

Westminster Health Forum policy conference:

Next steps for social prescribing in England

Timing: Morning, Friday, 18th September 2026

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER
HEALTH FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick, Member, Childhood Vaccinations Committee
- 9.05 **Examining the future role of social prescribing in neighbourhood health services**
Sir Michael Dixon, Chair, The College of Medicine; former Co-Chair, National Social Prescribing Network; and Visiting Professor, University of Westminster
Charlotte Osborn-Forde, Chief Executive, National Academy for Social Prescribing
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.45 **Integration of social prescribing in local services - commissioning, partnerships and delivery**
integration with PCNs and neighbourhood teams / implications of the NHS 10 Year Health Plan / link worker roles, caseload management and ARRS funding / commissioning and partnership arrangements across ICSSs, local government and the VCSE sector / tackling postcode variation and digital exclusion / supporting people in deprived communities and from some ethnic minority backgrounds / referral pathways, co-production and patient engagement / financial sustainability for community organisations and local provision / aligning commissioning with prevention and increasingly complex caseloads
Samantha James, Integrated Care System Lead, NAVCA
Dr Mohan Sekeram, GP Principal, Wideway Medical Practice
Leah Boylan, Head, Services and Engagement, Arthritis Action
Dr Michelle Howarth, Professor, Health and Social Care, Edge Hill University
Charlotte Leonhardsen, Strategic lead, Live Well and Place Development, NHS Greater Manchester
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 **The future for social prescribing in primary care - access, demand and prevention**
Mark Joannides, Deputy Director, Community Health, Department of Health and Social Care
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick, Member, Childhood Vaccinations Committee
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.20 **Evidence and evaluation - outcomes, metrics and recent findings**
Dr Daniel Hayes, Principal Research Fellow, Social Biobehavioural Research Group, University College London; and Deputy Director, National Centre for Social Prescribing Data and Analysis
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **International approaches to social prescribing - models, evidence and insights from practice**
Dr Bogdan Chiva-Giurca, Director, Collaborating Centre for Social Prescribing Policy and Development, World Health Organization
- 11.50 **Community-led approaches to green social prescribing - evidence, implementation and insights from practice**
Oliver Harmar, Chief Operating Officer, Natural England
Caroline Emmerson, Principal Officer, Health and Environment, Natural England
- 12.00 **Innovation, workforce, community partners and sustainable models for the future**
workforce sustainability, supervision and link worker wellbeing / developing models for complex social needs and long-term conditions / VCSE and faith-based community capacity / digital infrastructure, referral platforms and outcome-tracking tools / standardising metrics, data collection and reporting / evaluating cost-effectiveness and approaches to reducing future demand on services through earlier intervention / green social prescribing and nature-based approaches / sustainable funding models for neighbourhood-level delivery / learning from international practice
Dr Anna Wilding, Research Fellow, University of Manchester
Dr Maria Neophytou, CEO, Nordoff and Robbins
Siân Brand, Chair, Social Prescribing Network
Ushma Issar, CEO, Rypple
Gosia Chmielewska, Social Prescribing Link Worker, Hounslow Health Primary Care Network
- 12.30 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Health Forum