

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title:	Social Prescriber
Responsible to:	Adapt (NE) and North Shields Primary Care Network
Hours:	Full time post: 37 hours per week, Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm with up to two evening sessions per month to support enhanced access – evening session 4pm - 8pm Part time post: 21 hours (3 days). Actual days to be agreed (9am - 5pm) with one evening session per month to support enhanced access - evening access 4pm - 8pm
Location:	North Shields PCN GP practices

Northumbria PCN practices are Collingwood Health Group, Priory Medical Group, Redburn Park Medical Centre, Spring Terrace Health Group, Nelson Health Group

Full time post - salary: £26,281.92 per annum

Benefits: 25 days annual leave plus statutory holidays

Part time post – salary £14,916.74 per annum

Benefits: 15 days annual leave plus statutory holidays (pro rata)

Background:

Since April 2019, the new GP contract has enabled the development of locality-based Primary Care Networks (PCNs) with an aim to both support general practice and to provide a more holistic approach to the needs of their patients by linking them to a wide range of health, social care and voluntary sector services in the community, often addressing factors such as housing, financial strain and social isolation.

Social Prescribing in primary care comes under the personalised care agenda and is designed to support GP practices, patients, their families and carers in navigating local voluntary, community and statutory services, supporting and empowering patients to take control of their health and wellbeing.

[Adapt North East](#), a local and respected disability and access-focused charity and social enterprise organisation, was selected as an ideal host-employer for this service. Social Prescribing Link Workers also have access to regular peer support and training, as well as membership of the [National Association of Link Workers](#).

Job Purpose:

Social prescribing in the North Shields PCN empowers people to take control of their health and wellbeing through referral to Social Prescribing Link Workers who support patients to focus on 'what matters to me' and take a holistic approach to an individual's health and wellbeing, connecting people to diverse community groups and statutory services for practical and emotional support.

As a Social Prescriber, you will support individuals referred to the service by working in partnership with them to assess their non-medical needs and priorities and link them to suitable resources, groups and services. You will empower clients to access the support they need, which may include accompanying clients to local sources of help, where appropriate.

You will proactively build relationships with clients, offer support and develop collaborative, co-produced solutions to address their issues. You will develop relationships with community organisations and statutory services to maintain up to date knowledge and expertise on local services.

You will be working primarily out of GP surgeries as well as, where appropriate, working from the Adapt (NE) office, visiting clients in their homes and meeting clients in other community settings.

Duties and responsibilities:

Working with Adapt (NE) and the North Shields PCN GP practices you will:

- Work collaboratively with practice-based Care Navigators and the wider Primary Healthcare Team to develop a mutually beneficial referral pathway
- Engage, listen and build relationships with clients of all ages, genders and backgrounds
- Support and motivate individuals to develop solutions to the issues they care about to improve health.
- Receive referrals from practice staff and communicate with staff on progress.
- Receive referrals from partner agencies, as well as self-referrals from individuals
- Support identified individuals who would benefit from social prescribing activities provided within the local area. The aim of this is to:
 - Build confidence
 - Reduce isolation
 - Provide advocacy
 - Support/enable self-care
- Refer/signpost on to other services
- Maintain accurate records of all work undertaken, providing regular reports for management
- Pro-actively monitor and evaluate work
- Establish and develop links with North Tyneside Council services, community groups, service providers, advice agencies and other organisations working in the area, developing enterprising solutions to address patient needs
- Report to the Team Leader and the GP Practice Managers on a regular basis
- Maintaining records in accordance with data protection guidelines, and maintaining patient confidentiality at all times

- Actively engage in continuing professional development, team meetings, reflective practice sessions and supervision
- Any other reasonable duties as required by the Adapt (NE) Director, the social prescribing Team Lead and the GP Practice Manager

Personal Specification/Key competencies:

Motivation and values	Essential/Desirable
Understanding of the wider determinants of health and motivation to find community solutions to improving health and wellbeing	Essential
Understanding of and commitment to the principles of personalised care	Essential
Ability to demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the values of Adapt (NE) and the NHS	Essential
Experience	
Experience of supporting individuals in a community work, health, social care, health improvement or information and advice context (including unpaid work)	Essential
Experience of person centred support planning (including unpaid work)	Essential
Experience of working with vulnerable adults (including unpaid work)	Essential
Experience of supporting people with their mental health, in a paid, unpaid or informal capacity	Essential
Experience and understanding of the importance of maintaining confidentiality and data protection procedures.	Desirable
Experience of maintaining accurate and contemporaneous client records.	Desirable
Experience of DWP benefits systems, Jobcentreplus processes employment, housing and tenancy issues.	Desirable
Abilities and competencies	
Excellent interpersonal and advocacy skills and an ability to quickly relate to people in a non-judgemental way	Essential
Empathy and understanding of the needs of patients	Essential
Personal emotional resilience	Essential
Ability to work creatively, independently and autonomously in a complex community environment	Essential
Ability to proficiently use computer software packages e.g. Microsoft Office	Essential
Ability to work to challenging deadlines and manage a heavy caseload	Essential
Ability to form and maintain relationships with professionals and external agencies	Essential
Ability to maintain professional boundaries in relationships	Essential
Knowledge of adult and children's safeguarding, domestic abuse, mental health and substance misuse issues	Desirable

Education	
Commitment to undertake training and continuing professional development	Essential
Degree level of education or equivalent	Desirable
Other	
Flexible, adaptable and a willingness to work between surgeries, the Adapt (NE) office and in the community	Essential
Willing to undertake a DBS check prior to starting your employment	Essential
Able to work flexible hours as necessary	Essential
Able to meet the travel requirements of the post	Essential