



National
Academy
for Social
Prescribing

Supporting Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to maximise the value of Social Prescribing

About the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP)

The National Academy of Social Prescribing is a charity funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to advocate for social prescribing, by developing guidance, sharing knowledge and best practice in order to advance social prescribing. It is our core purpose to ensure consistency and high quality social prescribing is delivered at scale and will therefore support to implement NHS England (NHSE) Social Prescribing best practice and Community Based Support guidance.

Social Prescribing and value to PCNs

Social prescribing provides a way for health and care systems to connect people to community-based activities and support to address practical, emotional and social issues affecting their health and wellbeing.

The 2019 [NHS Long Term Plan](#) committed to rolling out social prescribing across primary care networks in England via the roll out of social prescribing link workers. There are now nearly 4000 Additional Role Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) funded link workers in England, therefore focusing on workforce recruitment, retention and development are essential to ensure high quality social prescribing delivery that can demonstrate the desired outcomes such as positive economic impact and reduce burden on NHS.

NASP are fully committed in supporting Primary Care Networks (PCNs) to realise the full value of mature social prescribing. We have strategic partnerships with national bodies including NHSE, NAVCA, Natural England, Arts Council England, Sport England and Independent Age, and so are uniquely positioned to enable PCNs to embed, deliver and advance social prescribing.

NASP Core PCN offer

Our offer to PCNs is resourced through our DHSC funding, and therefore at no cost to systems. We offer our internal faculty, including Senior Advisors to support and access a wide range of resources and support to lead, commission, deliver and evaluate social prescribing. We will offer any PCN a complimentary one hour meeting to Clinical Directors and PCN Managers to understand how we can support with the below offers.

Workforce development, recruitment and retention

- NASP will undertake a stocktake of social prescribing workforce numbers (both ARRS and non ARRS funded roles), identifying gaps and identifying challenges within the PCN (and/or place) level.

- Advice and guidance on embedding link workers in integrated neighbourhood teams
- Advice and guidance on workforce recruitment, specifically on how to maximise ARRS allocations on social prescribing link workers to use local population needs, including NASP existing specialist social prescribing guidance that include (and not limited to):
 - Financial Wellbeing and Advice
 - Physical Activity
 - Mental Health
 - Green Social Prescribing
- Advice and guidance on workforce retention and development that includes:
 - Guidance of the NASP Induction pack
- Support with nominating a Social Prescribing Champion in the PCN to increase knowledge, awareness and support for social prescribing across the health and care system.
- Wider workforce infrastructure (buddies, volunteers, men's sheds connectors) support through guidance such as community connector toolkit guidance.
- Complimentary training module to all link workers upon engagement of our NASP offer and nomination of PCN SP Champion, with discounted rates to our range of link worker training and learning offers.

Strategic development

- Advice and guidance on recognising opportunities in PCN DES contract such as QOF.
- Access and participation to webinars, conferences, digital guides, communities of practice and Innovation Network.
- Access to guidance for Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprises (VCFSE) providers to measure the impact of their social prescribing services and activities to enable more robust reporting.

Knowledge share

- Access to guidance documents and webinars such as:
 - Population Health Management
 - CORE20PLUS5 & SP

To book an introductory meeting with a member of the team and discuss how we are able to support please contact:

workforce@nasp.info