

Social prescribing

Social prescribing is when GPs and local agencies refer people to **community supports and groups instead of traditional services**. This happened in some places in the past but has been made more universally possible through the funding provided through the long-term plan for social prescribing linkworkers, based in local primary care networks.

Linkworkers provide an important 'bridge' between services, the local community and voluntary sector,

individuals and mutual aid groups. They spend time **talking to people and finding out what matters to them** and how they want to interact with and participate in their local communities.

Read more about social prescribing on the NHS website [read here](#)

A programme of support and development is available to social prescribing link workers and primary care networks [read here](#)

Read this case study about social prescribing from The You Trust in Portsmouth.



Toby

Toby was referred by his Physiotherapist as he required hip replacement surgery but was unable to access it due to his life situation. As he was homeless he could not secure a surgery date (as risk of infection) nor access Adult Social Care without the surgery date. Toby had stayed in hostels and used the day services but did not feel comfortable being there, so his situation was not improving. In addition to this, it was very difficult to contact Toby as he had no credit for his mobile. We paid for credit for the phone to support his ongoing communications with services.

The first step was to complete his housing application and secure temporary accommodation. With this, he would be a step closer to being in a suitable situation to have his surgery and receive the care he would need for the recovery. Through working together with The Society of St James, his physiotherapist, and housing options, Toby is now in a secure hostel that he feels safe in, has finalised his benefit claim, and enquiries have now been made as to when he can be put onto the surgery waiting list. In the mean time we look for permanent accommodation.