

# 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Dear Friends,**

It's been a very busy couple of weeks on the Social Prescribing front and we wanted to update you on what we are doing behind the scenes here at the Social Prescribing Network, give you links to a reports and articles of interest and ask you to help us with information ...do read on! If you have a report or item you would like to circulate around the ever growing network, please contact [Nick Herbert](#) to arrange this.

## **What is the Social Prescribing Network up to?**

Amongst meeting with lots of new contacts, we have been having some very positive and strategic discussions with the public participation team at NHS England, on how NHS E and the SPN can support the implementation and roll out of Social Prescribing nationally, over the coming years. We are delighted to welcome Bev Taylor from this team on to our steering committee, to be a strategic link into the policy decisions and innovations that are happening within NHS England. But Bev has so much more to offer – see below for her biog.

*"I joined the Active Communities team in 2015 and I have worked with communities all my life. In the 90's, I worked locally in Bury, Lancashire, supporting self-help groups, setting up community care services and encouraging co-production. I've developed leadership programmes for voluntary sector staff and volunteers and from 2012-15, I co-led Regional Voices, a voluntary sector strategic partner to DH, PHE and NHS England. In this role, I worked closely with CQC, seeking feedback from the most under-served groups about the quality and safety of services, feeding this into CQC to shape local inspections."*

## **Michael Dixon, our Co-Chair, appointed by NHS England as the National Clinical Champion for Social Prescribing.**

This is great news and Michael is making links with commissioners and STP leads to find out what support is needed and how the SPN can help.

## **Resources to support Social Prescribing: Toolkits and regional meetings.**

Having a tool kit to support the implementation, commissioning and evaluation of Social Prescribing was a key message we heard from delegates at our January Conference. We have started work on the toolkit and will provide more information about this soon.

But just having a toolkit will not be enough although it will be a great help and resource for many. We are currently working with NHS E to set up some regional networks around the country. This won't be a magic wand situation, instead more of an organic development. Over the course of this year we aim to put on a network meeting in at least 3 areas around the country to start the ball rolling. These will be pilots to enable us to continually learn and adapt

to the needs of people who are new to social prescribing as well as those who are already established. We anticipate there will be a lot of interest for people to want to come to meetings. We will initially be prioritising each event to those who are in each region. We are grateful to network members in the North who have helped us bring together the first Northern regional meeting – see below.

## **Social Prescribing Network – Northern Regional Meeting Thursday 7th July 2016 -11am - 4pm.**

*Kingswood Suite, Wakefield Town Hall, Wood Street, WF1 2HQ*

**Aims:** This event is for commissioners, providers and general practitioners to start a conversation, exploring the benefits of social prescribing and community centred approaches in managing long-term conditions, reducing social isolation and improving mental health. We will support clinical commissioning groups, single transformation plan areas, local authorities and general practitioners to consider the potential of social prescribing and how it can be embedded in transformation work to upstream prevention, reducing the pressure in general practice, as well impact on long-term acute system pressures. This event will make the case for social prescribing, provide evidence of impact, consider the spectrum of models available, funding arrangements, setting up programmes and what support may be needed over time to manage governance, risk and evaluate impact.

This is collaboration between the SPN, NHS England and the University of East London. 40 places are available with priority going to representatives on Clinical Commissioning Groups, local authorities and General Practice and those based in the North of England.

**To find out more or to book a place, please email [england.ppvibsu@nhs.net](mailto:england.ppvibsu@nhs.net)**

## **Do you use a Read Code to track Social Prescribing referrals in your GP surgery?**

There is currently no way of ascertaining how many people use social prescribing services nationally and as a start we would like to know if you are using **READ CODES** or equivalents, what system you are on and what codes you use. Also are you able to say how many people in your practice have been referred to a Social Prescribing Scheme?

Please [complete the survey](#) to help us get a better picture of what is happening.

## **Articles and reports round-up:**

### **AESOP Marketplace**

Aesop Marketplace, an online ‘dating’ site that matches health decision-makers with arts in health programmes in an attractive and time-efficient way has been launched at the First Arts and Health Conference (pictures below). There are currently 24 art organisations showcasing their projects, but service co-ordinator, Daniel King, would like to add to the number of health projects being displayed.

You can have a look at the service and find contact details at: <http://www.aesopmarketplace.org>



## Final report of the VCSE review launched

[The report](#) sets out recommendations for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in the health and care sector.

LVSC has also [produced a brief 3 page overview of the Review](#) even though we do recommend you read the full report.

This is a joint review by the Department of Health, Public Health England, and NHS England.

**The aim of the review is to:**

- describe the role of the VCSE sector in improving health, wellbeing and care outcomes
- identify the challenges and opportunities in realising the sector's potential
- address challenges and maximise opportunities

The report makes recommendations for government, health and care system partners, funders, regulatory bodies and the VCSE sector. It emphasises putting wellbeing at the centre of health and care services, and making VCSE organisations an integral part of a collaborative system.

More information can also be found on the [VCSE Review website](#).

## Social Prescribing – a guide for local authorities

The Local Government Association has just produced a very helpful resource guide on social prescribing, which can be accessed [here](#).

## Social Prescribing in the North West

Health Education England have produced a scoping report of Social Prescribing Activity in the North West. The report can be accessed [here](#).

## And finally.... Media Coverage

There have been a couple of articles mentioning social Prescribing in the media – these can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).