



**Transformation  
Partners**  
in Health and Care

Case Study 1  
**Community Chests for  
Social Prescribing**

# Connect for Health

## Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG



**CONNECT  
for health**  
Being Well Together

## Summary

Connect for Health operates across 41 GP surgeries throughout Ipswich. The programme is supported by a Community Chest (CC) to ensure that money goes where there is demand and need within the local community.

<b>Total funding</b>	<b>Fund size per area</b>	<b>Award size</b>
<b>£120k</b>	<b>£15-20k</b>	<b>£2k-15k</b>
<b>CCG Funding</b>	<b>for 8 neighbourhood areas</b>	<b>per org</b>

### Who funds the Community Chest?

Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG. Funding is then distributed to the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INT) who award it.

### Who runs it?

The CC is operationalised at neighbourhood level by Integrated Neighbourhood Teams comprised of: GPs, Secondary Care, Social Prescribers, Adult Community Services, Community Health, Police, mental health, District & borough teams, and VCSE partners. The Black and Minority Ethnic CC is operationalised in the community by local BAME groups.

### Who is the fund for?

- Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations.
- Smaller and more informal organisations and groups who accept referrals/warm handovers as part of social prescribing.
- New groups or organisations that need to be created when a gap in provision has been identified.
- There is a dedicated Community Chest fund for the BAME community.

### How does it work?

- Funding allocation is agreed by an existing INT Steering Group who meet monthly.
- Funding is based on the number of introductions being made to VCSE organisations through social prescribing as recorded by SPLW's.
- There is a focus on services with high demand on waiting lists.
- There is no application process - funding is allocated through existing data and intelligence.
- Monitoring and evaluation is light touch and logged by SPLW's through SYSTEM ONE. It is conducted both pre and post programme and supported by the CCG Business Intelligence Team.

## What was funded?



Local community transport groups

Befriending scheme

Men's sheds and Good Neighbour Programme

Local citizens advice and disability advice service

Local carers support charity

Green social prescribing (Green Light Trust)

Bereavement care service

Mental health service (Suffolk Mind)

Culturally sensitive swimming group (Kurdish community)



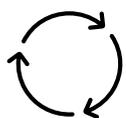
## Innovations



**Shared decision-making** enables ownership of the fund at place-based level.



**Integration of the fund at INT and CCG level** facilitates multi-level stakeholder involvement and combined understanding of local and regional needs.



**Sustainability of funding** on a three-year basis allows for development and integration of the CC as part of Connect for Health's delivery contract.

## Learnings

- The first year required robust monitoring and evaluation to show a demonstrable impact on the system in order to justify multi-year funding cycles.
- There is a need to better develop commissioning based on population size and demand - relating to deprivation, COVID and health inequalities.
- Not all INT structures map over the CCG areas neatly - there are huge variations across the ICS, which require some tailoring to approaches in different areas.
- Running the CC through the INT promotes a greater awareness of social prescribing.
- Funding mostly goes to existing organisations, but has identified some clear gaps in services.