

PERSONALISED CARE FOR LONDON

Social prescribing and evaluation CoP proposal
*Supporting the system to evaluate and demonstrate
impact*



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The issue:

- Evaluating and demonstrating the impact of social prescribing services is frequently mentioned in various existing meetings, but there is not a designated slot to discuss and share further.
- We receive regular requests for support or information on what is happening across London in terms of evaluation and impact.
- We are aware of ongoing work and resources to support evaluation of SP services, but this is not stored or shared in a systematic way.

What we've heard so far...

We hosted an initial meeting with people interested in evaluating social prescribing including:

- Training hub ICS leads
- SP borough leads
- ICS personalised care leads
- National Social Prescribing team colleagues who lead on data and evaluation
- NASP colleagues who lead on SP and evaluation
- Social prescribing link workers and managers
- Local authority colleagues running evaluations of SP services
- VCSE umbrella activity provider organisations

A detailed summary of the meeting's themes can be found [here](#)

We had 14 colleagues attend, coming from a national, regional, borough, PCN, ICS, Training hub and Local authority perspective and from 4/5 of the London ICSs.

We all shared:

- What work we are doing in terms of SP and evaluation
- Current challenges in this area
- What we'd like to gain from a CoP around SP and evaluation in London

This was to inform whether a CoP meeting would be valued by colleagues in London and if so, what would we like to gain.

What's next?

The top things that were perceived as useful from a CoP were:

1. Creating consistency in evaluation and demonstrating impact
2. Focusing on the wider strategic vision behind evaluation of SP services
3. Enabling leadership and infrastructure around SP and evaluation

The solution:

- Develop a CoP for Social prescribing and evaluation to:
 - Create a space to discuss issues impacting evaluation in London, share resources and work
 - Bring people together who can play a role in supporting SP services in London to evaluate and demonstrate their impact

Proposed CoP purpose and scope

Purpose:

Bring people across the social prescribing system together who are invested in **enabling PCNs and social prescribing services to evaluate and demonstrate their impact.**

Aims:

- Join up existing work which supports the system to evaluate
- Shape regional and national work supporting SP evaluation to be most useful
- Have themed discussions around the major topics impacting the London systems ability to evaluate SP and demonstrate its impact

Outcomes:

- Work shared regularly between the system, region and national, there is better understanding of what is happening and greater collaboration
- Co-produced outputs developed to support the system to evaluate
- Greater understanding of what is needed to tackle the specific issues impacting evaluation, ways to overcome these are shared or developed

Who will be involved as core members (10-14 members):

People who have knowledge, skills or experience in one or more of the following:

- Evaluation or reporting from social prescribing services
- Solving challenges around SP and evaluation at the practice, PCN and SP service level
- Implementing, supporting or improving social prescribing in primary care

Additional/visiting members may include:

- Data/evaluation experts
- People wanting to gain experience in SP and evaluation
- People with examples of evaluation across the NHS that are relevant to SP e.g. public health
- Patient voice/lived experience

Proposed CoP meeting structure

- Monthly, 1hr
- Regular core members + additional depending on topic
- Breakout rooms for discussions if >5 people in attendance
- Topic idea for next meet shared and agreed in last meeting

Item	Time
Welcome, any new faces	5 minutes
Updates from region/national/members	10 min
Guest or member speaker (sets theme)	10 min
Question-led discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion in groups of question given (15 min)• Feedback suggestions back to group and record (15 min)	30 min
AOB + next theme	5 min

Zooming in on the question-led discussions

Our goal is: **Enabling PCNs and social prescribing services to evaluate and demonstrate their impact.**

What questions do we need to answer to do this?

What would make a good themed question?

- Speaks to a widespread area of challenge
- Leads to suggested action
- Within the group's power to influence
- Supports our goal

Intended outcomes of question-led discussions:

- Greater understanding of what is needed to tackle specific issues impacting evaluation
- Suggested ways to overcome these is either shared with the system or work projects developed
- Individual group members may have actions to share work, connect people, meet up or scope projects as a result

Example questions:

1. How can we encourage local evaluations?
2. How can we support use of different data sources in evaluating SP e.g. GP IT system, SP system, public health data.
3. What impacts to measure are most important? How can we influence PCNs to measure these?
4. How do we improve skills to evaluate among social prescribing link workers?