

GREATERLONDONAUTHORITY

██████████
(By email)

Our Ref: MGLA150119-3257

22 January 2019

Dear ██████████

Thank you for your request for information which the GLA received on 15 January 2019. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

You asked:

Please can you email me what your Organisation is doing about planning, commissioning and operationalisation of social prescription. What are the opportunities for the partners to bid or propose to help you with this roll out? What documents or reports can you signpost to me?

Our response to your request is as follows:

Mainstreaming social prescribing is a key commitment in the Mayor's 2018 Health Inequalities Strategy, which calls for "more Londoners in vulnerable or deprived communities to benefit from social prescribing" and for social prescribing to become "a routine part of community support across London." [i] To fulfil this ambition, the Mayor is working in partnership with NHS England, the Healthy London Partnership and the Social Prescribing Network to develop a vision for social prescribing. An Advisory Group has been convened and meets quarterly. Membership of this group includes representatives from the following organisations:

- Healthy London Partnership and associated NHS bodies including NHS England, Public Health England
- The Royal College of GPs
- London's Social Prescribing Network
- London Boroughs
- London Voluntary Sector bodies including MacMillan Cancer Support and Age UK
- Related GLA programmes that include a focus on social prescribing
- Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH)
- Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)
- Patient representatives

The majority of social prescribing services are currently commissioned by the NHS, Local Authorities or charities. The Mayor does not directly commission social prescribing services. However, the Mayor is keen to support the growth of social prescribing across London and as

such has commissioned the following resources to support commissioners and providers to develop good practice and deliver more effectively:

- The draft Vision for Social Prescribing was published in December and has been put out for Consultation with a deadline for comments to be returned by the end of February 2019. A final version is expected to be published by April 2019. This document will outline the Mayor's social prescribing priorities over the next 10 years. This document may be accessed at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/social-prescribing>
- In 2018/19 the Mayor commissioned several projects exploring social prescribing in London to inform the Vision. Reviews of the digital landscape, and the of role of the voluntary sector have already been published and are available at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/social-prescribing>

Other commissioned projects include:

- an internal review of the role of local government
- three projects to inform the evaluation work programme,
- the Housing Association Charitable Trust were commissioned to look at the role of housing associations.

These reports will be available on our website in spring 2019.

A review of the current provision of social welfare legal advice in London is due to be put out to tender shortly.

There are opportunities for engaging with the GLA on social prescribing projects across a number of GLA teams and departments. Projects put out to tender are circulated amongst companies and organisations who have expressed an interest to the GLA. In order to go on this list, please contact the GLA who will forward details to the relevant team.

In addition to the documents I have noted in this letter, the Social Prescribing and Self-Care Wiki and the Social Prescribing Network have a number of relevant resources:

- <https://www.socialprescribingnetwork.com/>
- https://wiki.healthylondon.org/Social_Prescribing_and_Self_Care_Wiki

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely


Senior Policy and Programme Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>