

Bedford Borough Social Prescribing Service

Healthwatch Bedford Borough
Reference Group

8 March 2018



What is Social Prescribing?

“Enabling healthcare professionals to refer patients to a link worker, to co-design a non-clinical prescription to improve their health and wellbeing”

Social Prescribing Network Conference Report 2016

- An estimated 20% of patients consult their GP for what is primarily a welfare issue, including debt and housing
- The social prescribing referral pathway into link organisations has been piloted in areas throughout the country and shown to be effective



Setting the Scene

- STP Prevention Delivery Board proposed that social prescribing models should be developed and implemented across the whole STP footprint
- STP funding allocated for 2017/18 – awaiting confirmation of further funding
- Bedford Borough Social Prescribing model will expand the existing role of the BRCC Local Community Co-ordinators who currently work in Kingsbrook, Cauldwell, Queens Park, Goldington and Kempston Wards and potentially, Midland Road
- Working with CVS Bedfordshire to develop voluntary sector referral pathways

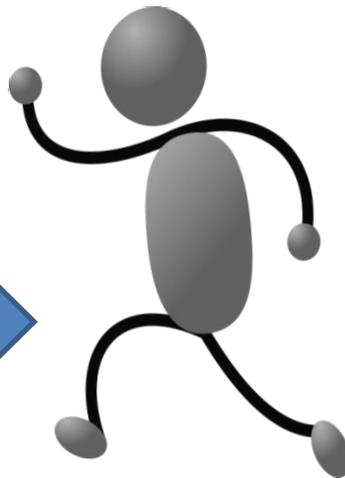
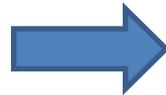


The Social Prescribing Model

There are 3 components to our Social Prescribing scheme:



A healthcare or social care professional who makes an initial referral



A Local Community Coordinator



A range of voluntary, community and social enterprise groups to which a person can be referred



Draft Bedford Borough Social Prescribing Model

Key points:

- Eligibility criteria i.e. mild to moderate anxiety and depression, including social isolation
- Referral form
- Client assigned to Local Community Coordinator
- Co-produced action plan
- Intervention(s)
- Monitoring and feedback
- Assessment of outcomes
- Post intervention follow-up



Role of the CVS

- To identify and support a network of community organisations to which the Coordinator can refer clients to
- To support smaller organisations to achieve a basic level of quality assurance, thereby ensuring clients are referred to safe and high quality services and support
- To develop and implement a small grants scheme for smaller voluntary organisations
- Community and Voluntary Sector Workshop planned for 19th March to introduce Social Prescribing



Referral to the Voluntary Sector

An agreement will be in place between the community / voluntary sector organisations and BRCC or CVS (to be determined), regarding service provision, cost and expectations

The referral will:

- Have the client's consent
- Be co-produced with the client
- State any special requirements the client may have
- Include the referring Community Coordinator's contact details
- Include expectations e.g. to meet the basic level of quality assurance, to provide client updates to BRCC



Any questions?

- “Making Sense of Social Prescribing”
<http://westminsterresearch.wmin.ac.uk/19629/>
- Workshop for voluntary and community groups as an introduction to Social Prescribing, 19th March, 10am to 12.30pm, Bunyan Meeting Rooms, Mill Street, Bedford

