

Social Prescribing within Clinical Community Groups(CCG'S)

Notes from discussion with John Speed on 1 Feb 2019

Social Prescribing initiatives are due in the Ipswich and East Clinical Community Group, by April/May this year, and in the Bury Rural Clinical Community Group at a later date as yet not known. The start dates in each case being dependent on the release of funding.

How Social Prescribing is Delivered by Link Workers

New posts of **Link Workers** are to be based in communities, typically in GP surgeries, where 20 to 40 % of GP referrals are social related issues rather than clinical.

This new provision is designed to capture the many low end referral needs from individuals, who themselves might consider the issue not important enough, or simply not appreciate that assistance may be available. Support therefore can be offered much earlier in the process, and with more precision, than say a Social Worker referral which typically would be for more acute issues referred further down the process.

It will be the job of the Link Worker (LW) to assess the relevant range of local support and assistance provisions available for each referral; Local and County authorities, NHS, GP Surgeries, charity and voluntary organisations.

To maximise effectiveness, the system will develop local networks of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, comprising the range of local service providers. This means of course, and inevitably, that provision will vary from locality to locality.

Some Facts and Numbers

It is anticipated that the Ipswich and east CCG will be serviced by 12 Link Workers, each serving 5 to 6 GP practices and 30-60K people. Funding for the initiative is currently for 12 months. Funding provision will also be available to assist local service providers if the new demand on their services should require additional resource.

How This Is to Affect Elmswell, Norton and Tostock

Elmswell, Norton and Tostock lie in parts of the western end of the district which fall outside of the Ipswich and East CCG boundary. Furthermore, it is yet unclear if and when it may be included in the Bury and Rural CCG which itself does not yet have a start date. The reasons for this anomaly are complex and relate to both the boundaries of the two CCG's, differences between the funding streams being directing to each, and the development strategy of the Bury and Rural CCG. I am making further enquiries into this matter.

