

Social Prescribing 'Plan on a Page'



Why is the project needed?

There is increasing recognition that poor mental health and complex social needs, including isolation and loneliness, adversely affect health, wellbeing and resilience. As a result, there is a growing interest in the potential role of non-clinical interventions, often described as 'social prescribing'. Nationally, Welsh Government has recognised the potential of social prescribing with it featuring across a number of policies and strategies including Together for Mental Health delivery plan (2019-2022) and Connected Communities: a strategy for tackling loneliness and social isolation and building stronger connections. Within the Connected Communities strategy sit four key deliverables for social prescribing.

What is the scope of the project?

In order to further support the development of social prescribing schemes across Wales, through the Strategic Programme for Primary Care, we will:

- Work with Regional Partnership Boards to identify the number and functions of social prescribing roles across Wales.
- Develop a national skills and competency framework for the social prescribing workforce in Wales.
- Develop and launch an online resource portal to support social prescribing activities in Wales.
- Continue to work in partnership to develop the evidence base and an outcomes framework for social prescribing.

The scope of this project is:

- To understand the social prescribing landscape in Wales and the types of social prescribing projects currently ongoing or planned.
- To coordinate the delivery of the four Connected Communities deliverables.
- To support the development of Welsh Government's *national framework for social prescribing*.
- To support building systems understanding of the role of social prescribing in the mental health and wellbeing agenda.
- To enable Primary Care to engage with social prescribing by supporting the development of quality standards, governance and training.

Key deliverables

- Co-ordination of the four social prescribing deliverables under the Connected Communities Strategy
- Working collaboratively across PHW to develop shared understanding of the spectrum of wellbeing activity/ social prescribing/ mental health tier 0/1 services
- Successful grant collaboration between PHW and WHISCC and completion of social prescribing mapping in Wales overseen by the multi-agency steering group
- Development of a logic model for social prescribing to inform a *national framework*
- Collaborative publication with key partners across sectors on recommendations to inform the developments of a national framework for social prescribing.

Key risks

- Lack of capacity from partners in social prescribing to engage in work during 2021/22
- National strategic direction for social prescribing within new government priorities
- Ongoing uncertainty regarding Covid pandemic and its consequences.

Outcome/Success criteria:

- Timely completion of the key deliverables.
- Evidence of adoption of key recommendations drawn from grant collaboration included in Welsh Government's development of the national framework
- Successful engagement of primary care with the national framework for social prescribing
- Improved physical and mental health and wellbeing outcomes in the Welsh population

When will the project be delivered?

- Development of logic model to inform the national framework Q1/Q2
- Mapping of social prescribing activity in Wales Q2
- Coordinating the delivery of the four connected communities deliverables through 2021/22
- Collaborative publication to inform national framework Q3/Q4

Who will be delivering the project?

DPCC Lead: Julie Denley

DPH Co-Lead: DPH Sarah Aitken

Named Project Manager: Amrita Jesurasa

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