

## **Appendix D: Background to support Recommendations 5a and 5b**

1. Our active travel social prescribing programme was developed with the Nottingham Place-based Partnership who are committed to social prescribing. An NHS funded network of Social Prescribing Link Workers is already established across the city supporting GP services and as part of this offer Nottingham Volunteer Community Services (NCVS) runs the Greenspace social prescribing programme to support access to nature for mental health and wellbeing.
2. To be successful the active travel social prescribing programme needs to be embedded within this established social prescribing workforce to ensure the end services are provided to the people who would most benefit and will be most effective employed by our bid partners Nottingham City GP Alliance and Nottingham Community Volunteer Service. Furthermore the existing Link Workers do not have capacity to focus on active travel support specifically so additional community-based Active Travel Link Worker roles are needed to support community activation for walking and cycling in the three target communities.
3. Therefore the programme allocations set out in **Appendix B** include funding for these partner organisations to employ five posts in front-facing delivery roles to provide additional resource to support the referral process for active travel social prescribing. The responsibility for programme management including monitoring and evaluation will sit with council and the funding package also includes provision for additional council staff resources to support programme delivery including a Programme Manager, a Project Officer and for support for project management, comms, and monitoring activities. Having a cross-partnership delivery team secures the buy-in of the key delivery partners and harnesses the strengths of the individual partner organisations. The diagram at the end of this appendix shows how each partner organisation will support the programme delivery with the additional programme posts to be funded highlighted with yellow text.
4. There is an additional local delivery budget of £60,000 (£10,000 per area per year) to enable commissioning of additional small-scale provision to meet area specific needs to complement the main delivery programme, which the shared delivery team will be able to call on.
5. **Justification for Recommendation 5a**
  - 5.1 Recommendation 5a seeks approval to make a direct award of up to £200,000 to Nottingham City GP Alliance to employ four roles up to March 2025.
  - 5.2 The Link Workers for the delivery areas for this programme are employed by Nottingham City GP Alliance so these new project posts will form part of that team and the GP Alliance will be responsible for all aspects of recruitment, and employment, with line management provided by the Primary Care Network Manager in each area.
  - 5.3 The four funded roles at the Nottingham City GP Alliance (NCGPA) comprise:
    - a Social Prescribing Link Worker Co-ordinator post
    - three half time (3 x 0.5 full time equivalents) Active Travel Link Workers
  - 5.4 The Social Prescribing Link Worker Co-ordinator will maximise the impact of the existing link worker network and support patient referral processes including triage of patients into the programme and proactive identification of suitable participants who can be encouraged to self-refer into the support package.
  - 5.5 The Active Travel Link Workers will provide a recognised single point of contact for the project in each delivery area. They will provide buddying support for participants to ensure people take up the support opportunities offered and then support their transition into other community or volunteer led groups to sustain active travel behaviour change. They will work very closely with the area grant lead organisations in each area. They will also be champions for active travel in the healthcare workforce to embed an active travel culture and to build confidence in the benefits of prescribing walking and cycling intervention amongst social prescribers and GPs.

- 5.6 The Nottingham City GP Alliance is exploring the option to secure additional funding to recruit these roles as full time posts with a dual function as Social Prescribing Link Workers with a lead for promotion of active travel.
- 5.7 These posts are shown in blue in the primary care section of the organisational diagram.

**6. Justification for Recommendation 5b:**

- 6.1 Recommendation 5b seeks approval to make a direct award of up to £85,000 to Nottingham Volunteer Community Services (NCVS) to employ a Volunteer Development Officer until June 2025
- 6.2 It is proposed this post is employed by Nottingham Community and Voluntary Services (NCVS). Nottingham Volunteer Community Services are the umbrella provider for community and volunteer services and already host the Greenspace social prescribing team. The Greenspace social prescribing programme managed by Nottingham Community and Voluntary Services has established processes and good practice for social prescribing for improving mental health and wellbeing in the city. All responsibilities for recruitment, employment and training and management of this post would sit with NCVS.
- 6.3 The Volunteer Development Officer will develop volunteer networks and community capacity to foster group and self-led activities working alongside the current Greenspace team to embed the processes and learning already established through Greenspace into the new programme. This post is shown in purple in the community and voluntary section of the organisational diagram.
- 6.4 The partners are exploring a matrix management approach to ensure the linkages across the social prescribing system with NCVS supporting the line management and the training of the Active Travel Link Workers.

# ATSP Governance & Delivery

Key:

- Strategic governance
- Nottingham City Council
- Community and voluntary sector
- Primary care
- Secondary care
- New posts

