

Report of:	Meeting	Date
Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities and Councillor Richard Rendell, Chair of the Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group	Cabinet	18 October 2023

The Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group – Final Report

Key decision: No.

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To report the work of the Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group to the Cabinet.

2. Corporate priorities

- 2.1** To improve the health and wellbeing of residents and to support vulnerable and ageing residents within the community.

3. Recommendations

That Cabinet considers the report and recommendations (attached in Appendix 1) arising from the Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Overview and Scrutiny Task Group which are as follows:

- 3.1** That the council continues to promote its ongoing work with its primary care networks, local GP practices and other link/community organisations; that the council supports these groups by continuing to advertise its services via different methods.
- 3.2** That the council should ensure that its health and wellbeing services and offers are well promoted on its website and social media. The council's services and offers should also be specifically promoted to local NHS social prescribing teams. If and when an opportunity to refresh a local directory of services presents itself, it is recommended that the council supports this work.

- 3.3** That the work of the council in relation to social prescribing be monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and be made a strategic priority.

4. Background

- 4.1** Following an update to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2022 on the Integrated Care Board structure for Lancashire and South Cumbria, the committee agreed to commission a task group to look at health and wellbeing in Wyre, specifically related to reviewing further opportunities for social prescribing.

- 4.2** The group's review aims were:

1. To understand what the council offered regarding health and wellbeing.
2. To understand the council's involvement and engagement with local Social Prescribing Networks.
3. To investigate the value for money and outcomes of the current offer.
4. To strengthen links, as a District Council, with the new Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnerships.
5. To identify and recommend opportunities for improvement.

- 4.3** The review was carried out over four meetings in 2023 held on 12 January, 23 February, 14 March and 30 March. The review group heard evidence from the following witnesses:

- Councillor Lynne Bowen, Leisure, Health and Community Engagement Portfolio Holder
- Mark Broadhurst, Head of Housing and Community Services
- Carol Southern, Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities Manager
- Keith Potter, Social Prescribing Team Leader, Volunteer Centre for Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde
- Dr Mark Spencer, Clinical Director of Fleetwood Primary Care Network

- 4.4** The group also requested an up to date contact list of all GP practices in the borough and sent out a consultation, with the questions agreed by the group. The Democratic Services Officer updated the group with the consultation's responses. The consultation and response can be seen at Appendix 1.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1 The task group acknowledged that social prescribing was not a statutory function of the council and in general it is not responsible for public health. It was also a very broad topic and there was a risk of not being able to agree realistic recommendations.
- 5.2 However, the task group acknowledged that district councils such as Wyre not only provided key services which could have an impact on the health and wellbeing of residents, but had a duty to collaborate with residents and local stakeholders to support and promote opportunities for improving health and wellbeing across the community.
- 5.3 The task group also acknowledged the work already ongoing by the council's Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities team and that social prescribing as a service was still relatively new within the healthcare sector.
- 5.4 The group therefore recommend that the council continue the work it is currently undertaking. In particular with social prescribing to be given greater importance, given the impact on the health and wellbeing of residents that Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis is having. They recommended that this be a priority in the refreshed Business Plan and for Overview and Scrutiny to monitor the work of the Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles and Communities team.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1 No alternative options were considered.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, should recommendation two be agreed and developed, there could be future financial implications should demand increase. If an in-house directory of local services is commissioned, then this too could result in costs which may not be covered by existing budgets and would require a further report.
Legal	None arising from this report.
Climate Change	None arising from this report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	✓

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None.		

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – The Promotion of Self-Care and Social Prescribing in Wyre Task Group report – final.