

Case study template

for Social Prescribing VCSE benefits realisation project

Name of organisation	Voluntary Centre Services Lincoln
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CASE STUDY which highlights the benefits of cross-sector working to deliver an effective SPLW service.	
Summary	<p>In Lincolnshire, strong partnerships within the voluntary sector support the delivery of a countywide social prescribing offer. It includes both those Social Prescribing Link Workers funded directly by the PCNs and hosted in two local infrastructure organisations, Voluntary Centre Services and LCVS, and others specifically working with people with mental health conditions, funded via the Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT), Lincolnshire’s mental health service. Community Connector roles have been created and link to IPBTs.</p> <p>Local Infrastructure Organisations, often called Councils for Voluntary Services (CVS) or Voluntary Centres, offer support and capacity building to the Voluntary Community Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations in a range of ways such as funding and governance advice and training. They know the provision and the providers well and are well connected to their communities and the challenges and assets of those communities.</p> <p>This enables link workers to refer into organisations that best support their referral needs and to develop new opportunities in the community, regardless of geography.</p>
Ambition	<p>The profile and trusted position of the organisations within both the VCSE and public sectors, through a strong history of work in health and wellbeing, strong community links and knowledge of the communities they serve and a history of liaising at a strategic level across sectors, led to them being approached to host link workers. The connections between the two services allow them to provide holistic support.</p> <p>There is a strong partnership between the CVS, who are developing a ‘community of learning’ to share and inform best practice for the county.</p> <p>As volunteering sits at the heart of the Local Infrastructure Organisations in Lincolnshire, they were well-placed to link social prescribing interventions with volunteering. A number of people referred to social prescribing are keen to get involved in their community through</p>

	volunteering: 12% of SP clients were signposted to volunteering and 5% had a 'began volunteering' outcome.
Action taken	<p>Most Link Workers in the organisation are funded directly via Primary Care Networks (PCNs), although those working in the Mental Health Integrated Place Based Teams (IPBTs) are commissioned through mental health services - Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT).</p> <p>The SP Link Workers and Project Officers are proactive in linking clients to organisations that support SP referrals and supporting those organisations to develop new opportunities and seek funding where appropriate.</p> <p>The position of the CVSs within the community means they are well-placed to trial new initiatives. Most recently, they have run outreach sessions in Gainsborough, in partnership with the Gainsborough Everyone Active Leisure Centre, using the expertise of the staff there and engaging with people who would not otherwise attend the Leisure Centre.</p>
Result	<p>The organisation works collaboratively with Lincolnshire CVS (LCVS) to deliver a countywide social prescribing offer. This enables them to use the assets of each organisation to best effect be consistent in their approach with health service commissioners, to use the same management system (Social RX) and standards, develop joint training and derive other benefits from partnership working. This also reduces duplication and unnecessary paperwork for Social Prescribing Link Workers.</p> <p>The service had 2830 Social Prescribing referrals from April 2021-March 2022.</p> <p>Community Connector roles have been created, linked to IPBTs. These are hosted by separate VCSE organisations (Shine, Bridge and Gainsborough Trinity Foundation) across the area. The Community Connectors host Partnership Boards which bring together organisations linked to IPBTs and mental health support. This also increases the cross-sector communication and joint working.</p>
Next steps	By continuing to build existing and develop new relationships within the sector and with other stakeholders in the health system, the service will maintain the momentum and good practice built in the Social Prescribing system, as the workforce grows. They have recently created two Social Prescribing Team Lead posts, through claiming the maximum salary costs available from the PCN, to oversee the 17 Social Prescribing Link Workers across Voluntary Centre Services.
Any other information	<p>http://lvet.co.uk/social-prescribing/</p> <p>https://voluntarycentreservices.org.uk/social-prescribing/</p>