

## Social Prescribing- Strengthening the Evidence

The Equitable Placed Health and Care theme (EPHC) theme is developing research plans on the topic of social prescribing. The focus of our social prescribing (SP) research will be to apply a health equity lens on how current models of social prescribing are being delivered in the north west coast and how data is being collected to evidence impact. The research will involve investigating social prescribing planning, delivery and data collection mechanisms with a particular reference to the wider determinants of health and how social prescribing may negatively or positively influence health inequalities.

### Research objectives:

- To review what processes and data are being used to capture SP outcomes
- To identify any gaps in data collection and how data can be better utilised to evidence impact
- To establish demonstration sites to illustrate how the different models being implemented influence outcomes, including impacts on health inequalities
- To evaluate the longer-term impacts of SP on health inequalities/wider determinants of health
- To produce learning to support evidencing the impacts of SP interventions
- To produce learning to support SP commissioning and service delivery.

### Research activity:

**Objectives 1-2:** The first stage of the research will be to review how SP services are collecting SP data and evidencing outcomes. Research activity will include documentary analysis and conversations with key stakeholders.

**Objectives 2-3:** Demonstration sites for SP will be established to include commissioned SP services who are interested in evidencing outcomes and/or developing data collection processes to evidence outcomes, including impacts on health inequalities. This phase will involve targeted intelligence gathering and working with local stakeholders to identify existing data collection systems, data gaps, identifying appropriate data measures, and facilitating/developing processes to support data collection.

**Objective 4:** The longer-term goal will be to establish data capture systems and evaluate the longer-term effects of SP models on health inequalities. Funding will be sought for an evaluation in year 2 (2021-22) with the aim of an externally funded study commencing in year 3 of ARC (2022-23).

**Objective 5:** Findings from all stages will be shared internally with those involved in the demonstrator sites including local service commissioners and providers to inform practice as well as more wider audiences across sector

For further information, please contact Koser Khan [k.khan4@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:k.khan4@lancaster.ac.uk)