

## Role of a Hospital IDVA

**For many men and women who experience domestic violence and abuse, hospitals often represent the one place where it is possible for them to talk about their experiences safely.**

The role of the IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) in the hospital setting is to provide Independent advice and advocacy to all victims of domestic abuse. IDVAs will assess the level of risk and invite the patient to explore what they want to do.

### **For patients, IDVA's can:**

Talk through a process of practical safety and support planning including crisis intervention.

Help patients - to decide if they wish to report to the police and provide information about legal and civil remedies.

Arrange for ongoing support if the patient wants to seek protection through the criminal and civil justice systems.

Support patients through the MARAC (Multi agency risk assessment conference) process, acting as their 'voice' in MARAC meetings.

Act as a central point for other involved agencies.

Provide empathy and understanding.

Enable them to access other services provided by West Mercia Women's Aid or other specialist providers in order to assist the patient to understand and come to terms with their experiences and move towards a safer future.

Signpost and/or refer to other agencies that are able to meet the needs of the patient.

### **For staff, IDVA's can offer:**

Information and advice about domestic abuse including awareness raising and training so that you feel confident to ask about domestic abuse.

Point of contact to discuss your concerns and issues.

A bespoke package of support for staff suffering from domestic abuse.

**Working Together we can make a difference!**

**(West Mercia Women's Aid are the domestic abuse lead specialist agency in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire)**