



JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Link Worker (Social Prescribing)
SALARY/HOURS:	£22,000 for 37 hours per week with possibility of enhancement for some weekends call out on rota basis required.
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Deputy Chief Officer
RESPONSIBLE FOR:	This post is not responsible for any staff
HEAD OFFICE BASE:	Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST), Imperial House, Rosemary Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 1NZ
DURATION:	12 months fixed term contract – with potential to be extended

PURPOSE OF THE POST:

Working as part of CVST's Social Prescribing Team, the postholder will support the development of long-term sustainable communities that help and empower local residents to lead healthier, more independent, and more active lives.

The role of the Social Prescribing Link Worker may include working as part of one or more of the following projects:

- Cultural Awareness project focusing on empowering and supporting people from culturally diverse communities across Tendring to ensure equity and equality of access to services.
- Home from Hospital service – working with local hospitals (both on site and remotely) to support and expedite hospital discharge.
- End of Life Social Prescribing – supporting people with life limiting illnesses and their families/carers to access the support and services they need.
- GP Support – working with GP surgeries (both surgery based, remotely and in the community) to provide a holistic social prescribing service to their patients.

In particular, the postholder will work toward achieving one or more of the following outcomes:



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1. Those who are socially isolated will report reduced feelings of loneliness by being supported to access local services and activities.
2. People suffering from poor physical and/or mental health and/or long-term health conditions will report an improvement in their sense of health and well-being by increasing their physical activity and/or accessing volunteering opportunities and/or attending new clubs or activities and making new friends.
3. People supported will report that they are better able to manage their health and wellbeing.
4. People supported will report that they are more able to manage practical issues.

MAIN DUTIES:

Work with all clinical, social care and mental health colleagues in the community and/or attached to GP Practices in the Tendring district area and/or Colchester, Clacton, and Harwich Hospitals and/or St. Helena, as an advocate for the voluntary and community sector to ensure that the local social prescribing offer is fully integrated.

Work with and take referrals from GP practices individually and within primary care networks, multidisciplinary teams (MDT), hospital discharge teams, other health professionals and self-referrals.

Be a friendly source of information about wellbeing and prevention approaches and provide support to individuals to take control of their wellbeing, live independently and improve their health outcomes.

If in agreement with the GP practice, undertake regular clinics/sessions from the GP practices to help support practices to manage the demand by supporting patients with non-medical needs.

Approach and positively engage with identified vulnerable individuals who may be referred to a link worker, ensuring that they fully understand what a social prescribing service is able to offer, that it requires personal goal setting and will enable them to maintain their independence and improve their wellbeing.

Work with individuals to co-produce a simple personalised support plan, including what they can expect from the groups and services they are being connected/referred to and what the person can do themselves to improve health and wellbeing. Introducing or reconnecting them to activities, community groups and statutory services as identified.

Develop trusting relationships giving people time to focus on 'what matters to them'. Take a holistic approach based on the individual's priorities and the wider determinants of health.

Help people identify the wider issues that impact on their health and wellbeing such as debt, poor housing, being unemployed, loneliness and caring responsibilities and to consider how they can be supported through social prescribing.



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Build relationships with staff in GP practices and other NHS colleagues, attending relevant meetings, becoming part of the wider network team, giving information and feedback on social prescribing.

Work in partnership with statutory agencies and other social prescribing colleagues collaboratively to raise awareness of social prescribing and how multi-agency partnership working can reduce pressure on statutory services.

Ensure that all individuals who pass through the service are accurately recorded, following up to ensure that they have received good support; completing monitoring as required, to demonstrate outcomes of the service. Use the common template to record enquiries, individual goal progress, activities.

Use guided conversation to identify and capture initial data that can be used for following up with the individual at 6 months and 12 months enabling tracking of the impact of the service on their health and wellbeing. Encourage people to provide feedback and share their stories about the impact of the service on their lives.

Use the database point of access to ensure that social prescribing referral codes are inputted accurately, adhering to data protection legislation and data sharing agreements.

Work within the policies and procedures of CVST, GP practices and other NHS organisations to ensure that all activities comply with all relevant legislation and guidance, in particular Safeguarding, Health & Safety and GDPR data compliance.

Assist in the delivery of targets and outcomes in line with funding requirements and CVST vision.

Undertake any other general office duties as may be required from time to time

GENERAL:

To work collaboratively as part of the CVST staff team towards the aims and objectives of the organisation as a whole. Attend training in consultation with your line manager to improve and develop skills in line with the requirements of the job. To take part in the staff performance and development review process.

To be aware of the responsibilities connected to confidentiality, data protection and sensitive information within the organisation. To adhere to all CVST's operational policies and procedures including but not limited Equal Opportunities, Financial Systems, Lone Worker etc.

CVST reserves the right to amend this job description as necessary, after consultation with the post holder to reflect changes in or to the job.



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COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SERVICES TENDRING

LINK WORKER (SOCIAL PRESCRIBING)

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable	Application Form	Interview
Education & Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educated to A level standard ▪ 5 GCSEs including Maths and English to grade C or above or NVQ Level 3 ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Development qualification ▪ Sociology qualification ▪ Diploma in managing people 	X	
Specialist Knowledge & Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At least 2 years community development work experience and knowledge ▪ Experience of running small projects ▪ An understanding of the principles of equal opportunities and a commitment to implementing them in all aspects of the job ▪ Knowledge and experience of using Microsoft Office applications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience of working in the voluntary and/or public sector. ▪ Marketing and promotion skills ▪ Experience and successful track record of applying and securing funds 	X	X
Interpersonal & Communication Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent verbal communication skills ▪ Ability to engage with people on all levels ▪ Ability to motivate and inspire through effective communication ▪ Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to integrate well as part of a team ▪ Experience of writing and presenting accurate and clear activity reports 		X	X
Initiative & Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to work on own initiative with little supervision. ▪ Excellent organisational skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open and flexible attitude to new developments 		X