

# 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016

**Dear Friends,**

Again it has been a very busy time on the Social Prescribing front, and we wanted to send through another update you on the Social Prescribing Network, and circulate some information of interest which has been passed on by our members ...please 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 - we are aiming to circulate the next newsletter at the end of July.

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

The Social Prescription Network was represented at the recent Health Plus Care expo at the ExCel arena (29-30<sup>th</sup> June). Alongside having a stand where we were able to connect with delegates, we also ran a one hour workshop around what it is that practitioners need to embed social prescribing services. It was fantastic to meet so many people at the event – and we'd like to welcome all of our new members who we chatted to there.

## **New report by Social Care Alliance Scotland**

Professor Chris Drinkwater would like to bring to members' attention a recent report which has been published by Social Care Alliance Scotland on the role of signposting and social prescribing in health and wellbeing. The report can be accessed [here](#).

## **Published review of Social Prescribing**

Helen Chaterjee would like to share a link to a Review\* of Social Prescription, which can be accessed from <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/research/museumsonprescription>

\*Thomson, L.J., Camic, P.M. & Chatterjee, H.J. (2015). *Social Prescribing: A review of community referral schemes*. London: University College London.

## **Wanted: examples of the arts and culture influencing health and wellbeing outcomes**

As part of an Inquiry into the role of the arts in health and social care, the All Party Parliamentary Group for Arts, Health and Wellbeing is seeking examples of the arts and culture influencing health and wellbeing outcomes. The APPG is interested in examples of practice from the past decade, where there is reasonably reliable evidence of outcomes or evidence that a pilot or new approach has promise. Submissions are invited of up to 1,000 words, arranged according to headings outlined in the guidance. For the guidance, definitions and further information about the Inquiry, please go to: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/Cultural/-/Projects/Arts,-Health-and-Wellbeing-Inquiry.aspx>. **The deadline for submissions is Friday 19 August 2016.**

## **Survey regarding Social prescription and employment**

The Work Foundation are running a questionnaire as part of a research project to explore the role of social prescribing in influencing employment outcomes for people of working age with long term health conditions. They are interested in hearing about social prescribing projects

whose clients include people of working age (**i.e. age 16-64**) with any long term health condition (**i.e. a condition that has lasted at least 12 months**) – so please complete their survey (which takes around 5-10 minutes) if you are able to help by clicking [here](#). Thanks.

### **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**

### **And finally.... Debate on Social Prescribing**

One of our members has brought to our attention a debate on whether 'GPs should bother with social prescribing'. The debate features Sir Sam Everington and Dr Des Spence, and can be accessed on the Pulse website [here](#) – although registration is required.