



Her Centre provides free and confidential advocacy, counselling, outreach, advice, and training to women in Greenwich. For more information about Her Centre services, please visit our website at [www.hercentre.org](http://www.hercentre.org) or call us on **0203 260 7715**.

### **Her Centre wins new funding!**

Her Centre was awarded £96,000 from MOPAC for 2 new staff to support women experiencing domestic abuse. One post will concentrate on women who experience a range of challenges, from mental health and alcohol abuse to unsettled status and language barriers, to ensure more women are able to follow through on the hard journey to leave an abusive partner. By offering more in- depth support and coordinating joint work with key partners in substance misuse services, the mental health trust and with the No Recourse to Public Funds team as well as immigration, we hope to give a better more sustainable support service to more of the women initially in contact with us. We will also continue to employ our sexual violence advocate with the remaining funding, meeting the needs of women who have been sexually assaulted, and who have seen little help from the court system. Additional core funding from London Community Response has allowed us to recruit for a further domestic violence advocate to work with women to reduce the pressure that increased referrals have brought us with Covid. Both posts are being recruited now and we should have our new staff in place by August. We hope to renew this funding after its initial year to keep up this level of support to women in Greenwich that is so greatly needed.

### **Her Centre Partnership for Young People**

Her Centre, working with Tramshed, Public Health and our existing partners Little Fish Theatre and Deborah Ubee Trust, are now running our Thriving social prescribing project for young people. Funded by the Arts Council, the project provides a range of specialist services for young people, including Her Centre support to girls who have experienced abuse and Tramshed theatre workshops to build confidence for children with mental health issues. Little Fish will provide workshops for boys and Deborah Ubee will provide individual counselling for girls. Harry from CACT is funded by Public Health to be a Live Well coach for young people, referring girls and boys to a wide range of services. We have had our launch event and are holding information event on the 2nd July at 12 noon on zoom, highlighting work with boys provided by partner Little Fish. Then Little Fish and Tramshed will team up to provide training for professionals, and Her Centre will run an event targeting girls in the autumn. The goal is to ensure all young people can access all the services that they require whatever their interests and needs may be.

### **Her Centre New Video**

Please watch our new video, about "[Our Services](#)". ← Click

### Women's Safety and making real change

Greenwich is looking at how it can make real change to the constant threat of harassment and abuse and threat of attack that women and girls live with. Working with Greenwich council, Her Centre are keen to support two training options that are being explored. One is to provide more awareness raising in schools, adding to our existing work through the New Leaf programme that works with teenagers, by approaching primary schools to run simple training in respect, helping to break down negative gender stereotypes that children are fed through advertising, television, and other social media. The second is to support and run training for adults, both men and women, in how to intervene when they witness harassment, so that bystanders can both help keep women safer and challenge the perception that harassing women is acceptable.

This work will be coordinated by the councils Safer Communities Team as part of the revival of the Greenwich Women's Safety Charter.

**Stacy Smith, CEO Her Centre**

### IRIS Training

Her Centre, working with Public Health, the CCG and Greenwich Safer Communities, is jointly running a series of nationally developed training for GP surgeries on addressing domestic abuse. The training is based on the national IRIS (Identification and Referral to Improve Safety) programme, which is co-delivered by Her Centre staff and two Clinical leads who are local GPs, Jaisun Vivekanandaraja and Mariyam Aqeel. It gives the key information to support surgeries to identify and refer victims to safety and following the training GPs can refer directly to Her Centre any cases of abuse for follow up support and advocacy.

So far, we have successfully delivered the IRIS programme to Clinical, Reception & Administrative staff at St Marks, Basildon Road, Waverley, Gallions Reach and Vanbrugh, who are now fully trained domestic abuse aware practices. We are currently working with Glyndon, Abbeywood and @Medics who will be fully trained by the end of this quarter.

The feedback from evaluation forms continues to be very positive. All participants have shown increased learning in all areas of the training.

“Well delivered, interactive teaching sessions with lots of important learning points. But most positive of all, I now know exactly what to do when faced with a patient who is suffering domestic abuse - which is sadly an increasing problem since the COVID pandemic started.” - **Dr Steven Raphael, St Mark's Medical Centre.**

When asked if she was pleased the Clinician asked about domestic abuse, she said she strongly agreed, happy to be referred? She strongly agreed. Her comments were “You have really been helpful and professional, and you have done so much for me and my children. I look forward to our phone calls. You saved my life.” - **Recent feedback from a patient.**

If you are interested in receiving **IRIS Training**, please email [francesca@hercentre.org](mailto:francesca@hercentre.org)

## Her Centre – Summer Newsletter July 2021

### Her Centre's, June Open Forum

Getting women back to work and training, On **22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**

@ YMCA Thames Gateway Antelope Road Woolwich, SE18 5QG.

For more information and to register, please contact **Julia Ssenooba** on,  
Tel no: **020 3260 7772 / 07960 755 191** Email: [julia@hercentre.org](mailto:julia@hercentre.org)

### Weekly One Stop Shop for Women Experiencing Abuse

Her Centre runs a weekly one-to-one drop-in offering practical, emotional, and legal support to women affected by abuse.

The service is free and confidential with advisors from the Her Centre, and Solicitor Angela Simpson from Hudgell & Partners.

For DV Advice, call Winsom on 07538 534981.

For Legal Advice, call Angela from Hudgell & Partners on, 020 3096 6843.

Alternatively, you call us on **0203 260 7772** to make an appointment for advice

**For urgent advice call the Greenwich DV helpline on, 0208 317 8273.**

**Buses (161,177, 180, 472), DLR and Train to Woolwich**

### Her Centre's ESOL Classes

HER Centre offers free weekly English language classes for Non-English speaking women.

No classes during School Holidays / Creche Facility Available

For more information and to register, please contact **Julia Ssenooba** on,

**Tel no: 020 3260 7772 / 07960 755 191**

**Email: [julia@hercentre.org](mailto:julia@hercentre.org)**

### NVR Parenting Programme

Her Centre now offers a programme to support mothers with children who are displaying problematic behaviours as a result of living with domestic abuse.

Our Parenting Programme runs for 10 sessions and is absolutely free and confidential.

For more information and to register, please contact **Lisa Boston** on,

**Tel no: 020 3260 7772 / 07484 093599**

**Email: [Lisa@hercentre.org](mailto:Lisa@hercentre.org)**

### Her Centre's, IT Course for the Beginners

Her Centre will be running women's IT Class for beginners (*Date to be Confirmed Later*)

For more information and to register, please contact **Julia Ssenooba** on,

**Tel no: 020 3260 7772 / 07960 755 191**

**Email: [julia@hercentre.org](mailto:julia@hercentre.org)**

## **Renewal of Housing IDVA Post**

It's been a pretty positive year for our Housing Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA). We deservedly secured another year's funding for our two Housing Advocates. We now have two full-time IDVAs to support clients with housing support needs. One IDVA works directly with Housing Inclusion and the second IDVA works in the Community and takes referrals from tenancy. The IDVA supporting Housing Inclusion currently attends Housing at the Woolwich centre once a week and attendance will increase soon depending on the easing of the lockdown and social distancing measures in place. Prior to the lockdown, attendance was 4 days a week.

Her role is to assess clients approaching housing and experiencing domestic abuse or with a history of domestic abuse. She provides them with basic housing advice including a refuge search and emotional support. She also offers them IDVA support (*if they are assessed as High risk*) which includes safety planning and referrals to the appropriate professionals that would provide specialist support e.g., family legal matters including Non-Molestation Order, Occupation Order, Prohibited Steps Order, Contact Order, Child Arrangement Order, and other civil remedies. This is done through our one stop shop which operates every Friday between 10am and 12noon on a first come first serve basis to see a family solicitor. She also refers them to Her Centre counselling services.

Our Community Housing IDVA is currently based in our offices because of the lockdown measures. Depending on the easing of the lockdown she would be attending the Migrant Hub in Woolwich Common once a week supporting women experiencing domestic abuse and placed in temporary accommodation, attending the advice hub that used to be held every Friday in the Clockhouse.

She also provides IDVA support like what the Housing Inclusion IDVA offers to clients.

During this pandemic we have seen a high increase in women with immigration problems fleeing Domestic Abuse and the IDVA's do support them with applications to the Home Office for Destitution Domestic Violence Concession, Change of Circumstances, and referral to immigration solicitor for Indefinite Leave Remain. The DDVC and CoC applications allow the clients claim welfare benefits to enable them to move forward with their lives free from abuse.

The Housing IDVAs have been very busy throughout the pandemic and are now open to face-to-face support with clients. We are looking forward to providing for full face-to-face support to clients as well as accompanying them to court. We are looking forward to returning to some form of normality in providing support to our clients.

## **Donations**

**Her Centre greatly appreciates donations to help us continue our work supporting women.**

**Donations can be made online at**

**Virgin giving OR via JustTextGiving: simply text the code HERS11 plus £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10  
(e.g., HERS11£5) to 70070**

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