



National  
Academy  
for Social  
Prescribing

# Social Prescribing in the UK & International Networks

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# The National Academy for Social Prescribing

Set up in 2019 by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, NASP is a national charity that champions social prescribing. We support and connect people, communities and organisations so that more people across the UK can enjoy better health and wellbeing.



Connection



Innovation



Investment



Evidence



Awareness

# What has been achieved in England?



Over 3400 SPLWs recruited within primary care with additional roles in wider sectors



Exceeded referral targets by over 40% with 1.3 million referrals in 2023 alone.



More than £500 million investment in social prescribing from the NHS since 2019



Commitment in the 2023 NHS Workforce Strategy to expand to 9000 GP Link Workers over next 15 years

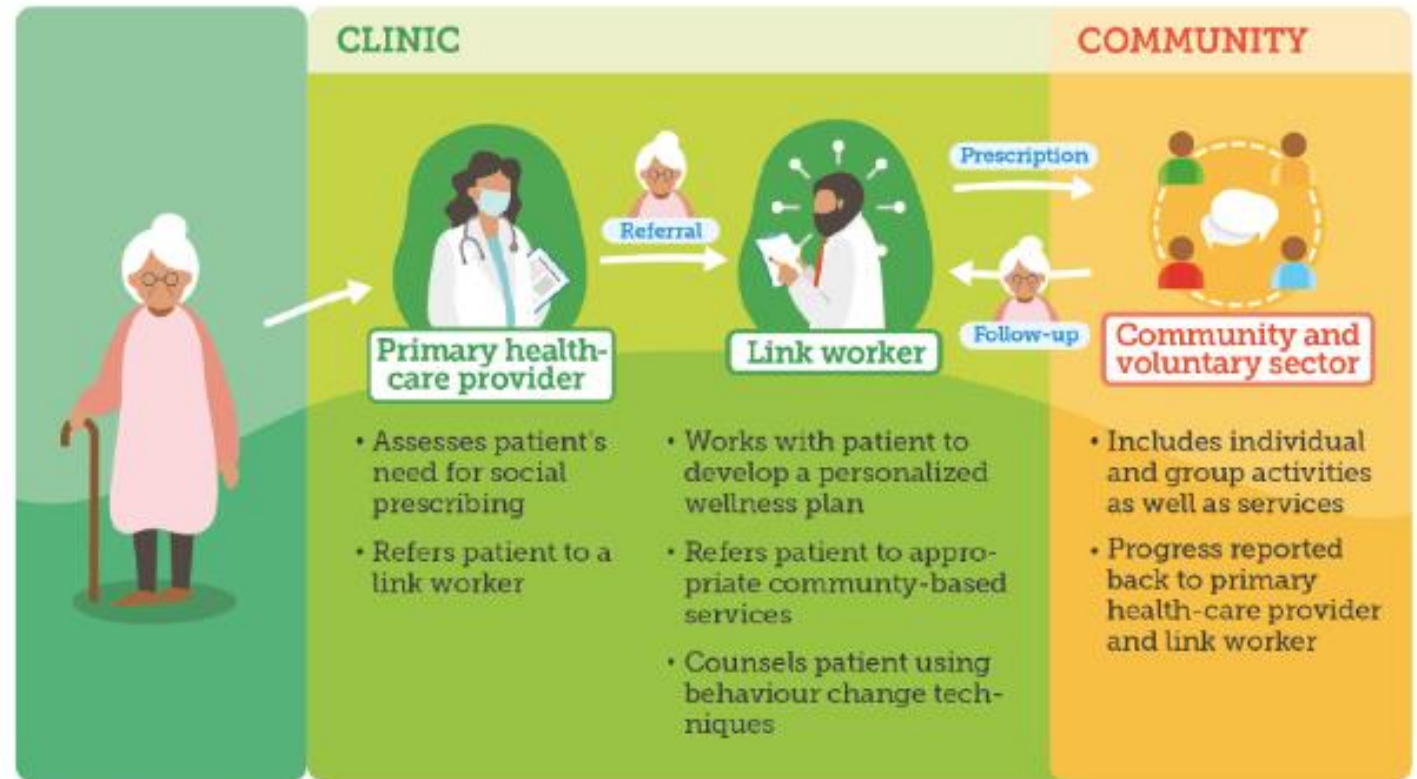
# The Social Prescribing Link Worker Model (England)

## Funding & Recruitment

- National funding pot (£ for link workers, NOT for the social prescribing activity)
- Local recruitment

## Training & Delivery

- National training standards
- Local training delivery



Source: Husk et al. (1)

# What is the impact?



20%- 40% reduction in GP appointments for patients supported



15%- 25% reduction in emergency and unplanned hospital care



Financial return on investment evidence shows £3 value for every £1 invested



Robust evidence shows significant improvements in health and wellbeing for people

# Engaging clinical leaders

The Royal Society of Medicine

Learn Visit Support us Membership

**PrescQIPP**  
Funded by the NHS for the NHS



Royal College of  
General Practitioners

Free Public

**Medicine and Me: How  
social prescribing is  
revolutionising the way  
we look at health and well-being**

This event has now passed



WELCOME TO



**2024  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE**



PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

AstraZeneca

#RCG



# NHS Student Champions

- 83 medical schools now teach social prescribing
- 20,000 students engaged
- 782 student champions



## Programme Highlights: 7 Years On



**782**  
student champions  
recruited to date



**20,000+**  
healthcare trainees and  
students engaged



**1,500+**  
teaching sessions  
delivered across  
UK universities



**50+**  
Conferences and  
published multiple peer-  
reviewed publications  
presented by Champions



**3x**  
National Conferences  
with over 500 attendees



**83**  
Universities involved

Launched world's first  
**#SocialPrescribingDay**  
awareness campaign (2018)

Social prescribing is now being  
taught at **all UK-based  
medical schools**

# Social Prescribing in Government Policy 2023/4

## Env Improvement Plan

**Government Environment Improvement Plan** 25-year improvement plan with 10 stated goals



## Suicide Prevention

**Suicide prevention strategy in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy**



Policy paper  
**Suicide prevention in England: 5-year cross-sector strategy**  
Updated 1 September 2023

## NHS Workforce

**NHS Long Term Workforce Plan**



## Major Conditions Strategy

**Government Major Conditions Strategy — Framework**



Policy paper  
**Major conditions strategy: case for change and our strategic framework**  
Updated 21 August 2023



# Embedding in National Policy & Cross Sector Partnerships

- Social prescribing now plays a key role in the strategies and plans of **many national organisations** - including NAVCA, Sport England, Historic England, Natural England, Independent Age, Arts Council England, the National Centre for Creative Health and the Money and Pensions Service.
- Recently published our vision for the future of **social prescribing for children and young people**, focused on **mental health**
- Convening **faith leaders**; Roundtable chaired by Bishop of London in House of Lords, followed by another in Dec 2025; leaders from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, The Muslim Council of Britain, Sikh leaders and other faiths with health, arts, sports, heritage and community, plus senior government officials.



NAVCA



Historic England



**Independent  
Age**



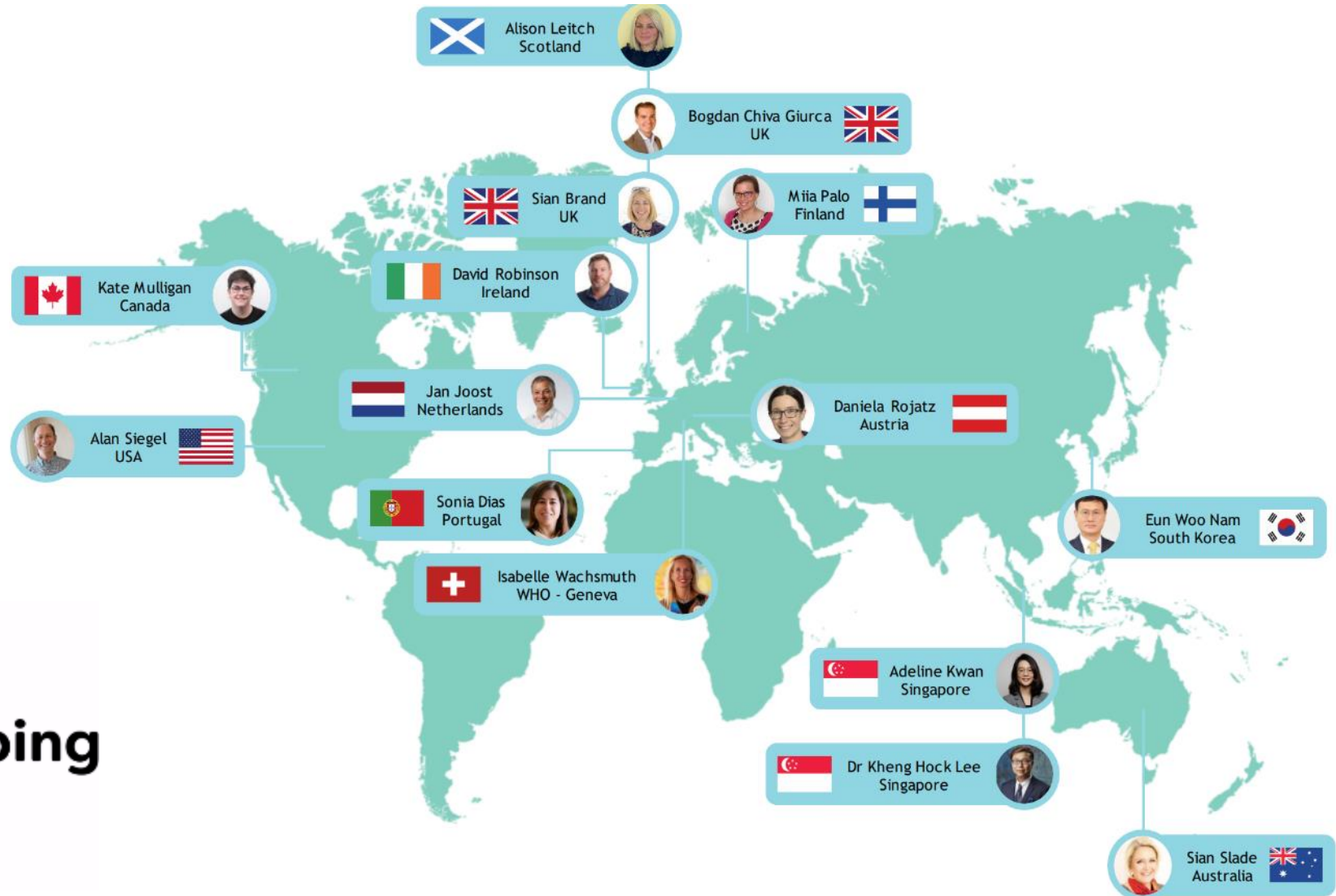
# Social Prescribing Roles Around the World



# Learning from the rest of the world

38 countries represented

International Evidence  
Collaborative of over 300  
academics and researchers



**International  
Social Prescribing  
Collaborative**

# International Arts on Prescription Collaborative

- The Collaborative brings together professionals involved in Arts on Prescription (AOP) initiatives to share knowledge, strengthen practice, and support global innovation in the field.
- Through regular meetings and events, members exchange insights, explore emerging approaches, and build partnerships across sectors and countries.
- Open to individuals working in arts social prescribing within non-profit or statutory/government-funded organisations, the Collaborative aims to raise the profile of AOP and highlight its growing importance in improving wellbeing.

The objectives of the collaborative are to:

- Share learning, knowledge and updates from different countries
- Strengthen relationships and help partnerships across countries develop
- Work together to raise the profile of AOP and its importance
- Have a unified voice to engage with global organisations such as WHO
- Offer support and boost morale
- Coordinate events for greatest impact and to reduce duplication





# Learning from the rest of the world



Reached over 1000 people

Outlining case studies & social prescribing models from 32 countries



Scan the QR code to download the report



## INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE

# SOCIAL PRESCRIBING AROUND THE WORLD

Hear from over 20 countries leading global change. Hosted by NASP with the International Social Prescribing Collaborative.

**MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 1:00-3:00 PM BST**

Online event. [Register now.](#)

### Agenda Highlights

- Global Snapshots**  
Members of the ISPC share national headline updates
- Innovation & Insight**  
Practical lessons from low- and middle-income settings
- CHWs Focus**  
How community health workers support social prescribing
- Research Spotlight**  
SP-EU: Vision and purpose for Europe-wide collaboration



## Our Impact So Far

Hosted

**470+**

people for 30  
international  
learning visits



Visitors from

**25**

countries.  
Delegations from  
Nigeria, Japan,  
Denmark, Hong  
Kong, Singapore  
and South Korea



Published

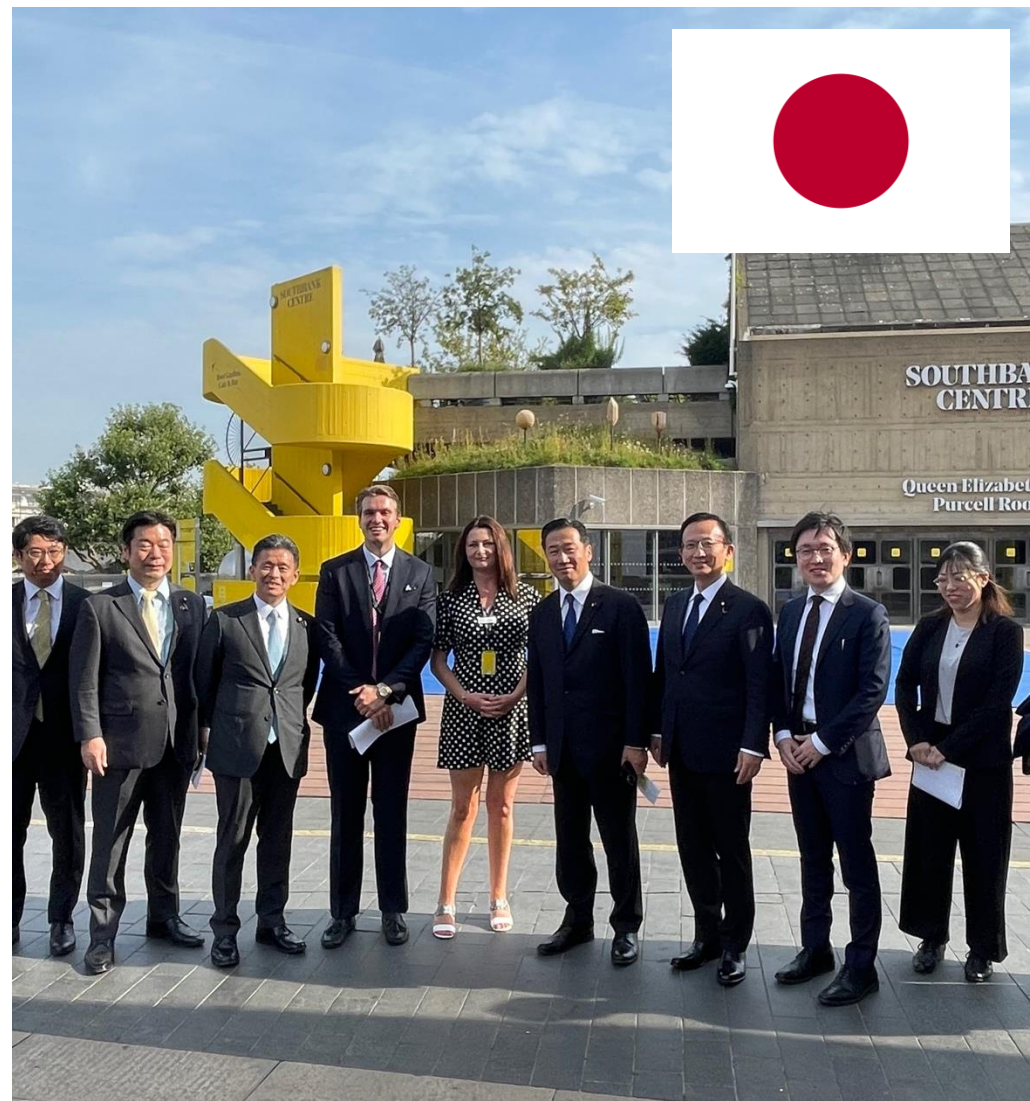
**6**

international reports  
and frameworks to  
foster good social  
prescribing practice



**1000+**

attendees for public  
webinars





# Social Prescribing to promote and improve access to health and care services for people in vulnerable situations in Europe



“We believe that Social Prescribing (SP) holds the power to transform health systems by bridging the gap between clinical care and the surrounding network of community-based, non-clinical services.”



- Project start: **January 2025**
- Project duration: **5 years**
- Consortium: **22 institutions**
- Europe-wide: **11 countries**
- Funding: **6.97 million €**

## 1. Co-Creation



## 2. Randomised Controlled Trial



## 3. Comparative Qualitative Study



## 4. Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation & Policy Work



Coordinated by  
**Prof. Dr. Wolfram Herrmann**  
Charité –  
Universitätsmedizin Berlin



[social-prescribing.eu](https://social-prescribing.eu)







National  
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Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



# POWER OF MUSIC FUND



# Why music?

Music accesses different parts of the brain to language, so music can be used to communicate or engage with someone who has been diagnosed with dementia, even if they no longer speak or respond to other people's words.

Music therapy reduces agitation and the need for medication in 67% of people with dementia, significantly reducing the spend on anti-psychotic medication.

In 2019, the WHO undertook a major study investigating evidence for the health benefits of arts, including music. A section on dementia found evidence benefits including anxiety and depression, quality of life, supporting cognition and speech and memory.

It helps carers too. Music for Dementia recently conducted polling of 1,000 non-professional carers to find out their views and how they use music as part of their care routine, the results were encouraging. 47% felt music could help reach and loved one and turn the day around. 80% use music as a regular part of caring for someone with dementia.

Power of Music report, 2022

Fancourt D, Finn S. What is the evidence on the role of the arts in improving health and wellbeing? A scoping review. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2019

Music for Dementia, 'The Music Sounds better With You', 2024



# Why systematise music for dementia?



Reduction in health inequalities; making it easier for more people to access community support whatever their background or needs



Potential reductions in pharmaceutical prescribing, A&E attendance and unplanned admissions, as well as use of primary care.



Improved pathways for health professionals to access evidence-based community provision, Link Workers supporting people most in need.



Increased investment into local community groups contributing to enhanced health and wellbeing and social inclusion.



# Progress so far

Supported over **200 organisations** and over **12,000 people**

**£2.7 million** raised for POM Fund, including **£500k** secured from the NHS

Launched a **National Learning Network** for music and dementia to evaluate, grow and share learning with others.

Managed by the **National Academy for Social Prescribing**, supported by **The Utley Foundation**, **Rayne Foundation**, **Arts Council England** and **Music for All** with new partners continuing to join.



# Power of Music Learning Network

A powerful learning network for music and dementia projects across the UK to **share learning, discuss challenges, and build capacity**

**Monthly webinars** focused on developing best practice across the country

**150+ leaders and organisations, and growing!**

## Popular Topics

- Connecting to healthcare
- Evaluation & building the evidence base
- Safeguarding & managing risk
- Communications
- Coping with sadness in groups
- Supporting carers



Darnall Dementia Group

# Centres of Excellence



Test **new approaches** to embedding music as part of dementia care, gather evidence of **cost savings** for the NHS and local authority, and design **new models of care** which can be **scaled up and spread** across the UK.



Focus on **placemaking**, a real connection to the region and the **system change** that can be brought about.



**Match funding** is fundamental to this level of the fund.



17 of 42 ICSs submitted bids - wide range of partners from including a **Premier League Charitable Fund**.



Part of a **strategic ambition** for NASP of **unlocking NHS commissioning** of social prescribing through **gathering data and evidence**, integrating community provision into emerging health systems.





# Manchester Camerata's Centre of Excellence for Music & Dementia

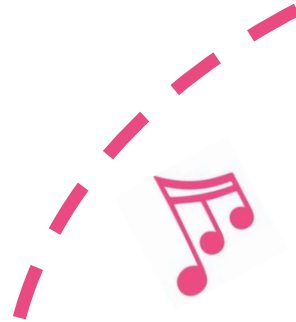
Manchester Camerata's *Music in Mind Music Cafes* and Alzheimer's Society's *Singing for the Brain* scaled up across all Greater Manchester boroughs to reach 1000 PLWD.

## Evaluation - due 2027

- Manchester Camerata will monitor, analyse and evaluate the impact of their activities and participants use of NHS services, with academic partner University of Manchester.
- Ground-breaking collaboration between the University and NHS GM to create the **Greater Manchester Secure Data Environment (GM Care Record)** - offers a unique position to undertake detailed analysis using routinely collected pseudonymised NHS data, to assess NHS utilisation for PLWD benefitting from music support.



# Hertfordshire's Centre of Excellence for Training in Music & Dementia



Age UK Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire Care Providers Association (HCPA), Music24

Focused on enhancing the **health and social care workforce's** ability to **integrate music into dementia care**, they will **co-produce** the development of a robust training programme to **upskill** the local health and care workforce, and to roll out across health care providers i Hertfordshire. The programme will primarily focus on the residential and nursing home workforce, reaching **100 providers, 6,000 staff** and approximately **5,800 PLWD**.

## Key outcomes

- More PLWD accessing the health and wellbeing benefits of music as a result of **encouragement and support from health and care staff**
- Health & Care staff working with PLWD have **easy access to high quality training and resources** to **increase knowledge and confidence**, and to enable them to utilise music as part of their practice
- The **Integrated Care System** recognising the **value of music as part of a holistic approach to care** for and support PLWD, and **commissioners and providers resourcing the training, development and systems required to embed** it across their workforce
- **Robust evidence demonstrating the impact and value** of training for the workforce, encouraging adoption by training and quality improvement, providers and/or leaders and other ICSs; and inclusion in national policy





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# Thank you

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