

Chichester District Council

Overview and Scrutiny

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Social Prescribing

1. Contacts

Report Author

Elaine Thomas – Community Wellbeing Manager

Telephone: 01243 534588 E-mail: ethomas@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation

2.1 The committee is requested to consider the Chichester Social Prescribing report for year 1 and to note the following:

1. The progress and success of year 1 of the service
2. Outcomes of the service and agree next steps in the evaluation report

3. Background

- 3.1 Social Prescribing is a GP based service receiving referrals for clients who regularly attend medical appointments for nonmedical issues. The Social Prescriber acts as a bridge between healthcare professionals and local services/activities. They work with people to understand a wide range of issues (problems and strengths) and find and connect them to services/activities in their local community.
- 3.2 The Chichester Social Prescribing service has been operational since July 2018 and is a partnership project with Chichester District Council and Rural North and Chichester Local Community Networks. The service is hosted by Chichester District Council and sits alongside the Wellbeing team within the Housing & Communities Directorate. It is jointly funded for two years (2018 – 2020) by Chichester District Council, Chichester and Rural North Chichester GPs, Clarion Housing, A2 Dominion housing provider, Friends of Midhurst Community Hospital and Chichester City Council.
- 3.3 The team of 4.5 FTE Community Referrers employed by Chichester District Council are based in GP practices across the district. They are embedded as part of the primary care teams and receive referrals from GPs and other practice staff.

4. Outcomes summary

- 4.1 The team received 596 referrals during their first year from GP practices across the district primarily for support with housing, benefits advice, money and debt advice, employment and training, and social isolation.
- 4.2 Many referrals received are for people who have complex lives, mental health problems, generally struggle to cope and who require significant support to access services. The team have been able to work with these people on a one to one basis supporting them to access council services as well as other statutory and voluntary sector agencies for support. The case studies within the full evaluation report illustrate the complexity of some of the cases and the outcomes that the team have achieved for people.
- 4.3 Whilst it is too soon to comment on longer term outcomes, anecdotally, it appears that GPs are seeing the people they have referred to the service for fewer or more appropriate consultations which are more of a medical nature rather than the social issues they were experiencing previously.
- 4.4 10% of clients were called and asked about their experience with Social Prescribing. Results show 100% positive outcomes. 79% of clients found the service to be "Very Useful", 21% of clients found the service to be "Useful".
- 4.5 It became clear early on that many clients referred to the service are housing association tenants and the majority of these are Hyde tenants. Hyde were approached and agreed to support the service with additional funding of £15,000 for 1 year to recruit a Social Prescriber to work specifically with Housing provider tenants, she started work in August 2019.
- 4.6 Funding from local charities was secured to support individuals. For example, £3,000, for two equine therapy programmes was secured from Chichester in Partnership and Chichester Rotary Club. Equine therapy is particularly useful for treating people with mental health problems. £1300 was secured from the Betty Martin Charity to fund a client's driving lessons and £5000 from Hyde for house clearance and deep cleanse following an extreme hoarding issue.
- 4.7 The team have been able to identify gaps in community services and report these to commissioning bodies and other partners. It is important that commissioners recognise that Social Prescribing is essentially dealing with individuals who are either falling through the gaps or are not able to access services due to increased eligibility criteria.

5. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 5.1 Fundamentally, the Social Prescribers directly tackle health inequalities by working with Chichester residents who need the most support to access services. Clients are supported to achieve outcomes that improve their lives and to become more resilient

going forward and potentially less demanding on services. The Social Prescribers have been able to facilitate better joining up of services resulting in improved communication therefore improving the client journey. An example of this is the relationship with the council's housing team that has developed as a result of working with clients who are referred for housing related issues.

5.2 Corporately risks are associated with funding and sustainability of the service in the longer term. However, NHS England has committed 5 year funding for 2FTE posts in partnership with GP practices. The funding for these posts will come to CDC and the existing team will be able to apply for these posts. Furthermore, officers will take a report to cabinet in November to request onward CDC funding and approach partners to secure additional funding for the remaining posts.

6. Next steps

6.1 Nationally Social Prescribing is growing; it is recognised as a valuable resource for Primary Care and is a key feature in the 2019 NHS 10 year Long Term Plan. Alongside working to secure additional funding officers are working with Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group, GPs and the other Social Prescribing teams across West Sussex to develop a shared and consistent evaluation framework which will enable us to measure long term outcomes and value for money. In addition we will undertake the following actions:

- We will explore the possibility of the team having access to system one
- The Social Prescribers will attend practice meetings to help staff to better understand the role and benefits of Social Prescribing for patients and staff. In addition they will write a referral guide / pathway so that the referral process is clear
- We will recruit maternity cover for the Petworth / Midhurst Social Prescriber

7. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change and Biodiversity		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact	X	
Safeguarding and Early Help	X	
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing	X	

8. Appendices

Chichester Social Prescribing year 1 evaluation report

