her practice...

“ As a GP of more than 25 years I thought I knew my patients and that they would trust me with difficult life events causing them physical and mental ill health. I received the IRIS training in 2020 and it has been a revelation. I now know how hard it is for victims of domestic violence and abuse to disclose and the effect of chronic violence on their lives and that of their children. With the IRIS training I feel confident to ask about DVA and, best of all, I know how to respond. I have pathway to a support worker in DVA - the IRIS advocate educator, who really helps female victims start their journey to recovery and freedom. Since training I have had several disclosures from women, I thought I knew well, and I am now actively looking for others. Iris Training has completely changed my practice. ”

To book your practice in for IRIS training- email

iris@calandvs.org.uk