

Social Prescribing for Children and Young People

A summary of findings from our recent snapshot survey

Introduction

In 2022, the National Academy for Social Prescribing, in partnership with NHS England, undertook a survey to produce a snapshot of social prescribing for children and young people (CYPSP). The snapshot survey aimed to understand current CYPSP activities, with a focus on barriers and enablers to setting up CYPSP schemes, to address the need for further evidence on CYPSP identified by our [rapid evidence review](#).

We received 208 responses to the survey. Most of the responses were from link workers and social prescribing activity providers. We also had responses from scheme coordinators, commissioners, and referrers.

The findings gave us insights into CYPSP, helping us to understand what services are available, who they target, where they are accessed, how they are funded, and who is involved in their delivery.

Findings

- More than half (54%) of respondents reported that CYPSP was available locally, but 45% of these services had only been launched within the previous year.
- Services for CYP are being delivered through both specialist CYP services and all age services.
- Most services were working with 12-18-year-olds. Link workers reported feeling less confident working with younger people and families.
- A broad range of venues are being used for social prescribing, with the majority reporting delivery happening in schools and community settings.
- VCSE, primary care and local authority stakeholders were equally represented in these services, but stakeholders representing CAMHS, education, and legal welfare services were not yet equally represented.
- The challenges reported included uncertainty about who is responsible for funding and implementation of these services and the need for better ways to share information between agencies and referral routes, disseminate best practice, and create communities of practice.

Next steps

The findings from this snapshot survey provide insight into current CYPSP activities in England. It has shown that there is an opportunity to better engage with those involved at all stages of planning and delivering CYP social prescribing.

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