

Chichester District Council

Cabinet

1 February 2022

Social Prescribing

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Cabinet agree a two year pilot for a Young Persons Social Prescriber

3. Background

- 3.1 It is widely recognised that Young People have been adversely impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, primarily due to interruptions in their education, lack of social connections and becoming isolated during national lockdowns. This has resulted in consistently higher levels of anxiety, depression, and loneliness than other age groups.
- 5.2 Following the success of adult focused Social Prescribing services, nationally Young People focused Social Prescribing services are starting to be developed in response to this emerging need and there is much interest in the ongoing development and evaluation of these services
- 5.3 Evidence and feedback from Young People and local service providers shows that intervention services for Young People have very long waiting times because of lockdowns during the pandemic. In addition, there is no single point of contact for Young People which leads to confusion about what is available and where to go for support.
- 5.3 Reductions in youth services in West Sussex means there are fewer prevention / early intervention services than ever before and with the need increasing, a Social Prescriber can provide this low-level support of signposting, information and advice. It is recognised that a level one intervention, such as Social Prescribing, could prevent an issue worsening and spiralling into the need for more formal support.
- 5.4 A Social Prescriber equipped with the skills to enable a Young Person to articulate themselves, focus on goals, increase resilience and coach into independence as they transition into adulthood will reduce longer term need for services and better outcomes for Young People.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- Develop a level one service targeting Young People in greatest need to reduce their need for longer term interventions from statutory services.
- Tackle new and emerging issues for Young People in the district resulting from the Covid 19 Pandemic
- Reduce inequalities in Young People
- Strengthen local partnerships delivering services to Young People
- Provide an evidence base to support future funding

5. Proposal

- 5.1 This report describes a proposal to develop a Social Prescribing service focusing on Young People in need of advice and support due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This will be a 2-year pilot project funded by a combination of partners, existing internal revenue budgets and reserves held by CDC.
- 5.2 Initially focusing on areas of the district where inequalities are identified, a Social Prescriber, trained in youth work, will work with partners to identify Young People aged 13 – 19yrs in need of support. They will receive referrals from a range of sources e.g. schools, GPs, VCS partners etc. They will work one to one or in small groups with young people to identify their goals and needs and support them to build confidence, resilience and access community groups and services.
- 5.3 The post holder will help to research and design the service based on experience, best practice and advice from other areas of the UK and from local service providers. They will also consult with Young People themselves to identify how the service would best support their needs.
- 5.4 The post holder will sit alongside the current adult Social Prescribing team for parity, support, and management.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 This is a new project so at this time no other options have been considered

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no significant resource or legal implications associated with this project for the Council, costs are set out in the table below along with details of funding sources.
- 7.2 Oversight of the role will be included in the existing management structure.

Costs (£) 2022/23		Costs (£) 2023/24	Source 2022/23	Source 2023/24
One-Off	IT equipment £500	None	None	None
Revenue	Staff costs £32,159	Staff costs £32,492	£10,000 Hyde Housing Association	£10,000 Hyde Housing Association
	Operational budget £1000	Operational budget £1000	£10,000 Clarion Housing Association	£10,000 Clarion Housing Association
	Total £33,659	Total £33,492	£10,000 Community Safety Partnership Neighbourhoods grant (reserve held by CDC)	£10,000 Community Safety Partnership Neighbourhoods grant (reserve held by CDC)
			£5,000 Health & Wellbeing partnership (existing revenue budget) Total £35,000	£5,000 Health & Wellbeing partnership (existing revenue budget) Total £35,000
Savings	None	None	None	None
Services to be involved in the project delivery		Wellbeing, Social Prescribing Adult team,		

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Informal consultation with local providers of services to young people has been conducted. It is widely felt that there is a real need for this service and all providers are happy to work in partnership to help develop the service and provide referral routes for young people. In addition, evidence suggest that a Young Persons Social Prescriber can often make a big difference to a Young Persons life by contributing to the cost of small items e.g. sports kit so a small operational budget has been included in the plan.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 The impact on Young People in the Community, especially the targeted areas for the service, will be positive. The service is designed to prevent Young People needing to access statutory services for support by ensuring they are able to build resilience and problem solve before issues develop further.
- 9.2 Corporate risk is minimal, the management and development of the service will be provided within existing resources. There is also risk associated with sustainability after the two-year pilot period but there is much interest locally and nationally in Young Peoples Social Prescribing services and it is anticipated that with a growing evidence base, funding will become available in time. During the period of the pilot, we will work closely with similar services in West Sussex as they develop and with GPs to build evidence of effectiveness which will support bids for funding going forward.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder	The service will have a positive impact on crime by providing diversionary activities for young people	
Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation	Staff will be encouraged to use public transport, cycle or walk where appropriate when travelling	No
Human Rights and Equality Impact		No
Safeguarding and Early Help	The member of staff will be trained in safeguarding and will be in a position to identify any issues arising in the young people they work with.	
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		No
Health and Wellbeing	The service will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of Young People, especially those in the areas identified as areas of inequality	
Other (please specify)		

11. Appendices

None

12. Background Papers

None