

In order to raise awareness of the benefits of social prescribing the RCN General Practice Nursing Forum developed the social prescribing clinical pages on the RCN website. These provide a range of resources, links and guidelines for the successful introduction of social prescribing in a variety of settings.

Rationale for the project

- Social isolation – it has been estimated that around 20% of patients consult their GP for what is primarily a social problem (Work Foundation, 2017).
- Loneliness – 76% of GPs report that 1-5 patients a day come to their surgery because they are lonely (Campaign to End Loneliness, 2013).
- Social prescribing is identified as one of the ten high impact actions within the GP Five Year Forward View and now forms part of the 10 year NHS Plan.

Feedback from a nurse-led survey on social prescribing

Project objectives

- Raise awareness of social prescribing.
- Highlight the role of the nurse in social prescribing, utilising evidence of a nurse-led social prescribing project.
- Provide a range of resources to support the successful introduction of social prescribing in a variety of settings.
- Embed social prescribing into the RCN's clinical resources.

Social prescribing in action

- Walking football.
- Gardening schemes.
- Ballet for all ages.
- Singing for health.
- Lunch clubs.

Models of social prescribing

Demographics across England vary enormously which has led to the many different models of social prescribing both established and evolving:

- nurse-led social prescribing
- community-led model
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