

Provision of a Social Prescribing Service to Primary Care Networks

Expression of Interest – Stage 1

Purpose of the document

A Sefton-wide social prescribing group, with representation from many partners organisations, including members of the VCF advisory group, was established earlier this year to look at a strategic approach to social prescribing and more recently to consider how to develop a proposal for PCN social prescribing link workers, which builds on the strength of the local VCF sector and existing initiatives already in place. This group reports into the Sefton Health and Care Transformation Programme via the Sefton Provider Alliance and has provided updates to the newly formed VCF advisory group.

A smaller subgroup has taken this work forward in detail, in order to propose a VCF led approach for Sefton PCNs to consider. As a result of this proposal, all PCNs in Sefton have indicated that they are keen to work with Sefton CVS in conjunction with other local VCF sector organisations and would like to reach agreement with them for the provision of a local social prescribing link worker service.

In order to progress this approach, on behalf of the this group Sefton CVS would like to seek expressions of interest from Sefton based voluntary sector partners with a strong delivery record to employ one or more ‘social prescribing link workers’ (Link Workers) to join the Living Well Sefton Partnership (which is managed by Sefton CVS) in providing a social prescribing service to Primary Care Networks in Sefton.

Background

From July 2019, NHS England are making funding available for Primary Care Networks, through the national GP contract, for the creation of 7.5 Link Workers who will work across the 7 Primary Care Networks in Sefton.

A Primary Care Network (PCN) consist of groups of general practices working together with a range of local providers, including across primary care, community services, social care and the voluntary sector to offer more personalised, coordinated health and social care to their local population. Each PCN serves a patient population of between 30 and 50k; PCNs in Sefton are based on the 8 CCG localities with a population of 30-50k, although in Crosby and Maghull the PCN covers two localities therefore giving 7 Primary Care Networks in Sefton.

Primary Care Networks are an integral part of the recently published NHS Long-Term Plan which introduces this new role of social prescribing link workers into their multi-disciplinary teams as part of the expansion to the primary care workforce. This is an opportunity to work collaboratively with these developing PCNs to establish this new role and shape social prescribing in Sefton.

NHS England published the document 'Social prescribing and community based support: Summary guide' in January 2019 and describes social prescribing as, "Social prescribing empowers people to take control of their health and wellbeing through referral to Link Workers who give time, focus on 'what matters to me' and takes a holistic approach to an individual's health and wellbeing, connecting people to community groups and statutory services for practical and emotional support".

The summary guidance from NHS England and further information is available here <https://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/social-prescribing/>. The guidance also provides a national specification for the Link Worker role but this will be adapted to meet local need in partnership with the PCNs.

NHS England have committed to the reimbursement of 100% of the actual ongoing salary costs. The local salary is likely to be set at £25,000 plus on costs, based on NHS Agenda for Change scales at Band 5. Additionally, the CCGs have secured some regional funding to provide some one-off support to partners to contribute to the set up costs associated with the service.

Key actions of the Social Prescribing Link Worker (from National Guidance)

- Introduce people to a broad range of community groups and services outside of their own organisations
- Recognise wider determinants of health
- Value 'what matters to me'
- Draw up personalised care and support plan
- Safeguard vulnerable individuals
- Work in partnership
- Keep accurate records
- Measure impact
- Each practice must identify a named person within the practice who will be the first point of contact for the Link Worker.
- Link Workers will be required to meet on a regular basis with PCNs to ensure the workers are supported effectively and that there is regular feedback on the work.
- The Link Worker will regularly connect with the other Link Workers to facilitate learning and reflective practice.

- The Link Worker will be required to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
- There is also a requirement to ensure that Link Workers receive training and support from the PCN.
- There will be online learning platforms provided by the NHS as well as regular webinars with other link workers. There will also be regional social prescribing networks.
- Link Workers will draw up a simple personalised care and support plan for those who access the service.
- Everyone who is referred to the social prescribing Link Worker should be asked at regular intervals to give feedback on the impact of social prescribing on their personal wellbeing.
- The Link Worker will use a strength based model and there is a range of measurement tools that can be utilised to identify level of support required as well as the impact of the intervention.
- Link Workers are expected to see approximately 250 people throughout the year.
- There is an expectation that there may be between 6 – 12 contacts with an individual referred to the Link Worker.
- There is a quality assurance aspect to the Link Workers role to ensure that any referrals made are to services that have appropriate policies and procedures in place.
- Referrals will come from PCN members within the first year expanding from 2020/21 to take referrals from a wide range of agencies.
- Monitoring and Evaluation data will be required to enable a consistent national dataset can be developed.

Employing organisations will be expected to have appropriate business continuity plans including provision for sickness and holiday cover with an expectation that partners will work flexibly to support service provision across the social prescribing team. The initial contract will run for 2 years with an option to extend.

The social prescribing model for Sefton

It is proposed that:

- Sefton CVS will coordinate and support the delivery of a cohesive and coordinated social prescribing programme as part of the Living Well Sefton partnership, linking seamlessly with the wider Living Well Sefton offer.
- The Link workers may be based in practices or a local setting depending on the space or preference, as agreed by the PCN.
- Link Workers will be recruited by the most appropriate, quality assured voluntary sector organisations active within the Primary Care Network area. The job role would be based on the national example, adapted to local need. These workers will bring

with them very local and thematic expertise and their employing organisations will become key delivery partners of Living Well Sefton.

- Line management will be provided by the employing organisation, training and peer support will be provided through Living Well Sefton although GP supervision would also be required as per the guidance.
- The service would have common governance, performance management and reporting structures and take advantage of the proven infrastructure developed in the first 3 years of the Living Well Sefton programme.
- Performance and outcomes for the link worker would be agreed with the PCNs in line with national GP contract requirements
- Employing organisations would use the bespoke integrated wellness service database which is fully compatible with EmisWeb, with plans in place to enable workers to access EmisWeb as well as make secure referrals to a wide range of Living Well Sefton partners. This will be further developed in conjunction with Primary Care Networks.
- As the service develops, the model also looks to support the sustainability and resilience of wider VCF services.

A referral pathway flowchart is shown in Figure 1.

It is the intention to develop a model of excellence in social prescribing that is consistently good across the borough and that encompasses the broad community asset base in Sefton.

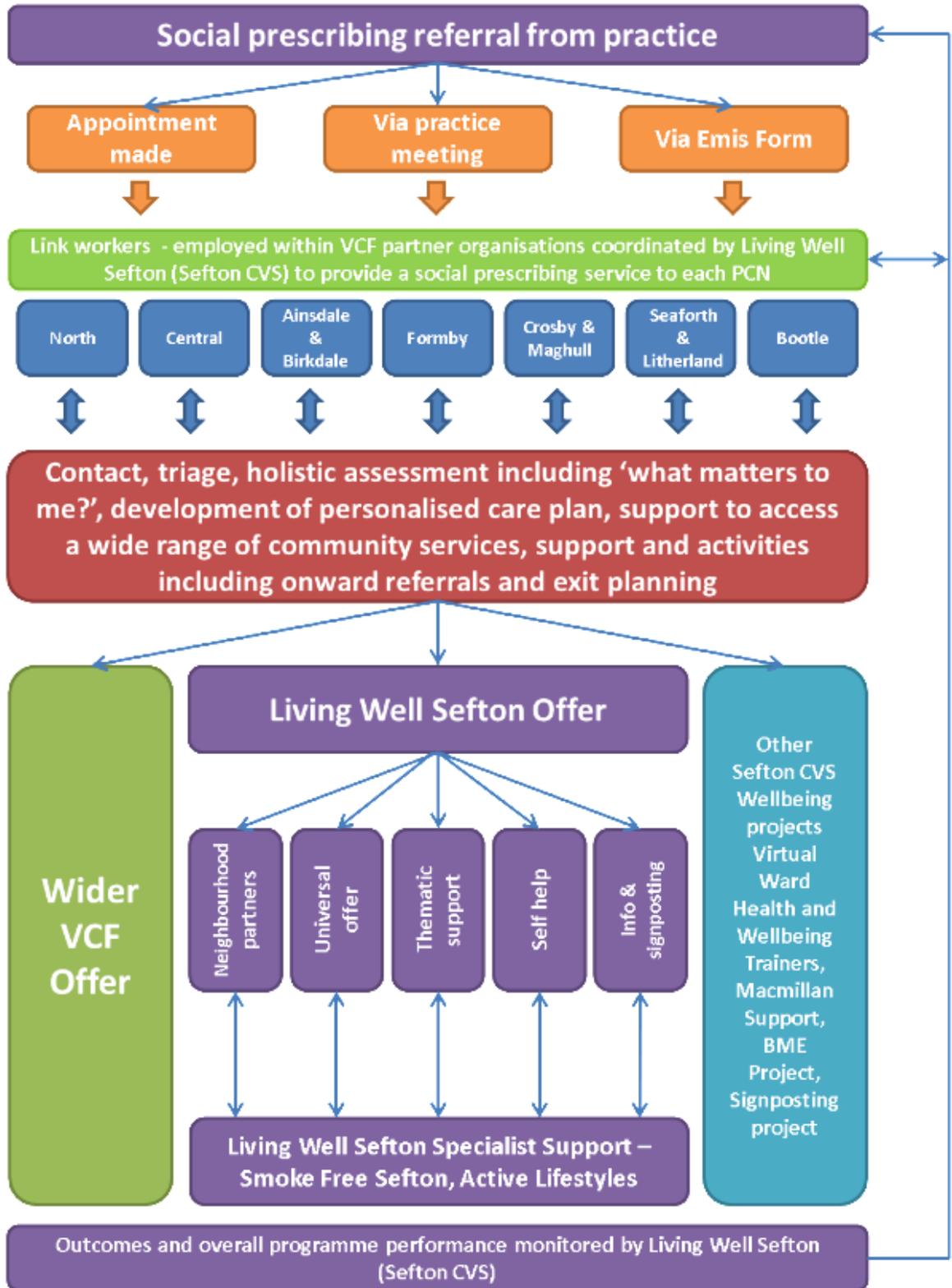


Figure 1. Proposed social prescribing model, incorporating Link worker into the Living Well Sefton partnership

Completing the form

This form is a first stage expression of interest, further information will be provided at stage 2. Where specified, word counts should not be exceeded. Any words outside of the specified count may not be considered. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel consisting of a representative of Sefton CVS, the Living Well Sefton Programme Manager, a voluntary sector representative from the ‘Sefton Social Prescribing Group,’ together with representation from the Primary Care Networks (Network Managers and or GP representatives where possible) and Sefton CCGs. All sections of the form must be completed, incomplete forms will not be considered.

Completed forms should be returned to socialprescribing@seftoncv.org.uk by **12 noon Friday 9th August.**

1. Applicant details

Name of your organisation	
Address & Postcode	
Telephone	

Contact name	
e-mail (for lead contact)	

2. Work in Sefton

Partners will be expected to have several years experience of working in the borough. How long has your organisation been working Sefton?	Years
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3. Outline of current service delivery

Please provide a brief outline of the commissioned and non-commissioned services you currently deliver in Sefton (300 words)	
Commissioned	

Non-Commissioned	
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4. Primary Care Networks

Please mark which Primary Care Networks you are interested in providing a social prescribing service to (you may select more than one PCN)						
North	Central	Ainsdale and Birkdale	Formby	Crosby and Maghull	Seaforth and Litherland	Bootle

5. Current work in the identified areas

<p>Please briefly outline your organisation’s current work within the PCN area identified above (<u>max 150 words</u>)</p>

6. Skills and Experience

<p>Please briefly outline your organisation’s expertise and experience in Sefton that will enable you to contribute to the successful delivery of a social prescribing service (<u>max 300 words</u>)</p>

7. Partnership working and signposting

Please briefly outline your organisation's experience of partnership working in Sefton, including acting as a signposting and referral agent of other organisations and services (max 300 words)

8. Information governance and sensitive data

The social prescribing service will involve handling sensitive patient information and using secure data systems. Please briefly outline your organisation's experience of handling sensitive data. What policies and quality assurance practices to do have in place that ensure data is handled appropriately (max 300 words)

9. Policies and procedures

Please confirm you have the following policies and procedures

Policy	Y/N	Date last reviewed
Equality and diversity policy		
Health and Safety policy		
Safeguarding policy		
Complaints policy		
Information governance policy		
Process for dealing with bullying and harassment		

10. Insurances

Please confirm you have the following insurances in place		
Policy	Y/N	Date last reviewed
Public liability insurance		
Employer's liability insurance		
Professional indemnity insurance		

11. Declaration

This Expression of Interest (EOI) forms the first stage of the application process to join Living Well Sefton in delivering a social prescribing service to PCNs.

Subsequent stages of the application process will be made by invitation from Sefton CVS on behalf of the Primary Care Networks.

Declaration	
1. I am authorised to make this expression of interest on behalf of my organisation 2. I confirm that the information contained in this expression of interest is correct	
Signed	
Name (in capitals)	
Position	
Date	

Please return this form to socialprescribing@seftoncv.org.uk by 5pm on Monday 12th August

Please note, organisations that are successful in Stage 1 of this process will need to provide further information as part of our due diligence processes.

The decision of the panel is final and there is no appeals process.

If there are any questions about the programme or this expression of interest, they should be directed to the above email address.