**PERSONALISED CARE FOR LONDON​**

**Social Prescribing Innovators Programme**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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| **No.** | **Question** | **Answer** |
| 1. | **Who can apply?** | We welcome applications from individuals or groups from Social Prescribing Services or those working directly with Social Prescribing services. This may include Social Prescribing Link Workers (SPLW), GPs or PCN Managers, SPLWs from VCSE organisations, training hubs, Service Managers or those working closely with Social Prescribing within an ICS/CCG. This could include roles who work closely to social prescribing such as care coordinators and health and wellbeing coaches, provided your challenge is social prescribing related. |
| 2. | **How does this differ from the Community Chest work?** | The Social Prescribing Innovators Programme aims to fund and support service development, improvement and transformation within social prescribing services. The Community Chest aims to fund and support the activities and services that the voluntary sector organises, and which social prescribing services refer onto. |
| 3. | **Will I receive feedback on my application if unsuccessful?** | Yes, if unsuccessful you will have the option to request feedback and we will share this with you. |
| 4. | **Is there a set number of places per ICS?** | In general, we will be looking for a geographical spread of participants across London, however, there is no set number of places per ICS. |
| 5. | **How much funding is available?** | Funding of up to £10k can be granted to each applicant/team depending on the requirements of the project. There is ringfenced funding specifically for projects related to recruitment and retention, but we will also accept applications focusing on challenges related to access or impact. |
| 6. | **When will funding become available?** | We will provide funding once the projects have been approved and details confirmed of successful applicants. This will occur typically in two payments. |
| 7. | **How is the funding released?** | The funding will be released in two split payments, one towards the beginning of the project and one at the halfway point.  Requests for payments to be made on different schedules will be considered on a case-by-case basis. |
| 8. | **What can I show to my employer to explain my involvement in the programme?** | Successful applicants will receive a programme brochure and letter to sign and share with your employer detailing your involvement including a summary of programme and time commitments. |
| 9. | **Can secondary care apply?** | The programme is open to any individual working within the social prescribing space. However, applications must focus on one of the three current challenges to social prescribing services:   * Recruitment and retention * Access – social prescribing reaching the right people * Impact – demonstrating the benefit of social prescribing |
| 10. | **What do I do if I have a conflict of interest with someone on the decision making board?** | Please indicate any conflicts of interest to your best ability when answering the application questions. We are also asking board members about their potential conflicts of interest. |
| 11. | **How will the money be allocated and who/where will it go to?** | You will have an opportunity to outline who and where the funding should go to. This will depend on the breakdown of your funding and the requirements. |
| 12. | **Can the funding go towards backfilling staff costs in an organisation to replace those who are taking part in the programme?** | Yes, the funding can go towards replacing or backfilling positions to make up for those in your organisation who are committing their time and capacity to being involved in the programme. |
| 13. | **If I work in an organisation that has been commissioned to provide social prescribing link workers by a source that isn’t the primary care network, would I be eligible to apply for the fund?** | Provided you work closely with Social Prescribing service or link workers and your specified ‘challenge’ is related to social prescribing, you will be eligible to apply for the programme. Please emphasise how you have a direct link with social prescribing in your application and we will consider this in our marking. |
| 14. | **Is it possible to share the attendance of the sessions amongst two project leads?** | Yes, if you are applying as a group with multiple project leads, it is fine to share the attendance across the mandatory sessions. However, we recommend that all project participants join as many of the group sessions as possible to gain most benefit from the support on offer. |
| 15. | **Does it need to be a brand new project or can it be something pre-existing?** | Please note, there is no need to pick one solution/project idea at this stage. The application asks you to bring key challenge(s) faced by social prescribing services and potential solutions, rather than a defined project idea. It is fine to replicate pre-existing ideas if you can evidence that they have worked well. We will not fund pre-existing projects where the activities have already been defined. |
| 16. | **Are we expected to dedicate our week to this programme on top of our existing work?** | It is important that programme participants have capacity to attend all mandatory sessions. We recommend joining as many sessions as possible to get the most out of the programme. Successful applicants will receive a programme brochure and letter to sign and share with your employer detailing your involvement to support with discussion around your capacity and workload. |
| 17. | **When and how are we expected to share and scale the learnings from our involvement in the Innovators Programme?** | As part of the programme you will be expected to share your findings throughout, for example at the Board check-in sessions where you will have the opportunity to present to a panel of experts on the decision making board for support and feedback.  By the end of the programme, you will have helped to develop a case study and will be expected to present on the results of your project at the programme graduation/showcase event.  We expect that ongoing sharing and scaling of your project learning will happen after the programme. This might involve working with a neighbouring area to set up similar projects or holding local meetings to support other areas in similar projects. |
| 18. | **Can this programme support funding VCSE activities?** | The Social Prescribing Innovators Programme primarily aims to fund and support service development and transformation within social prescribing services. We will not fund voluntary/community sector activities alone but we will consider applications aiming to support social prescribing services to build better relationships/links with VCSE, which may include supporting their capacity. |
| 19. | **Who should I contact if I need support with my application or have any accessibility requirements?** | Please contact [hlp.socialprescribing@nhs.net](mailto:hlp.socialprescribing@nhs.net). |