

Appendix 8

Integrating Volunteers for Health (VfH) Northants with Social Prescribing

Why Align with Social Prescribing?

- Social prescribing is a key NHS strategy to reduce clinical demand and improve holistic health.

Key Actions

1. Map Local Social Prescribing Infrastructure

- Identify:
 - Link workers in PCNs
 - Social prescribing leads in ICB and Local Authorities
 - Community connectors and wellbeing hubs

2. Position VfH as a Referral Pathway

- Offer volunteering as a **non-clinical intervention** for:
 - Mental health recovery, support
 - Reduction of Health Inequalities
 - Long-term condition management
 - Social isolation
 - Transport
 - Home visits
 - Remote listening

3. Link Workers with VCSEs

- Deliver VfH awareness sessions to social prescribing teams and VCSEs.
- Share Volunteer Portability system with Link Workers for potential volunteers

4. Embed VfH in Local Care Collaboratives

- Align VfH with local priorities (e.g. frailty, mental health, carers).

5. Monitor and Share Outcomes

- Track referrals from and to social prescribing.
- Report outcomes back to PCNs and ICB to demonstrate VfH's work with Social Prescribers