



One of eight Locality Networks supporting community resilience across East Sussex

Social Prescribing – connecting to the right support across Hastings and St Leonards Hastings Community Network (HCN) Summary Report

Overview of the event

The theme for this networking opportunity was identified as a ‘hot topic’ at a previous HCN event and proved to be a very relevant and popular theme to explore. The morning was planned around the core purpose of all Locality Networks across the county.

To share information and resources, build relationships and collaboration, provide opportunities for mutual support and learning and strengthen community based services.

It included plenty of time for networking and focussed table top discussion making the most of the vibrancy and enthusiasm in the room. This was supported by short, but relevant, presentations setting the scene around Social Prescribing nationally, sharing local examples of practice, plans for the an East Sussex Social Prescribing Pathway and information about how to contribute to the development of this pathway moving forward. The full report, record of table discussions, attendance and presentation pack are all available on the HVA website HCN page: <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/news/outcomes-social-prescribing-event-january-2019>

- **Over 80 participants attended made up of 56 local organisations** from the voluntary, community and public sector. The event was oversubscribed (100+ people registered and a waiting list in place to accommodate as many people as possible).
- **57 participants completed evaluation forms** which highlighted what people had gained from attending, the amount of new connections they had made, next steps they would undertake themselves or, more generally, what they felt should happen as a result of this event. They were also asked for ideas for ‘hot topics’ or themes for future events.
- **Participants identified that making new connections (191 evidenced on evaluation forms), networking, sharing information and learning more about Social Prescribing, and the East Sussex Social Prescribing Pathway, as the most valuable parts of morning.**

Key themes/priorities that arose from discussion

1. Working together and sharing information for the benefit of Hastings and St Leonards is a priority for all.
2. To ensure that Social Prescribing works in Hastings and St Leonards local assets, strengths, passion and community culture need to be recognised and valued.
3. Reward, recognition or recompense of providers of social prescribing activities must be explored to enable sustainability of local Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) and Social Enterprise.
4. Involving the CVS and local community members in the design of the new Social Prescribing Pathway is essential moving forward

Next Steps

1. All who attended or expressed an interest in the event will receive follow up information and the full report/ event presentation pack will be made freely available on the HVA website, HCN page (Action: HVA)

2. The full HCN report will be shared with all who attended the event/expressed an interest in attending and with a wide range of interested parties and decision makers. This will include the Local Strategic Partnership, HCN Executive Group, Social Prescribing Pathway Steering Group and Integrated Locality Planning and Delivery Group members (Action: HVA and Hastings and St Leonards Locality Link Worker).
3. A follow up meeting around Social Prescribing in Hastings and St Leonards will be held in late 2019/early 2020 and potential of local action group explored to take forward ideas from this event including engagement of local GP's (Action: HVA and Hastings and Leonards Locality Link Worker).
4. Explore how VCS providers of Social prescribing opportunities will be recompensed for the additional pressure this will put on their services (higher numbers of referrals and increase in complexity of needs). Considering learning and examples of best practice from other areas where small grants or a credit system have been implemented and their success evaluated (Action: Countywide Social Prescribing Steering Group).
5. Regular updates on progress of the Countywide Social Prescribing Pathway to be shared including opportunities to join East Sussex Social Prescribing Reference Group, participate in events and contribute to co-production* of locally agreed definition of services and activities (Action: Countywide Social Prescribing Steering Group) * **NOTE:** Coproduction is an approach where people, family members, carers, organisations and commissioners work together in an equal way, sharing influence, skills and experience to design, deliver and monitor services and projects. (The Coproduction Network)

Future HCN, Locality Network, Meetings

Participants were asked what they felt the 'hot topics' were for Hastings and St Leonards that could be included in suggestions for future HCN events. The following were identified:

- Funding and sustainability of services (Collaborative funding bids, longevity of services – funding) and grassroots support –start up support for groups
- Outside spaces – connecting with nature, creative learning and socialisation- making use of Hastings and St Leonards open spaces in the woods and on the beach etc.
- Addressing duplication and gaps in services through joint working and how services need to change and adapt to meet evolving needs
- Help for people with complex needs (Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) forms etc.)

For a future social prescribing event the following were identified:

- How to change the public perception on Social Prescribing
- Engaging with GP Practices
- How navigate local services/paring down lists of community services to make access easier.
- Community Voice – service user participation in future development - co production
- Engaging with 'hard to reach' clients with social prescribing

The next HCN Locality Network Meeting will be a marketplace and open mic event. It will be held on 3rd April 2019 at the Stade Hall, Hastings, TN34 3FJ.

Book your place on the HVA website: <https://hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk/events>

