

Brentworth, Chiswick, Feltham and Bedfont, Hounslow Health and Great West Road Primary Care Networks in partnership with:



Social Prescribing Link Worker Background Information

Social Prescribing Link Workers are new roles being created in Hounslow as part of a new NHS England national programme. These roles will bring social prescribing into every GP Practice in Hounslow during 2019.

What is social prescribing?

It is widely recognised that people's health is impacted by not only health conditions, but also by a range of social, economic and environmental factors. Social prescribing can help to strengthen personal resilience and reduce health inequalities by addressing the wider determinants of health, such as debt, poor housing and physical inactivity and/or by increasing people's active involvement with their local communities. It particularly works for people with long-term conditions (including support for mental health), for people who are lonely or isolated, or have complex social needs which affect their wellbeing.

Social prescribing seeks to empower people to take control of their health and wellbeing by giving them time to focus on what matters to them and by connecting people to community, statutory and voluntary groups and services for practical and emotional support.

How will social prescribing work in Hounslow?

Hounslow is a diverse outer London Borough of approximately 320,000 residents, supported by 46 GP Practices. The Practices are organised into five Primary Care Networks: Brentworth, Chiswick, Feltham and Bedfont, Hounslow Health and Great West Road. These networks are supported by the Hounslow GP Consortium.

The Hounslow Primary Care Networks recognise that social prescribing can play a crucial role in improving people's physical and mental health. They have therefore partnered with two experienced voluntary sector organisations, H4All and Groundwork London, to put Social Prescribing Link Workers in place across the GP Practices. There will be Link Workers within all five Hounslow PCNs and they will be encouraged to work together and support each other as the role develops.

Hounslow GP Consortium will support the link workers to embed in Hounslow GP Practices, provide mentoring, training and support as well as provide a link into the wider strategic work being undertaken across Hounslow, including the formation of a Social Prescribing Steering Group which will be well placed to address any gaps in services identified by the Link Workers.

What is H4All?

H4All is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), first registered in September 2015. It is a consortium of five of Hillingdon's leading charities: Hillingdon Carers, Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow and Brent, Harlington Hospice, Hillingdon Mind and the Disablement Association Hillingdon (DASH).

The partner charities came together with the vision of creating environments where residents have access to responsive, fully-integrated quality support and advice that helps them to stay independent and to take control of their lives. They have been delivering an extensive social prescribing programme in Hillingdon since 2016, as well as driving more resource to the frontline by developing shared backroom services.

H4All will be employing and seconding Link Workers to three of the five PCNs, in addition to providing comprehensive training and support to the post holders, as well as promoting the integration of this new resource into existing provision in Hounslow.

What is Groundwork London?

Groundwork London helps communities across the capital become greener, stronger and healthier. Its programmes help build the capacity of individuals and communities, empowering them to find sustainable, long-term solutions to the challenges they face,

resulting in a healthier, more resilient city, where everyone has the opportunity to prosper.

GL was a founding partner of the Well London Alliance and has a long history of working in Hounslow supporting a diverse range of communities to improve their health and wellbeing outcomes. GL is a member of the Hounslow Community Network executive, a partner for Hounslow Giving, and represents the voluntary sector on the Hounslow Together Board. GL currently manages Volunteering Hounslow, delivers home energy visits across the borough as part of Hounslow Better Homes, Better Health; and offers tailored one-to-one support and specialist advice to hundreds of individuals, matching them with and preparing them for appropriate and suitable job opportunities.

Groundwork London will be employing and seconding Link Workers to two of the five PCNs, in addition to providing comprehensive training and support to the post holders, as well as promoting the integration of this new resource into existing provision in Hounslow.

What is Hounslow Consortium?

Hounslow Consortium Ltd is a GP Federation set up to support the five Localities (now PCNs) in Hounslow. It is a membership organisation for the 5 PCNs with its Directors being the same Clinical Directors for the PCNs. Hounslow Consortium provides administrative support to the PCNs and the Hounslow Practices to deliver national and local primary care contracts, as well as supporting them to form partnerships with other local organisations.

What is the role of the Clinical Commissioning Group?

There has been a collaborative approach between the CCG and the London Borough of Hounslow to support the development of social prescribing in Hounslow, with the aim to build on community knowledge, local assets and existing programmes. The role of the Link Worker will be a valuable resource to support this partnership and start to help to inform commissioning decisions by using the intelligence gathered about community health needs.

