Social Prescribing Awards 2027

Information sheet

Social Prescribing Network

College of Medicine and Integrated Health

Chamberlain Dunn events

Welcome to the Social Prescribing Awards 2027

The Social Prescribing Awards recognise and celebrate the individuals, teams, services and projects making a difference through social prescribing.

From supporting people with their mental and physical health to tackling loneliness, reducing inequalities and strengthening communities, social prescribing is helping people access the support they need to live healthier, happier lives.

The awards shine a spotlight on outstanding practice, innovation and impact across social prescribing in the NHS, local government, voluntary, community and faith sectors.

We invite entries from organisations and individuals who are delivering or supporting social prescribing and achieving positive outcomes for the people and communities they serve.

If you have a success story to share, we would love to hear from you.

Important information for entrants

- You may enter as many categories as you wish, provided each entry relates to a different project. You may also submit multiple projects within the same category.
- Please ensure submissions are written in your own words and accurately reflect the work undertaken. Judges are interested in understanding the authentic experience, impact and learning from your project or service.
- The submission portal does not support the addition of attachments and we ask that you do not include links to films, publications, websites, etc.
- As part of your submission you may use feedback and quotes from people using social prescribing services.
- We encourage entrants to be open about challenges, lessons learned and how these have shaped their project. Judges value reflection and continuous improvement as much as successful outcomes.

KEY DATES:

Entry deadline:
Midnight, Sunday 3 January 2027

Awards ceremony:
Social Prescribing Day - 24 March 2027, London

Entry online at
https://chamberdunn.awardsplatform.com/

ELIGIBILITY AND DEFINITION OF SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

Eligibility

The Social Prescribing Awards recognise individuals, teams, services and projects that are delivering, supporting or championing social prescribing.

Projects may be delivered by NHS organisations, primary care, local authorities, voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations, charities, educational institutions, cultural organisations, environmental organisations or partnerships.

What is Social Prescribing?

Social prescribing is a person-centred approach that connects people to non-clinical sources of support within their communities to improve health and wellbeing.

Social prescribing helps people access activities, services, groups and practical support that address wider determinants of health, including loneliness, physical inactivity, mental wellbeing, housing, employment, financial hardship and social isolation.

Project Eligibility

For all project categories, entries must demonstrate a clear connection to social prescribing.

Judges will be looking for evidence that the project is connected to social prescribing pathways or principles. This may include:

- Receiving referrals through social prescribing pathways or community referral networks;
- Working with Social Prescribing Link Workers, healthcare professionals or community partners;
- Providing activities, services or support commonly accessed through social prescribing;
- Improving health, wellbeing and community connection through a person-centred approach.

Projects that cannot demonstrate a meaningful link to social prescribing may not be eligible for judging.

Additional FAQs can be found on the awards platform here

AWARDS CATEGORIES

Please select the category that best reflects the primary focus of your project.

1 **Award for Excellence in Tackling Health Inequalities through Social Prescribing**
Sponsored by National Academy of Social Prescribing

2 **Award for the Best Heritage and Community Wellbeing Social Prescribing Project**
Supported by Historic England

3 **Award for the Best Green and Nature-Based Health Social Prescribing Project**

4 **Award for the Best Arts and Creative Health Social Prescribing Project**

5 **Award for the Best Physical Activity and Active Communities Social Prescribing Project**
Supported by The College of Medicine

6 **Award for the Best Children, Young People and Families Social Prescribing Project**

7 **Award for Faith Partnerships in Social Prescribing**

8 **Award for Social Prescribing Link Worker of the Year**
Supported by Social Prescribing Network

9 **Award for Social Prescribing Team or Service of the Year**
Judging partner Reed Wellbeing

1 Award for Excellence in Tackling Health Inequalities through Social Prescribing

National Academy for Social Prescribing

Sponsored by National Academy of Social Prescribing

This award recognises projects, programmes or services that have demonstrated a significant contribution to reducing health inequalities and improving access, outcomes and experiences for disadvantaged communities. Applicants are encouraged to describe the inequalities identified and the evidence used to understand local need.

Judging Criteria

- Clear focus on addressing health inequalities
- Reach into underserved or marginalised populations
- Evidence of meaningful outcomes
- Partnership working and community engagement
- Scalability, sustainability and system impact

Entry Questions

1 Which health inequalities is your project seeking to reduce? (150 words)?
2 Who are the communities or groups you are supporting and why were they prioritised (150 words)?
3 What outcomes have been achieved and what difference has the project made? (250 words)?
4 How have you worked with communities and partners to deliver change (150 words)?
5 What lessons or approaches could be adopted elsewhere (100 words)?

2 Award for the Best Heritage and Community Wellbeing Social Prescribing Project

Supported by Historic England

This award celebrates projects that use heritage, the historic environment, place, identity and community assets to improve wellbeing, health and social connectedness.

Judging Criteria

- Effective use of heritage assets to address local need
- Impact on community, wellbeing, health and connection
- Engagement with diverse communities
- Partnership, co-production and collaboration with diverse communities
- Evidence of outcomes and sustainability

Entry Questions

1. Describe your project and its heritage focus (150 words).
2. How does the project support community wellbeing, health and social connection (150 words)?
3. How have local communities and partners been involved in the design and delivery of the project? (150 words)?
4. What evidence do you have of positive outcomes (250 words)?
5. What has been the project's greatest achievement (100 words)?

3 Award for the Best Green and Nature-Based Health Social Prescribing Project

This award celebrates projects that improve health and wellbeing through engagement with nature, green spaces, blue spaces, conservation, food growing or environmental activities.

Judging Criteria

- Demonstrable health and wellbeing outcomes
- Effective use of nature-based interventions
- Accessibility and inclusion
- Environmental and community benefits
- Evidence of innovation and sustainability

Entry Questions

1. Describe your project and the activities delivered (150 words).
2. How does the project connect people with nature to improve wellbeing (150 words)?
3. How have you ensured opportunities are accessible and inclusive (150 words)?
4. What evidence do you have of impact on participants and communities (250 words)?
5. What makes your project particularly innovative or effective (100 words)?

4 Award for the Best Arts and Creative Health Social Prescribing Project

This award recognises projects that use creativity, arts and culture to support health, wellbeing and social connection.

Judging Criteria

- Creative and innovative practice
- Positive impact on participants
- Inclusion and accessibility
- Partnership working
- Evidence of outcomes and learning

Entry Questions

1. Describe your project and the creative activities involved (150 words).
2. How does participation support health and wellbeing (150 words)?
3. How do you ensure activities are inclusive and accessible (150 words)?
4. Who are your key partners, and how have these collaborations strengthened the design, delivery, reach, or impact of the project (150 words)?
5. What outcomes have been achieved for participants and communities (250 words)?
6. Why should your project be recognised as an example of excellence in creative health (100 words)?

5 Award for the Best Physical Activity and Active Communities Social Prescribing Project

College of Medicine and Integrated Health

Supported by The College of Medicine

This award recognises projects that use movement, sport, exercise or active community initiatives to improve health and wellbeing through social prescribing.

Judging Criteria

- Positive health and wellbeing outcomes
- Engagement of inactive or underserved groups
- Community participation and inclusion
- Innovation and partnership working
- Evidence of sustainable impact

Entry Questions

1. Describe your project, its objectives, and the activities delivered. What is innovative about your approach, and how have partnerships contributed to its design, delivery, or success? (150 words).
2. How does the project encourage people to become more active, and what difference does participation make to their health and wellbeing? (150 words)?
3. Who benefits from the project, and how do you engage inactive, underserved, or underrepresented groups? (150 words)?
4. How do you ensure the project enables meaningful community participation and creates an inclusive and accessible environment for everyone involved? (150 words)?
5. What evidence demonstrates the project's impact, and how have the benefits been sustained, embedded, or expanded over time? Include key outcomes for participants and communities. (250 words)?

6 Award for the Best Children, Young People and Families Social Prescribing Project

This award celebrates social prescribing initiatives improving the health, wellbeing and life opportunities of children, young people and families.

Judging Criteria

- Demonstrated impact on children, young people or families
- Co-production and engagement with beneficiaries
- Innovation and partnership working
- Reduction of inequalities and barriers to support
- Evidence of sustainable outcomes

Entry Questions

1. Describe your project and the need it was designed to address (150 words).
2. How are children, young people and families involved in shaping the project (150 words)?
3. What outcomes have been achieved and how are they measured (250 words)?
4. How has the project reduced health inequalities or improved access to support (150 words)?
5. What makes this project an example of best practice (100 words)?

7 Award for Faith Partnerships in Social Prescribing

The award celebrates initiatives that draw on the trusted relationships, volunteers, spaces and community networks of faith groups to connect people with support that matters to them. Entries should demonstrate how this work addresses unmet needs, reduces barriers to support and helps tackle loneliness or health inequalities.

Judging Criteria

- Connection to social prescribing: Demonstrates a clear, person-centred approach to connecting people with appropriate non-clinical support.
- Faith leadership and collaboration: Shows how faith communities or organisations lead or co-lead delivery and work effectively with relevant partners.
- Inclusion and accessibility: Responds to community needs, reduces barriers to support and respects people of different faiths and no faith.
- Impact and evidence: Demonstrates improvements in health, wellbeing, social connectedness or quality of life, supported by quantitative and/or qualitative evidence.
- Learning and sustainability: Shows how learning has improved the initiative and how its benefits can be sustained.

Entry Questions

1. Describe your initiative, who it supports and the needs it addresses. Explain its connection to social prescribing, including how people are referred or connected to support (150 words).
2. How do faith communities or faith-based organisations lead or co-lead the initiative? Explain their distinctive contribution and how volunteers and partners help deliver the work (150 words).
3. How do you make your support inclusive, accessible and responsive to individual needs? Describe how you overcome barriers, involve the people you support and respect different beliefs and choices (150 words).
4. What difference has your initiative made to people's health, wellbeing, social connectedness or quality of life? Explain how you assess this and provide evidence, such as participant feedback, changes in wellbeing, sustained engagement or improved access to support (250 words).
5. What have you learned, and how will you sustain the benefits of your work? Highlight any learning that could help other communities or services (100 words).

8 Award for Social Prescribing Link Worker of the Year

Supported by Social Prescribing Network

This award recognises an outstanding Social Prescribing Link Worker who consistently goes above and beyond to support individuals and communities. The winner will demonstrate exceptional person-centred practice, partnership working, innovation and a tangible positive impact on people's lives.

Judging Criteria

- Outstanding support and advocacy for individuals
- Evidence of improved health and wellbeing outcomes
- Strong partnership and community engagement
- Innovation, leadership or service development
- Influence on colleagues, partners or the wider system

Entry Questions

1. Tell us about the nominee and their role (100 words).
2. How have they made a significant difference to the lives of the people they support (150 words)?
3. Describe a challenge they have overcome or an innovative approach they have introduced (150 words).
4. What evidence do you have of the impact they have achieved (250 words)?
5. Why do they stand out from other Social Prescribing Link Workers (100 words)?

9 Award for Social Prescribing Team or Service of the Year

Judging partner Reed Wellbeing

This award celebrates an outstanding social prescribing team or service delivering exceptional outcomes, innovation and value for individuals, communities and the wider health and care system.

Judging Criteria

- Excellence in service delivery
- Demonstrable impact and outcomes
- Collaborative working across sectors
- Innovation and continuous improvement
- Contribution to reducing inequalities and strengthening communities

Entry Questions

1. Tell us about your team or service and the population you support (150 words).
2. What are your most significant achievements from the last 12 months (150 words)?
3. What evidence demonstrates the impact of your work on individuals, communities and services (250 words)?
4. How have you worked with partners to improve outcomes (250 words)?
5. What makes your team or service stand out as an example of excellence in social prescribing (100 words)?

About us

ORGANISERS

College of Medicine

The College of Medicine and Integrated Health is a registered charity founded in 2010. The College advocates for a new attitude to healthcare: one which forges partnerships across society, emphasises prevention and a multi-faceted approach and empowers a healthier, happier population.
https://collegeofmedicine.org.uk/

The Social Prescribing Network

The Social Prescribing Network is a free network that brings together people passionate about social prescribing and the difference it can make to people's lives. It connects practitioners, researchers, community organisations, policymakers and others who share a common goal: helping people access the support, activities and connections that matter to them.
Founded in 2015 by pioneers from health, academia, community organisations and the voluntary sector, the Network was created to unite people from diverse backgrounds who believed in the power of social prescribing to improve health and wellbeing. That collaborative, cross-sector ethos remains central to its work today.
As a hub for the social prescribing movement, the Network connects practitioners, researchers, organisations and networks across the UK and internationally, enabling the sharing of knowledge, research, innovation and best practice.
The Network has played an important role in supporting the growth of social prescribing, providing opportunities to share learning, evidence and practical experience. It offers an independent, grassroots voice for social prescribing, championing person-centred approaches that address the wider determinants of health. Through conferences, awards, research, communities of practice and knowledge-sharing activities, it helps strengthen the evidence base, inspire innovation and support the continued development of social prescribing.
https://www.socialprescribingnetwork.com/

Chamberlain Dunn

Chamberlain Dunn creates and delivers awards and staff recognition programmes that celebrate achievement and make an impact beyond the ceremony.
With over 30 years' experience, we support organisations with everything from a dedicated awards portal and expertly coordinated judging to full programme management, from launch through to celebration and beyond.
Our clients have included the Royal College of Nursing, Royal College of Midwives, Burdett Trust, Colyer Fergusson, Royal College of Speech and Language Therapy, UKPHR, Helpforce, Social Prescribing Network and the Healthcare People Management Association, alongside NHS trusts including Princess Alexandra, Oxford University Hospitals and Homerton. We also develop and run our own programmes, including the Advancing Healthcare Awards and Complementary Therapy Awards.
What sets us apart is how we work. We care about the detail and the people behind every programme. Our approach is thoughtful, responsive and calm, combining practical expertise with personal attention to help our clients feel confident and supported throughout.
Whether you need help with one part of your awards programme or a team to manage the whole process, we would love to hear from you.
https://chamberlaindunn.co.uk/

CATEGORY SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

National Academy for Social Prescribing

The National Academy for Social Prescribing was established as a charity in 2019 to champion social prescribing. We bring together health services and professionals, voluntary organisations, researchers and national partners to help more people access non-medical support that improves their health and wellbeing.
https://socialprescribingacademy.org.uk/

Historic England

From the extraordinary, to the everyday, our historic places and spaces matter – to you, to us, to the nation. From community centres to cathedrals, homes to high streets, markets to mills – they are the places we all choose to hold onto, the legacy we want to pass on and the stories we continue to tell.
That's why at Historic England we work together with people and organisations across England, to discover, protect and bring new life to our shared historic environment. Providing advice, knowledge, support and services, so the history that surrounds us all, lives on and is loved for longer.
https://historicengland.org.uk/

JUDGING PARTNERS

Reed Wellbeing, part of Reed in Partnership, helps people lead healthier lives through personalised, evidence-based health and wellbeing services. Working with the NHS and local authorities, it combines clinical expertise with behaviour change support. Services include weight management, diabetes prevention, smoking cessation and NHS Health Checks, helping people make lasting changes to their health.
https://www.reedwellbeing.com/

Ways to Wellness is a collaborative charity providing a trusted test and learn approach to health innovation - piloting, prototyping, and evaluating non-medical interventions in different clinical and population settings.
The aim is to help realise sustainable system change, empowering those most impacted by health inequity to improve their wellbeing.
Plinth is an AI-powered platform designed for charities and funders, used by more than 10,000 charities, local authorities, housing associations and foundations. From AI case management and smart CRMs for volunteers, members and partners to calendar and bookings, payments, fundraising, grants and impact reporting, Plinth brings everything together in one connected system. Our mission is to harness AI for frontline impact in a transparent and practical way, so organisations spend less time on admin and more time supporting their communities.
https://www.waystowellness.org.uk/

Plinth is an AI-powered platform designed for charities and funders, used by more than 10,000 charities, local authorities, housing associations and foundations. From AI case management and smart CRMs for volunteers, members and partners to calendar and bookings, payments, fundraising, grants and impact reporting, Plinth brings everything together in one connected system. Our mission is to harness AI for frontline impact in a transparent and practical way, so organisations spend less time on admin and more time supporting their communities.
https://www.plinth.org.uk/

PROGRAMME SUPPORTERS