Social Prescribing

A whistle stop tour

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Sustain
What is it?

Social prescribing enables GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services.

- Signposting to non-clinical services
- Involves a link worker or navigator
- Not that new (e.g. Bromley by Bow) but...
- Personalisation of health services
- Wider determinants
- Potential to reduce pressure on NHS
A source of funding?

Investment so far:

• The prescribing and referral services
• Workers and models
• Quality assurance
• Social prescribing Network (a bit)

Not in...The service being prescribed to i.e. community and voluntary sector
Does it work?

• 100 schemes are currently running in the UK, more than 25 of which are in London.
• Evidence emerging is showing that it is working:-
  • Bristol study – lower anxiety and better general health
  • Rotherham - reduction in NHS use
  • Review 28% reduction in use of GP surgery and 24% A&E

But
• Not robust or systematic evidence
• Challenges in measuring it
Why get involved?

• Potential route to build relationships with health service
• Opportunities for new volunteers and beneficiaries
• Test and piloting e.g. Kindling Trust Manchester
• Evidence demand for your services
Take time to...

• Find out what is happening locally
• Join relevant regional network
• Think about what sort of social prescriptions you would be happy to receive
• Make yourself known - ideally along with a list of others who are interested

www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/social-prescribing

www.westminster.ac.uk/patient-outcomes-in-health-research-group/projects/social-prescribing-network
Thank you

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