

**Ysgol
Ymchwil
Rhagnodi
Cymdeithasol
Cymru**



**Wales
School for
Social
Prescribing
Research**



**2020 - 2021
Annual report**



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WSSPR is an all-Wales Centre, co-lead by the University of South Wales and Wales Council for Voluntary Action. WSSPR sits within PRIME Centre Wales under the theme 'Seamless Care Closer to Home', within the work package 'Care Closer to Communities'.

Foreword

The Wales School for Social Prescribing Research (WSSPR) is funded by Welsh Government through Health and Care Research Wales and sits within PRIME Centre Wales.

The Wales School for Social Prescribing Research is a **virtual all-Wales school**, which aims to **build a world-leading critical evidence base for social prescribing in Wales**, using a **translational research model** to ensure findings have **high-impact** in **academia, practice, policy** and **education**.

Social prescribing is **“connecting citizens to community support to better manage their health and well-being”**. In Wales, social prescribing is predominantly based in the community, with social prescribers funded by voluntary sector organisations. Individuals can be referred to social prescribing through clinical and social pathways, and a self-referral model is emerging.

The evidence base for social prescribing needs to be developed and there are gaps in our understanding about the impact, mechanisms and roles within social prescribing.

WSSPR aims to address these gaps by working within four themes:

- Evaluation
- Social Value
- Workforce and Education
- Well-being

In the first year, WSSPR has established itself as the leading centre for social prescribing research in Wales, collaborating with multi-disciplinary national partners across Wales, the United Kingdom and internationally.

Our research aligns with Welsh Government Health and Social Care policies, plans and strategies, including:

- A Healthier Wales, Welsh Government, 2018
- Prosperity for All: National Strategy, Taking Wales Forward, Welsh Government, 2017
- Connected Communities, Welsh Government, 2020
- The Wellbeing of Future Generations (2015) Wales Act
- The Social Services and Well-being (2014) Wales Act
- Health and Social Care in Wales - COVID-19, Looking forward, Welsh Government, 2021
- The Health & Social Care Workforce Strategy, HEIW & SCW, 2020
- The Social Care Research & Development Strategy for Wales 2018-2023, Health and Care Research Wales
- Support & Delivery Service Strategic Framework, Health and Care Research Wales, 2017
- UK Standards for Public Involvement

Aims

WSSPR aims to deliver outputs on four established objectives.

In addition to outcomes and impact in academia, employing the translational research model enables WSSPR to have impact in policy, practice, health and well-being.

1

Cultivate a high-quality multi-phase programme of research to develop an evaluation methodology for social prescribing.

2

Increase research awareness and capacity for social prescribing across sectors.

3

Translate research findings into practice, policy and education.

4

Build research capacity within the Wales School for Social Prescribing Research.

Who's Who

Who's Who in the group, governance structure and key partnerships included in the award.

WSSPR is nested within PRIME Centre Wales, under Theme 2: 'Seamless Care Closer to Home' and within Work Package 4 'Care Closer to Communities'. Work conducted by WSSPR will feed into PRIME Centre Wales through regular operational group meetings.

Within WSSPR is WSPRN, the Wales Social Prescribing Research Network. This is a network of researchers and practitioners in Wales who are interested in social prescribing research. The network currently has over 300 members.

Through the network, WSPRN, three Communities of Practice operate in North Wales, South East Wales and West Wales. These feed out to members of the public and the social prescribing community across Wales.

The WSSPR Steering group meets on a bi-monthly basis. Members include representatives from academia, third sector, public health, NHS, social care and two lay members. The steering group provides strategic guidance to WSSPR on how to maximise research impact nationally and internationally. It acts as a critical friend and supports research activities to achieve the aim and objectives of the school.

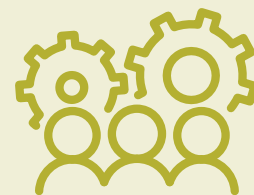
On alternate months, the WSSPR Operational group meets, it is comprised of the WSSPR director (Prof Carolyn Wallace), third sector lead (Dr Sally Rees), social value lead (Dr Mary Lynch), core-funded research staff (Megan Elliott and Marina McDonald) and two lay members (John Gallanders, Sondra Butterworth). The purpose of the operational group is to monitor activities and progress against grant objectives and to co-ordinate, review, feedback and contribute to the development and delivery of the grant activities and associated functions.

The WSSPR International Advisory Board meets annually. It provides independent advice, critical comment, and international perspectives on WSSPR research. It involves experts in social prescribing, primary care, community health and social care from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden, Poland, France, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The Board met for the first time in November 2020.

WSSPR currently has 10 research students based in University of South Wales and Bangor University studying projects related to social prescribing.

WSSPR also leads the Regional Centre of Expertise Wales (RCE Cymru) social prescribing circle of interest. RCE Cymru is a member of the 150 global network of RCEs formed by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability in response to the UN resolution Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

Steering group



Professor Carolyn Wallace*
Director of WSSPR
University of South Wales
and PRIME Centre Wales



Dr Sally Rees*
Wales Council for
Voluntary Action



Sara Thomas
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Jan Batty
Hywel Dda Public Health
Team, Public Health Wales



Sondra Butterworth*
Patient and Public
Representative



Professor Diane Crone
Cardiff Metropolitan
University



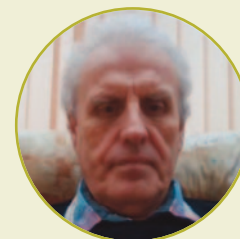
Dr Freya Davies
Cardiff University and
PRIME Centre Wales



Emma Davies-McIntosh
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board



Megan Elliott*
University of South Wales
and PRIME Centre Wales



John Gallanders*
Patient and Public
Representative



Emeritus Professor Joyce Kenkre
University of South Wales
and PRIME Centre Wales



Professor Mark Llewellyn
Welsh Institute for Health and
Social Care, University of South
Wales and PRIME Centre Wales



Dr Mary Lynch*
Bangor University



Professor Ruth Northway
University of South Wales
and PRIME Centre Wales



Professor David Pontin
University of South Wales
and PRIME Centre Wales



Dr Glynne Roberts
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board



Nina Ruddle
Wrexham Glyndŵr
University



Professor Steve Smith
University of South Wales
and PRIME Centre Wales



Soo Vinnicombe
Bangor University



Dr Andy Williams
University of Wales,
Trinity Saint David

International advisory board



Professor Julie Barnett

University of Bath, England



Professor Diana Coholic

Laurentian University, Canada



Dr Katelyn Costello

General Practitioner,
New Zealand



Dr Miriam Dolan

Maple Healthcare,
Northern Ireland



Dr Daisy Fancourt

University College London,
England



Miriam Heijnders

Independent Researcher,
Netherlands



Helen Howson

Bevan Commission, Wales



Professor Jean-Pierre Jacquet

College National des
Généralistes Enseignants,
France



Professor Donata Kurpas

Wroclaw Medical University,
Poland



Professor Sinead McGilloy

Maynooth University,
Republic of Ireland



Dr Ferdinando Petrazzuoli

Lund University, Sweden



Professor Christopher Poules

University of New South
Wales, Australia



Professor Emmanuelle Tulle

Glasgow Caledonian University,
Scotland



Dr Josep Vidal-Alaball

Institute Catala de la Salut,
Spain



Dr Nathan Wilson

Western Sydney University,
Australia

Organisational structure



Students and their projects



Susan Beese | PhD

Realist evaluation of staying well in your community: Identifying social prescribing intervention profiles for type and impact.



Tom Roberts | PhD

Identifying the role of the link worker in Wales.



Leanne Hadley | PhD

What matters to me when I am paying for care? The Madeline Project.



Megan Elliott | PhD

A realist exploration of social prescribing evaluation.



**Genevieve Hopkins
PhD**

Exploring the development of a new Community Care Hub and implementation of this social model into primary care delivery in Wales.



Abraham Makanjuola MRes

An evaluation study to investigate recruitment into social prescribing interventions and explore skills sets of link workers in dealing with complex case referrals (completed).



**Gwenlli Thomas
MRes**

Developing a conversation about identifying community needs to embrace well-being through social prescribing interventions.



Cher Leweny | MRes

Developing a theory of change for a complex programme; a systematic framework for ensuring delivery of outcomes in a new Wellbeing Hub for the Nantlle Valley.



Dr Suzy Rogers | MPhil

Investigating Art-On-Prescription in Wales: How to Achieve Critical Success Factors for Sustainability.

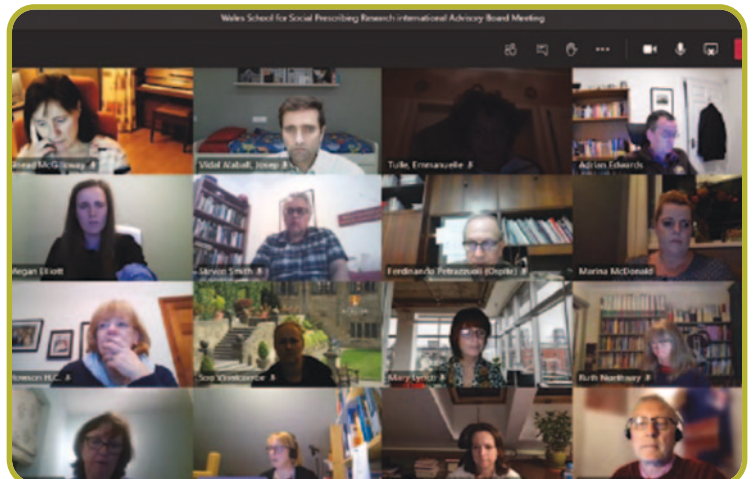
Summary of the year



Artwork created by Marina McDonald, Research and Support Officer, WIHSC, University of South Wales



The Grow Well evaluation team



The first International Advisory Board meeting of the Wales School for Social Prescribing Research (11th November 2020)

Core Metrics

Reporting period: **2020/2021**

**Health and Care
Research Wales
infrastructure award
to the group**



Direct
funding
awarded

£73k

Jobs created
through direct
funding



Grants won during reporting period

Grants won	Led by group	Group collaborating
Number	7	2
Value	£254,421	£850,000
Funding to Wales	£229,421	£460,000
Funding to group	£229,421	£188,082
Additional jobs created for Wales	3	3
Additional jobs created for group	3	2



Number of publications



Number of public
engagement events



Number of public
involvement opportunities

Key achievements

Brief summary of key achievements from performance review report

The ACCORD study

In 2020 the ACCORD study was launched. ACCORD is a multi-phase programme of research which will run to 2023.

Despite growing popularity of social prescribing in the United Kingdom, systematic reviews have highlighted a lack of rigour, a high risk of bias and inconclusive findings in social prescribing evaluation to date. The aim of the ACCORD study is to develop an evaluation methodology framework, reporting standards and training materials for social prescribing evaluation to be used by researchers,

service delivery and commissioners. The ACCORD study is a mixed-methods study that comprises a realist synthesis of good practice in social prescribing evaluation and monitoring to date, two consensus method studies to generate consensus around the evaluation framework and reporting standards and development of training materials for diverse audiences involved in social prescribing evaluation. Throughout the study the researchers will engage with advisory groups who specialise in social prescribing and evaluation and consult with key stakeholders and members of the public.

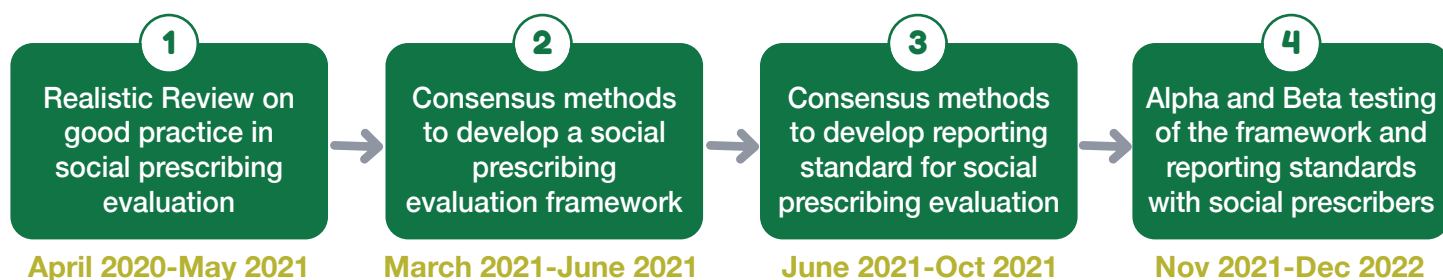


Figure 2. The ACCORD study process map for developing an evaluation framework, reporting standards and training materials for social prescribing

Involvement in Ministerial Social Prescribing Task and Finish group

A Welsh Government social prescribing task and finish group for the Minister of Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language was convened in March 2021. Three members of WSSPR were invited to join the group (Prof Carolyn Wallace, Director; Dr Sally Rees, WSSPR steering group; Dr Glynne Roberts, WSSPR steering group).

At the first meeting (March 2021) Prof Carolyn Wallace presented work from WSSPR to date, including work on; the role of the link worker, developing a training package for link workers in Wales, quality indicators for social prescribing, the ACCORD study, social well-being concept and tool

development and the HEFCW funded social prescribing for students evaluation. Dr Glynne Roberts presented on the North Wales social prescribing model and discussed the role of the community of practice.

Following this meeting, the minister tasked Professor Carolyn Wallace and Dr Sally Rees with creation of a quality framework for social prescribing. This builds upon the outcomes framework consensus work started in October 2018 and the quality indicators for social prescribing Group Concept Mapping work completed by Megan Elliott & Prof Carolyn Wallace from December 2020-March 2021.

Developing the concept of social well-being in the context of social prescribing

A gap in the tools available for evaluation and monitoring of social prescribing was identified by the Wales Social Prescribing Research Network members. It was identified that current assessment was only capturing one aspect of well-being, mental well-being, and missing social well-being. In response, WSSPR undertook an international Group Concept Mapping study to develop the concept of social well-being. The study identified six clusters which make up the concept of social well-being.

The findings have been used to develop the first version of the South Wales Social Well-being Scale (SWSWBS). The tool can be used by social prescribers to evaluate and monitor social prescribing intervention impact, and in broader health and care settings, for example in COVID-19 recovery. The next stage of this project is to pilot test

the tool and refine it to ensure that it is valid and fit-for-purpose in social prescribing practice.

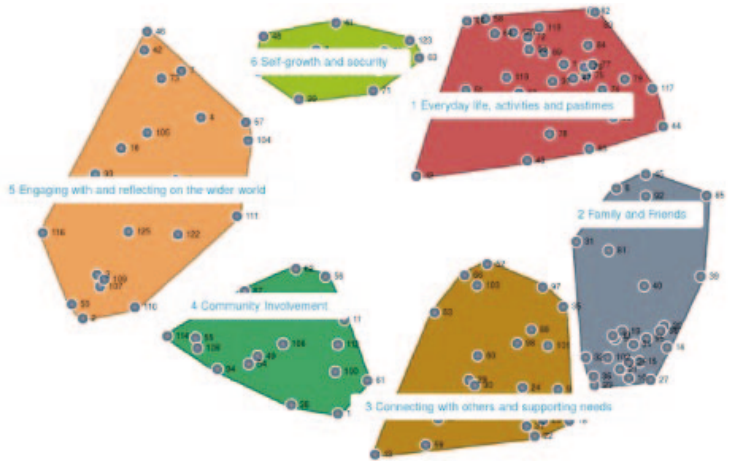


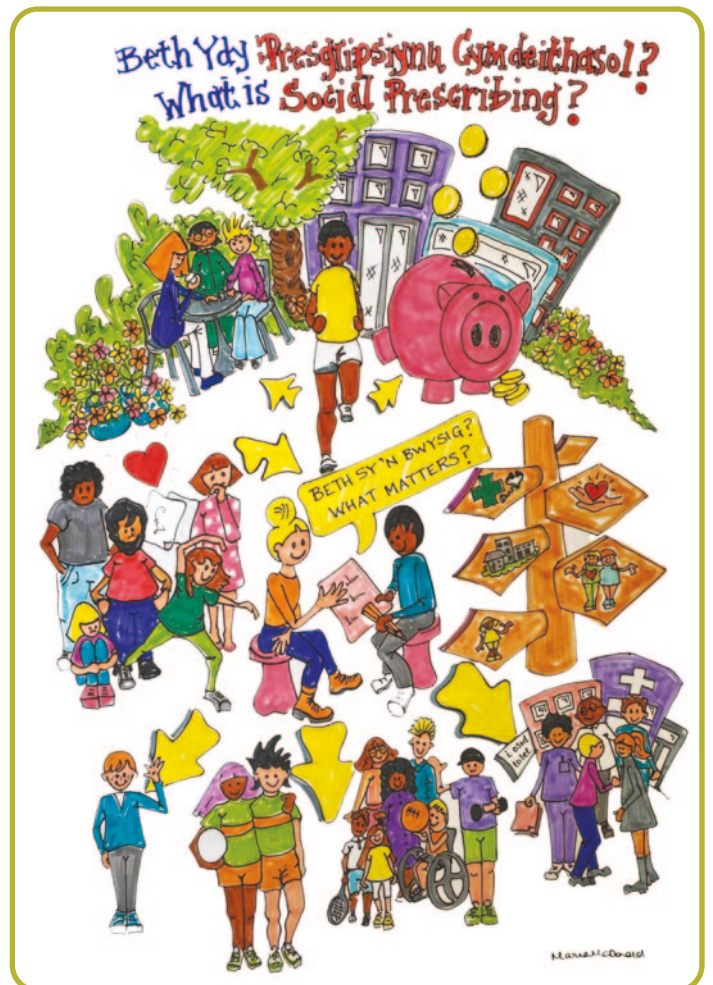
Figure 3. The concept of Social Well-being as developed by Elliott et al (2020)

HEFCW funded evaluation

Student mental health has significantly worsened in recent years, particularly with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This project aims to enhance student well-being, build resilience and promote new ways of working using a replicable model of social prescribing, co-created with partners from the local community to benefit university students as part of a whole system approach to wellbeing.

Researchers at University of South Wales and the Wales School for Social Prescribing Research are working with colleagues in Wrexham Glyndwr University and University of South Wales, funded by HEFCW on this project.

The project employs a mixed-method approach using Group Concept Mapping (GCM) and Realist methodology in order to identify what affects student well-being, understand how the Social Prescribing model currently works in Higher Education, and evaluate the implementation of the newly developed Social Prescribing service in Wrexham Glyndwr University.



Social prescribing evaluation forums

Developing research, evaluation and monitoring capacity within the third sector through the delivery of social prescribing evaluation forums, which directly feed into the development of the social prescribing evaluation methodology framework and training materials.

WSSPR has hosted three social prescribing evaluation forums (November 2020, January 2021 and March 2021). These are open to members of the Wales Social Prescribing Research Network and aim to provide a place for discussion and resources to support social prescribers (link workers, community connectors, etc.) and community groups in doing evaluation and monitoring.

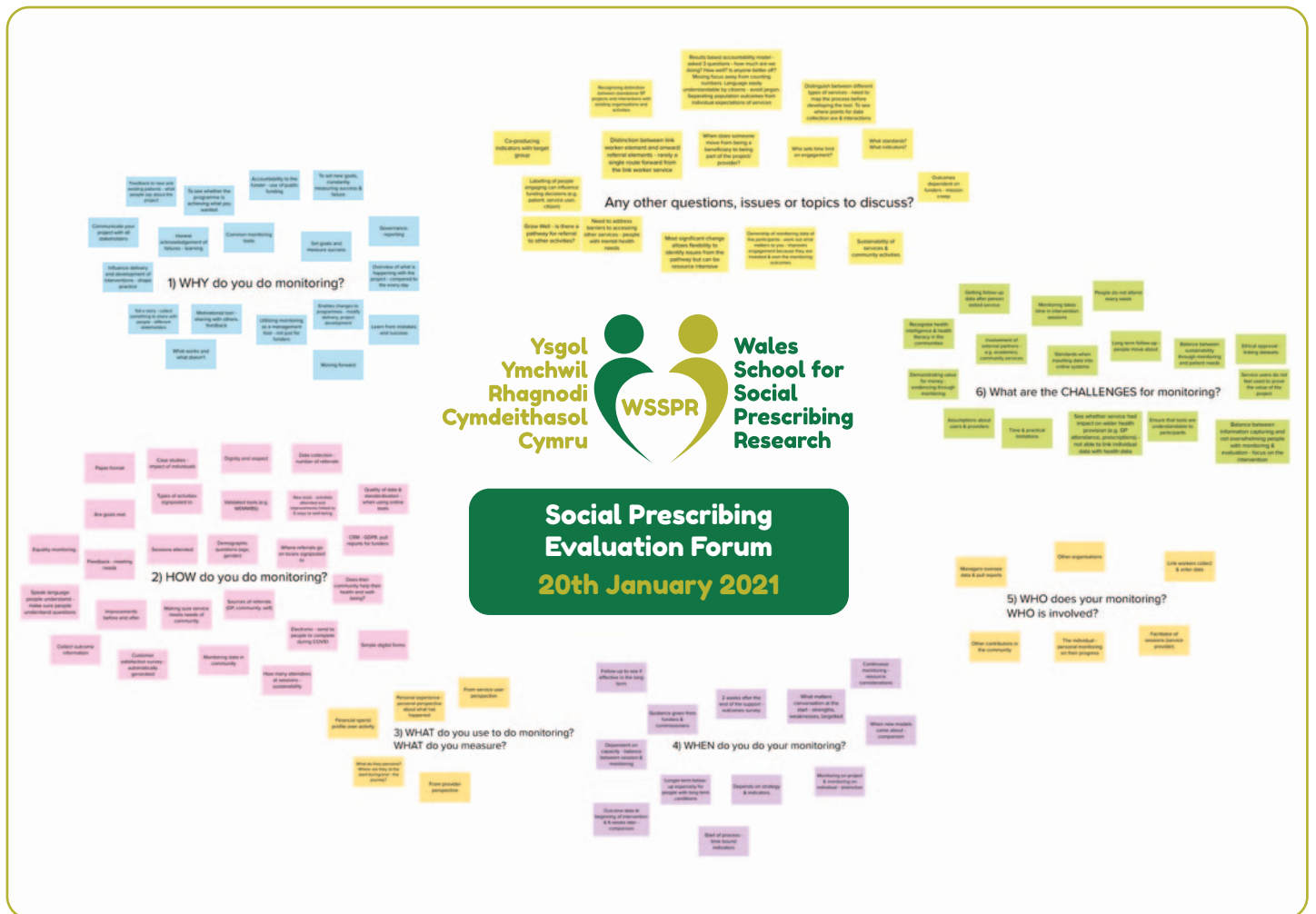


Figure 4. Output from our second Social Prescribing Evaluation forum which discussed developing monitoring tools

Wales Social Prescribing Research Network and Communities of Practice

Within WSSPR, sits the Wales Social Prescribing Research Network and three communities of practice (North Wales, Mid and West Wales and South East Wales) which are central to the WSSPR translational model of research.

The Wales Social Prescribing Research Network currently has 323 members from across Wales who have an interest in social prescribing research. Updates on research and invitations to participate in social prescribing related research are shared with the network and members are keen to engage with WSSPR researchers to develop different streams of research currently underway. Members of the network also raise issues and problems through the network to researchers, who can then use these to formulate research questions and research studies. This was the case for both the social well-being study and the social prescribing quality indicators study, which originated from within the network.

The Communities of Practice provide a wider platform for sharing across Wales. In North Wales, over 300 practitioners have attended events and the community continues to grow. The CoP meets approximately every quarter and have identified four main priority areas; education, impact/research, funding and the principles of social prescribing. The Mid and West Wales Community of Practice continues to expand, with a particular focus on training and professional development of link workers. The South East Community of Practice has been suspended due to staff changes. WSSPR are working with WCVA to relaunch the South East CoP in 2021-22.



Figure 5. WSPRN logo



Capacity building within WSSPR

WSSPR operates in an inclusive way, offering opportunities for development and capacity building for researchers at all stages of their career. Examples of our capacity building activities over the past year include; 10 research students (PhD, MRes and MPhil), staff attendance on training programmes

including Realist Review and Evaluation, Group Concept Mapping, Theory Based Evaluation, PRINCE2 Project Management, and support for health and social care professionals regarding social prescribing evaluation and monitoring.

Themes

Theme 1: Evaluation

Despite the funding and attention focused on social prescribing, the evidence base to support social prescribing is weak. The Evaluation theme aims to address this issue and contribute to the development of robust evidence for social prescribing.

This theme explores evaluation of social prescribing with different population groups, contexts and social prescribing models. Given the breadth of stakeholders involved in social prescribing, we collaborate closely with partners in the voluntary sector, NHS, Social Care and industry to develop our evaluations.

In the past year, our Evaluation theme has developed two strands. Firstly the ACCORD study, which is a multi-phase programme of research which seeks to develop an evaluation framework, reporting standards and training materials for social prescribing evaluation. Secondly, WSSPR have led and contributed to social prescribing evaluations of social prescribing programmes, including; voluntary sector mental health social prescribing pilots, social prescribing in higher education, time credits and community gardening.

In the next years, the evaluation theme will focus on developing these two strands further, producing world class research which informs social prescribing evaluation in Wales, the United Kingdom and internationally.

Llewellyn M, Wallace S, Wallace C, Elliott M, Williams M, Ganesh S, 2020. *Evaluation of the pilot mental health social prescribing programme. Final report for Mind Cymru. December 2020.*

Elliott M, Watson H, Lewis A, Wallace C, 2020. "A participatory mixed-methods evaluation of a falls awareness programme", *Working with Older People.*

Further information:

<http://www.wsspr.wales/evaluation.php>

Theme 2: Social value

The development of effective and efficient policies in health requires the valuation of various activities, which are aimed at enhancing health care delivery in the provision of public health interventions. Social value is the additional value and wider non-financial impacts of interventions and programmes contributing to wider outcomes such as improved wellbeing of individuals, communities, and the environment.

The Social Value theme works with the Social Value Hub at Bangor University. This theme seeks to undertake social value research for social prescribing programmes to provide evidence for impact of interventions, resource allocation and value for money of services.

In the past year, the Social Value theme has undertaken a number Social Return on Investment projects, including the Nantlle Valley Well-being hub, EmotionMind Dynamic, PrAISED programme, I CAN WORK project and Gwynedd Bus Project. The Social Value theme works closely with partners across Wales and offers its expertise on evaluations related to social prescribing.

Going forward, the social value theme will continue to develop the evidence for social value for social prescribing and contribute to the development of social prescribing evaluation in the future.

Lynch, M., Spencer, L., Edwards, R. (2020). *A Systematic Review Exploring the Economic Valuation of Accessing and Using Green and Blue Spaces to Improve Public Health. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 17, 4142.*

Thomas, G., Lynch, M., Spencer, L.H. (2021). *A Systematic Review to Examine the Evidence in Developing Social Prescribing Interventions That Apply a Co-Productive, Co-Designed Approach to Improve Well-Being Outcomes in a Community Setting. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; 18(8):3896.*

Further information:

<http://www.wsspr.wales/social-value.php>

Theme 3: Workforce and education

Given the infancy of social prescribing and the breadth of social prescribing models employed in Wales, questions remain regarding the social prescribing workforce. As social prescribing has developed organically across Wales, variability and uncertainty regarding the role, training needs, responsibilities and skills of social prescribing remain.

The Workforce and Education theme within WSSPR is developing a programme of research to explore the social prescribing role and workforce. This will contribute directly to the development of the social prescribing workforce in Wales and work undertaken by Health Education and Innovation Wales (HEIW). In the past year, consensus research has been undertaken to explore the role of social prescribers in Wales, to identify their learning and training needs, and to develop quality indicators for social prescribing practice. Research to identify the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on social prescribing has also begun, in partnership with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action. These research studies feed directly into the Ministerial Task and Finish Group for Social Prescribing which will support development of the social prescribing workforce and education.

In the next years, this theme will continue to grow and begin to look at the social prescribing workforce outside of Wales, exploring similarities and differences between the role of social prescribers in different contexts and sharing best practice within social prescribing. We will specifically focus on the impact of COVID-19 on the social prescribing workforce and identify how WSSPR research can contribute to the recovery of social prescribing, post-pandemic.

Roberts T, Lloydwin C, Pontin D, Williams M, Wallace C, 2021. The role of social prescribers in Wales: A consensus methods study. Perspectives in Public Health. doi.org/10.1177/1757913921990072

Further information:

<http://www.wsspr.wales/workforce-education.php>

Theme 4: Well-being

The Outcomes Principles & Framework for social prescribing in Wales highlight the importance of well-being when assessing the impact of social prescribing on the person, their carers & families. Social prescribing programmes target a breadth of population types, conditions, groups, reasons for referral. Well-being is a common outcome that affects everyone, regardless of condition.

The Well-being theme has emerged during the first year of WSSPR. It aims to explore how different models of well-being interrelate, and are reflected and applied in social prescribing theory and practice.

In the past year, work to develop this emerging theme has included development of the concept of social well-being in the context of social prescribing, and the South Wales Social Well-being Scale (SWSWBS). It also includes evaluation of social prescribing services on well-being and how these evaluations operationalise and define well-being.

Going forward, we will continue to develop this theme in response to need identified by social prescribing practitioners and health and social care professionals. We will work to validate and test the SWSWBS and provide training and guidance for how this can be used in social prescribing practice. We will also explore how this scale may also be useful in other health and social care contexts.

Elliott M, Smith S, Pontin D, Wallace C, 2020. Developing a tool to measure social well-being in the context of social prescribing. A group concept mapping study. Report, November 2020.

Further information:

<http://www.wsspr.wales/wellbeing.php>

Public involvement

Public representatives have been, and continue to be, actively involved in the development and activities within WSSPR.

Our public involvement representatives

Our public involvement representatives inform the planning, design, implementation and dissemination of our research at WSSPR.

From April 2020 – October 2020, Roger Seddon sat on the steering group as the PPI representative for WSSPR. Roger played a critical role in supporting the development and establishment of the school, particularly in highlighting important areas for future research and consideration of risks for the school in its set up, and development during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In January 2021, John Gallanders and Sondra Butterworth joined the WSSPR steering and operational groups as PPI representatives. John and Sondra have provided invaluable support in development of funding applications, suggesting ideas for areas of research, highlighting challenges in practice (eg, public awareness of social prescribing) and acting as critical friends to research studies.

Aside from our steering group, we have also worked with members of the public on the development of funding applications, getting feedback on ongoing research and disseminating our outputs beyond the research community.

We use the UK standards for public involvement to guide the development and implementation of our public involvement plans and activities:

- **Communications** – We endeavour to share our work widely in an accessible and appealing way. We will be working with our PPI representatives to design a strategy for communication and dissemination.

- **Working together** – WSSPR works on an inclusive basis, ensuring that contribution of individuals is always recognised and valued. The WSSPR PPI representatives are viewed as equal members of our steering and operational groups and are encouraged to contribute in and outside of meetings in a way that feels most comfortable to them.
- **Inclusive opportunities** – We will seek to promote opportunities for the public to work with WSSPR.
- **Impact** – Our public involvement members have been involved in developing our ideas from the outset, and commenting on funding applications and projects to maximise impact. Given the infancy of WSSPR, we are yet to fully develop ways to assess the impact that our public involvement has had on our research and share this learning and impact more widely. This will be a goal for 2021-22.
- **Governance** – Our PPI representatives are core members of both the WSSPR steering group (which provides strategic focus) and operational group (which focuses on the management and delivery of the funded infrastructure, risk management and monitoring outputs compared to targets).
- **Support and learning** – WSSPR PPI representatives are well connected with WSSPR research staff, each other and the PRIME Centre Wales SUPER group.

Moving into our second year we would like to improve our public involvement and move from ‘everyday practice’ to ‘aiming high’, by co-designing and developing strategies to maximise public involvement in social prescribing research going forward.

Our translational research model

At WSSPR, we use a translational research model. Through this model, issues and questions are identified by practice or public members of the Wales Social Prescribing Research Network and fed up to the research team. These inform our thinking and how we design and develop our research ideas. We then use our network to share our findings, get feedback on our research and implement changes based on our research into practice.

An example of this is the development of the concept and a tool to measure social well-being (page 13). Practitioners and GPs within our network identified an issue that the current tools that were used in practice and evaluation for social prescribing were not detecting changes in participants. This was fed up to the steering group, who also had identified this issue in the literature. Prof Steve Smith (steering group) identified that the most commonly used tool, the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS) was only measuring mental/internal states of well-being, and not capturing social well-being.

In response, researchers in WSSPR conducted a Group Concept Mapping study with 96 international participants to develop the concept of social well-being (Elliott et al 2020). Using the findings from the study and feedback from practitioners about the style and format of tools that are useful to them in practice, the researchers are now in the process of developing and refining an evidence-based tool to measure social well-being. A funding application is being submitted to the NIHR to test this tool in practice with social prescribers across the UK. The tool, guidance and training materials will then be shared with the network in Wales to support social prescribing practice and evaluation.

Our evaluation forums

Central to our practice and translational model of research at WSSPR are our evaluation forums. We host three evaluation forums per year, each focusing on different aspects of practice.

The aim of the forum is to provide a place for discussion and resources to support social prescribers and community groups in doing evaluation. The forums provide the opportunity for learning and asking questions about evaluation and monitoring, tailoring support to the needs and interests of participants.

The three forum events in 2020-2021 covered; general evaluation and monitoring ideas, questions and designs; developing monitoring tools for social prescribing; and developing quality indicators for social prescribing.

The forum discussions feed into our thinking about our research and how we can develop it to ensure it is useful in practice. The forums also provide an opportunity for us to share our research, particularly in relation to the ACCORD evaluation methodology and reporting standards study.

Attendees are encouraged to evaluate the forums in order to develop and improve the delivery and ensure the forums are tailored to the needs of the social prescribers and community groups at which they are aimed.

“

The future of health and social care will be heavily reliant on effective non-clinical and preventive measures with demonstrable social value and benefits. So this forum is highly relevant to anyone interested in innovation towards advancing the evidence base.

“

Invaluable source of knowledge and good for networking


Conclusion

The Wales School for Social Prescribing Research is a new, multi-disciplinary school, which is delivering and developing excellent social prescribing research within four themes; evaluation, social value, workforce and education, and well-being.

Within our first year, we have evolved and developed to meet needs and address gaps identified by the public, practice and policy. Our research has real world impact, and we have disseminated our findings and learnings to regional, national and international audiences.

In the coming years, we will continue building the evidence base for social prescribing and delivering high impact research, through:

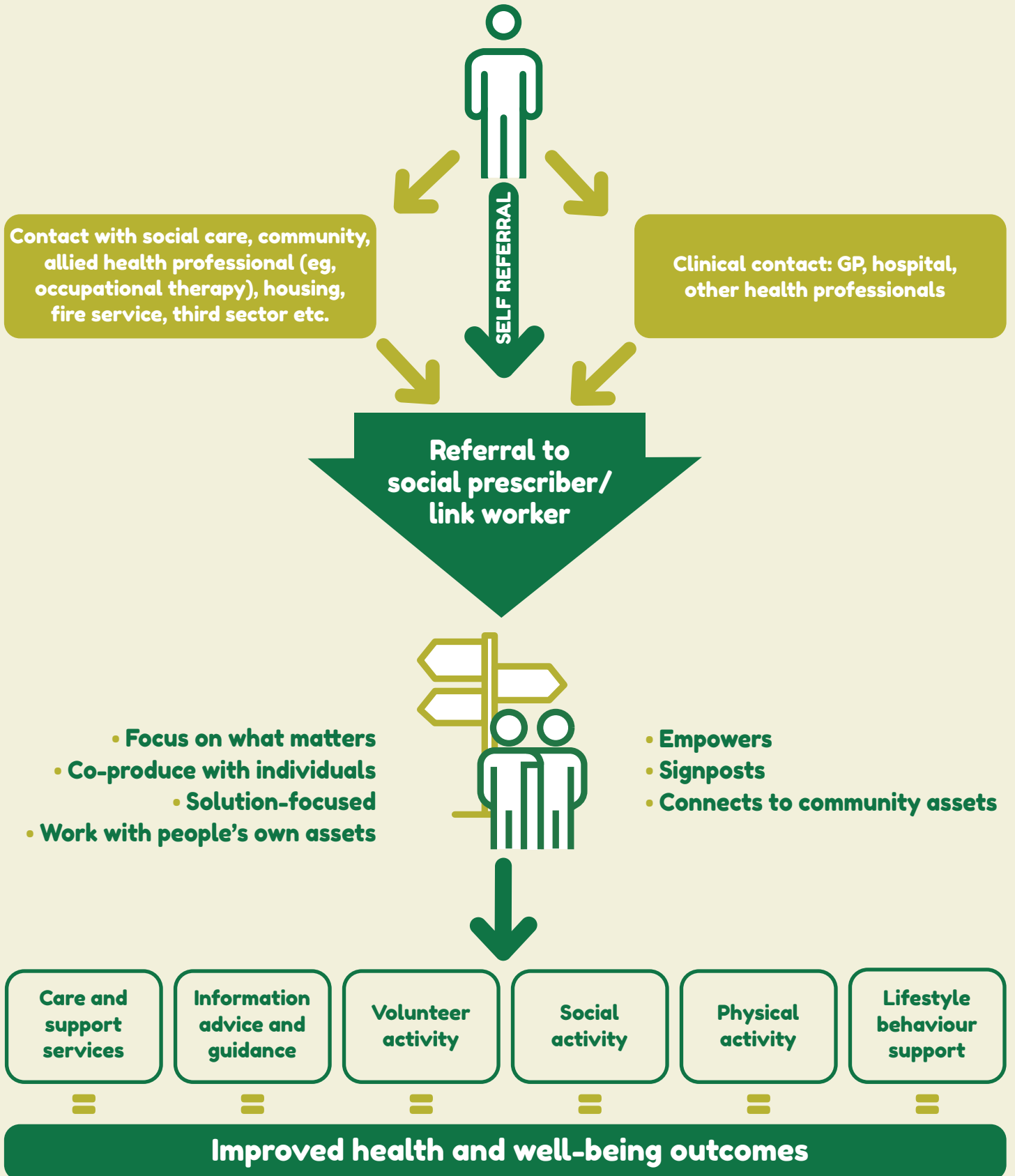
- Extensive collaborative working with leading academics, voluntary sector organisations, health and social care professionals, policy-makers, Health and Care Research Wales funded infrastructure centres, industry and members of the public.
- Employing the translational research model which guarantees pathways to impact and research which meets real world need. This includes disseminating work and learning from practitioners through social prescribing evaluation forums, webinars and our networks.
- Research capacity building activities for social prescribing research. This includes professional development of WSSPR researchers, eg, developing theme leads, post-doctoral researchers, doctoral researchers and principal investigators, to ensure continuation of a strong academic workforce for social prescribing research.
- Development of the evaluation framework, reporting standards and a glossary of terms for social prescribing.
- Sharing learning and good practice of social prescribing research through our networks, forums and international connections.
- Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on social prescribing and the social prescribing workforce, promoting and supporting recovery from the pandemic.



WSSPR will continue to benefit the people of Wales by developing strong evidence to support social prescribing practice, which aims to promote health, well-being and prevention of illness.

Social Prescribing Model in Wales

(Rees et al 2019)



Our partners





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www.wsspr.wales



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