Assuring safety and quality in social prescribing

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Project

In January of 2018 the Big Lottery Fund awarded funding to The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to support the development of a quality assurance process that would support scaling of social prescribing across the UK.

The work co-ordinates with the common outcomes framework in England and other processes in the home countries.

TCV is a community volunteering charity and has considerable skills and experience in provision of health & wellbeing through Green Gym™, which empowers people to manage their own health and wellbeing.
Gathering insight...

- England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Supporting or engaged with numerous groups including:
  - SP Network and the regional networks
  - NHS E SP team – aligned with common outcomes framework
  - All Wales Social Prescribing Research Network
  - ScotPHN, Public Health Wales, PHA NI
  - Citizens Advice, RCGP, RCP
  - Voluntary networks, WCVA, VONNE, ACEVO...
  - NHS Hospital Trusts
  - Elemental, Intelligent Health
  - VAC, ConnectLink
  - PHE, HEE, RSPH, NHS I, Universities
  - MARCH
Triple lock

Protect the person
Protect the provider
Protect the referrer
Three tiers of quality assessment

- **Level 3** - advanced requirements representative of population needs
- **Level 2** - enhanced requirements with specific additional components
- **Level 1** - basic requirements for small providers and community programmes

Data protection – GDPR
Safeguarding
Insurance
Health and safety
Financial
Equality
Process/pathway
Competencies
Outcomes
User experience
Threshold

Evidence

Complexity/difficulty

Threshold
New tool or template?

• There are numerous QA tools already in place
• Some are free to use, others are not but add value
• Need to minimise workload
• New tool
  + Single, universal process
    - Invalidates current tools, impacts business
• New template
  + Allows mapping of current process
    - Too generic, difficult to manage risk
Questions to form consultation

1. Do you believe a new QA tool or a template is a better option?
2. Who should ratify/recognise the QA product for maximum impact?
3. Who should own the process?
4. How should the QA certification process be funded?
5. How often should the certification process be repeated?
   - Self report
   - External assessment
6. How would very small groups certify?
Thank you for being here today!