

HOW TO FIND YOUR LOCAL SOCIAL PRESCRIBING SERVICE

If you are a professional working in the heritage, arts and culture, nature or physical activity sectors, you may want to connect to your local social prescribing service.

But how do you find out who the best person to talk to is?

Social Prescribing Link Workers - sometimes also known as Social Prescribers or Community Connectors - operate in different ways.

NHS Link Workers

Health-based Social Prescribing Link Workers are usually based within the local Primary Care Network, and may be hosted in local GP surgeries or medical practices. In some places, other health professionals may also refer people to community projects - including care navigators, or health and wellbeing coaches.

Ask your GP, nurse or receptionist at your local medical practice or pharmacy about the local social prescribing service. Some social prescribing services may also have their own webpages.

Community-based Link Workers

Community-based Social Prescribing Link Workers can be hosted or employed by a charity voluntary organisation. Some provide a range of services in the community. Others may offer more specific support, focused on particular needs (for example, mental health) or age-groups (for example, children and young people).

Start by contacting your local CVS (community and voluntary service umbrella body) and ask them about social prescribing services that they are aware of locally.

Local authorities and social prescribing teams

Some places have social prescribing teams and services supported by local authorities, usually based in their city or town councils. If you have any contacts in the local council, ask them about social prescribing services. If you don't, start by exploring public health and adult social care departments.

Other roles

There are also other community-based roles that carry out a form of social prescribing, which may have different job titles - for example, Mental Health Navigators, charity workers or buddies. Faith leaders, youth workers and others also connect people to activities and support, and it may be worth engaging with them as well.

When you have made contact

Once you establish a contact with local social prescribers, try to find out what their main needs are, what sort of clients they have the most and which activities are in demand.

Use our [conversation prompts](#) to help you plan the conversation. [Link to For heritage professionals: conversation prompts when meeting Link Workers]

Use our [mapping template](#) to record the types of referrals that they usually work with (e.g. from GPs, social care or charities); the groups of clients in most need; and any specific support that is in demand.

This will help you understand if your wellbeing provision could be offered for social prescribing, and what is needed in order for this to happen.