



GOVERNING BODY REPORT

Agenda Item No.	10
Reference No.	IESCCG 19-54
Date.	24 September 2019

Title	Social Prescribing: Connect for Health Funding Approval 2020/21
Lead Chief Officer	Maddie Baker-Woods, Chief Operating Officer
Author(s)	Louise Hardwick, Head of Partnerships
Purpose	Funding approval

Applicable CCG Clinical Priorities:

1.	To promote self care	x
2.	To ensure high quality local services where possible	x
3.	To improve the health of those most in need	x
4.	To improve health & educational attainment for children & young people	x
5.	To improve access to mental health services	x
6.	To improve outcomes for patients with diabetes to above national averages	x
7.	To improve care for frail elderly individuals	x
8.	To allow patients to die with dignity & compassion & to choose their place of death	x

Action required by Governing Body:

To approve additional funding for Social Prescribing between June 2020 – March 2021

1. Background

- 1.1 We know large numbers of people currently seek support from clinical, care and emergency services for issues including isolation and loneliness, debt/money management and housing insecurity. These individuals need support to identify, prioritise and manage their own health and life needs. Social Prescribing is a person centred approach that “connects” people to such sources of support, often provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. It allows a dedicated “community connector” the time to get to know individuals and help them to access both practical and emotional support to improve their health and wellbeing in its widest sense.
- 1.2 The ultimate aim of Connect for Health is to ensure better outcomes (social and clinical outcomes) for individuals and more appropriate use of public (primarily NHS and social care) resources in order to release capacity across the system. Social Prescribing is part of a package of person centred approaches that aim to streamline patient flows through the system, build a diverse and responsive local provider base and tackle local demographic challenges, including the ageing population, deprivation and hidden needs including loneliness and social isolation.
- 1.3 Connect for Health in its few months of operation has begun to provide a “bridge” between public sector services and community/voluntary sector support in Ipswich and east Suffolk and new voluntary and community service responses have started to emerge to address the challenges faced by local people.
- 1.4 The Connect for Health model includes the core components of the national social prescribing model but flexes according to local geography and needs.
- 1.5 Patient representatives have been actively involved in the development of Connect for Health, including the tender evaluation process for the East Suffolk area marketing materials and the monthly steering group meetings. The appointed provider organisations are starting to work closely with their Patient Participation Groups including asset mapping local communities.

2. Current Status

- 2.1 The funding requested of £537,869 will enable us to extend the Connect for Health Social Prescribing project across all eight integrated neighbourhood team (INT) areas from July 2020 to March 2021 ie extend the initial funding period for a further nine months.
- 2.2 Connect for Health was originally funded in the two Ipswich INT areas directly by the CCG and in the six “East Suffolk” INT areas through the previous transformation funding (2018/19) Programme.
- 2.3 Additional match funding of £137,260 was secured for the East Suffolk part of the CCG area, by East Suffolk Council through the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Transformation Challenge Award.
- 2.4 The eight INT areas in the CCG area are covered by four different Connect for Health Voluntary Sector providers (Citizens Advice Ipswich, Access Community Trust, Suffolk Family Carers and Shaw Trust).
- 2.5 The contract covering the two Ipswich INTs is managed by the CCG and delivered by Citizens Advice Ipswich through Suffolk Community Foundation.
- 2.6 The six INTs in East Suffolk are covered by three different providers and all three contracts are managed by East Suffolk Council in conjunction with the CCG following a market engagement and tender process in early 2019.

- 2.7 The roll out of the Ipswich programme began in February 2019 and has taken a phased approach, with two practices going live per month. Delivery in East Suffolk commenced in July 2019 when the first Community Connectors started in post.
- 2.8 A steering group consisting of all key partners, including patient representatives, has been established to oversee the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of Connect for Health across the eight INT areas.
- 2.9 A programme of launch events has been planned for September and October in each area to formally launch Connect for Health. These events will enable the Community Connectors for each area to meet key partners, build upon the asset mapping that has already been undertaken and ensure that Councillors, Town and Parish Councils, Patient Participation representatives and Voluntary organisations understand the opportunities that Connect for Health offers for the local population.
- 2.10 Close working relationships are emerging between the GP practices and their Community Connectors – this is vital if the service is to work effectively because although GPs are not the only referral route in, they are likely to be a primary source of referrals.
- 2.11 Robust monitoring systems and have been put in place. Patient “stories” are also being collated. Major learning points from the schemes already underway in Suffolk have been taken on board, including the importance of building close working relationships with key health professionals including care navigators, managing and reducing DNAs and maximising connections into community support through understanding what assets are already available.

3. Funding

- 3.1 The original Transformation Funding enabled a Community Chest of £20,000 per INT area to be established through the Suffolk Community Foundation. As the Community Connections become established and start taking some more referrals they will get a clearer sense of gaps in provision and be able to encourage local groups to access this Community Chest funding to address these gaps in support and meet the specific needs identified in the local area.
- 3.2 This should be an additional opportunity that complements existing sources of funding already available eg District Council Enabling Communities Budgets and Suffolk County Council Locality Budgets
- 3.3 The main changes from the original budget for Connect for Health are as follows:
 - There is still funding for two Community Connectors per INT area but the management fee has been reduced to 12.5% (from 15%) following the initial set up phase
 - The funding for the rural outreach (£10,000 per area plus management fee) has been removed and should be rolled into the core budget
 - There is a small top up to the Community Chest element of the budget as this will not start being spend until Quarter 3 in 2019/20. This will enable additional funding to be provided where it is required ie where the original funding of £20,000 per INT has been utilised
 - Funding has been included for the purchase and management of a module of System One which will enable Community Connectors to input information onto the clinical system and enable health professionals to quickly see what has happened to their patient following a referral through the pilot. This will also help aid evaluation and monitoring of the service quickly and easily by both the practices and the provider.

3.4 Additional “in kind support” will continue to be provided through the District and Borough Councils Communities Team resource to support community capacity building and additional resource to contract manage and support the service is provided through the East Suffolk Council and CCG Head of Communities and the CCG Social Prescribing Manager. It is estimated that this resource is worth around £80,000.

3.5 A breakdown of the funding request is shown below:

Spend Area	Spend Detail		Time Period
Staffing	2 Community Connectors per INT area (x 8) @ £34,331 x 9 months	£411,972	July 2020 – March 2021
Management Costs	12.5% x £411,972	£51,497	July 2020 – March 2021
Working Budget	£500 per Community Connector x 16	£8,000	July 2020 – March 2021
System 1 Module costs	£150 x 16 Community Connectors Federation Management and Support costs	£2,400 £20,000	September 2019 September 2019 – March 2021
Community Chest top-up	£5,000 per INT area £4,000 Management Cost	£40,000 £4,000	July 2020 – March 2021
TOTAL		£537,869	

4. Summary

4.1 This project is already underway and therefore the additional funding will enable the CCG to roll forward the programme and extend to a total of 21 months (slightly longer for some of the Ipswich practice areas).

4.2 Public health Suffolk will support development of a robust evaluation framework, which will then be independently commissioned from a partner on our framework.

4.3 Information governance and in particular data sharing and partnership agreements are now in place between each of the providers and individual practices, marketing materials have been developed and agreed and the service has been formally launched in each of the INT areas.

4.4 The extended funding will enable the CCG to fully test the Connect for Health Social Prescribing model across the whole area and four different provider organisations.

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Governing Body is asked to approve the additional funding for social prescribing as outlined within the report.