

HBD Women's Health Network (SPIP40) – Ruth Vidal-Tunkar, Cheryl Alfred

(SPLW, PCN Project Support Assistant)

AIM: To proactively support cohorts to access SP, specifically patients with material/social issues & wellbeing/mental issues, enabling SP services to be more holistic.

Target goals/outcomes:

1. Create a more holistic and unified approach to proactively support cohorts of patients to access a range of social prescribing and health interventions
2. Address the barriers to offering a more transformative Social Prescribing service within primary care

Highlights:

- Positive feedback from attendees, GPs and a pharmacist who's supported two sessions
- Enabling effective cross sector partnership working
- Space to build relationships with other patients, peer support encouraged

Impact:

- Held **12 Women's Health Network sessions** since October & seven more scheduled before end of June
- Invited people known to the service, those on waiting lists & specific cohorts
- **84% of attendees** reported that their first contact with Link Workers was at one of the sessions
- Led to a **reduction from 6 to 3 weeks in waiting list times** at busiest practice since October 2022 through engaging those on the waiting list via these sessions
- **Patient reach increased by 50%** (225 patients) over the last 6 month period
- Built capacity through group working, collaborating with community partners and encouraging peer support which lessens the dependency on link worker support
- Spearheaded collaboration and co-design with **clinical colleagues and community organisations**
- **Secured additional funding** to continue sessions from **April to end of June 2023.**