Participant information sheet

Study title: Developing a social prescribing evaluation framework and training materials

Study Team: Dr Sarah Wallace, Prof. Carolyn Wallace, Sophie Randall, Johanna Davies, Dr Kevin Swingler, and Prof. Edward Duncan.

Invitation

We would like to invite you to take part in a study to develop an evaluation framework for social prescribing and accompanying training materials. The study is a collaboration between the University of South Wales, the Wales School for Social Prescribing (WSSPR), and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). Before you decide whether you'd like to take part, you need to understand why this is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Please feel free to ask questions of the principal investigator, Sarah Wallace, if anything you read is not clear or you would like more information. Her contact details are at the end of this information sheet. Please take time to decide whether or not to take part.

1. What is the purpose of the study?

Social prescribing is being widely implemented (globally and throughout the UK). Yet the evidence base for social prescribing is weak; evaluations have faced criticism e.g., poor quality, limited methodology and data reporting.

Our study aims to develop a quality social prescribing evaluation framework with Continual Professional Development (CPD) materials, for UK-wide and international use. These tools will support build research capacity amongst academics and non-academics to develop and deliver rigorous social prescribing evaluations.

2. Why have I been invited?

You are being invited to participate in this study due to your experience / expertise in the field of social prescribing. Your participation is important and will support the development of a quality social prescribing evaluation framework with CPD materials.

3. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide. Please read the description of the study in this information sheet to help you decide. Please sign the attached consent form to show you agree to take part. You are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without consequence to yourself. This information sheet provides information about the study, and we would like you to read it carefully to help you decide whether you would like to participate.

4. What will I have to do if I take part?

We would like you to take part in a Delphi study using an online platform hosted by the University of Stirling.

A Delphi study is a structured anonymous, and iterative process. It uses multiple rounds of questionnaires sent to a panel of experts to work toward a mutual agreement or consensus opinion. Using the online University of Stirling platform, enables experts to take part across the UK, and internationally.

The Delphi will be conducted via three-rounds

1. You will be provided with briefing materials and invited to suggest items to be included in a social prescribing evaluation framework.
2. You will be asked to rank each potential item twice on a Likert scale, once for relevance (i.e., 'Should an item on this theme/topic be included?') and once for validity (i.e., 'To what extent do you agree with this item as currently worded?').
3. A second list will then be sent out for ranking.

If you decide that you would like to participate, please contact Kevin Swingler kevin.swingler@stir.ac.uk, who will provide you with your unique log-in details to access the software.

You will then receive e-mail instructions on how to complete the three online rounds. The study as a whole will last approximately 3 months.

5. Expenses and payments

You are not expected to incur any additional costs as a result of participating in this study.

6. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

The risks of taking part are minimal. You do not have to answer any questions you do not feel comfortable with and can withdraw at any time. If you wish to discuss any issues raised from the process, you will have the opportunity to discuss these by contacting us using the details provided at the end of this information sheet.

7. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee any direct benefits to you. However, the information you provide will inform the development of a quality social prescribing evaluation framework and CPD materials for UK and international use. These tools will aide to increase the quality of the evidence base and credibility of social prescribing evaluations, benefitting users, professionals, researchers, organisations, decision-makers, and commissioners.

8. What if there is a problem?

If you have any concerns about any aspect of this study, you can contact Dr Kevin Swingler kevin.swingler@stir.ac.uk, Dr Sarah Wallace: sarah.wallace@southwales.ac.uk, or Prof. Carolyn Wallace: carolyn.wallace@southwales.ac.uk who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you are unsatisfied with the response to your concerns about this study, please contact Mr Jonathan Sinfield (Research Governance Officer, University of South Wales) on 01443484518 or by email: jonathan.sinfield@southwales.ac.uk.

9. Data Protection Privacy Notice (mandatory for all studies collecting personaldata)

The data controller for this project will be the University of Stirling. The University's Data Protection Officer provides oversight of university activities involving the processing of

personal data. The University of Stirling Data Protection Officer can be contacted at data.protection@stir.ac.uk.

Your personal data will be processed for the purposes outlined in this information Sheet. Standard ethical procedures will involve you providing your consent to participate in this study by completing the consent form that has been provided to you. However, the legal basis on which this task is being performed is public interest, approved by the Faculty Research Ethics Committee or University Ethics Sub group.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, please contact the Data Protection Officer at data.protection@stir.ac.uk.

Details of how the University manages your personal data are described in our privacy notice:

Privacy Notices and Use of Personal Information | University of Stirling

Details of your individual rights are available on the ICO website at: Your data matters | ICO

10. Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential, and in accordance with Caldicott principles and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Any information about you which leaves the University of Stirling will have your name and contact details removed so that you cannot be recognised.

All electronic data will be stored on a password protected computer known only by the researchers. The data will be retained securely and then disposed of securely after 5 years in keeping with recommended research guidance. Individual participant research data will be anonymous and given a research code, known only to the researchers at the University of Stirling. A Meta-list identifying participants to the research codes data will be held on a password protected computer accessed only by the researcher.

The consent form, which asks you to give specific permission for participating in the study, will be the only documentation that will show your name and this will be stored separately from the data generated during the tasks. The consent form and any other information relating to you will be retained securely and then disposed of securely after 5 years in keeping with recommended research guidelines.

11. What will happen if I do not carry on with the study?

You are free to withdraw from this study without providing a reason and without consequence to yourself.

If you withdraw from the study, we will destroy all your identifiable information. You will be able to request to withdraw your data from the study up to the point of analysis.

12. What will happen to the results of the research study?

The final report will be published on the WSSPR website and disseminated via the WSSPR and WCVA networks.

You will also be able to access the report on the USW PURE website. USW PURE can be accessed here: https://pure.southwales.ac.uk/. Findings may be published within professional journals and shared through conferences. You will not be identifiable in any reports, articles, or presentations.

13. Who is organising or sponsoring the research?

The study is funded by USW through the KEIF (Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Fund). The study team are Dr Sarah Wallace, Prof. Carolyn Wallace, Sophie Randall, Dr Kevin Swingler, and Prof. Edward Duncan.

14. Further information and contact details:

If you have any further queries, please contact:

Online Delphi technical support
Dr Kevin Swingler, University of Stirling
Email: kevin.swingler@stir.ac.uk

Overall study
Dr Sarah Wallace, University of South Wales
Email: sarah.wallace@southwales.ac.uk

Prof. Carolyn Wallace: carolyn.wallace@southwales.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Wales School for Social Prescribing Research, you can visit the website: http://www.wsspr.wales/. Or contact carolyn.wallace@southwales.ac.uk if you would like to join.