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| Social Prescribing – Children and Young People |

**Invitation to apply for grant fund**

Deadline 18 March 2022

**Introduction**

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICS are currently working on 2 specific projects in relation to Personalised Care for Children and Young People aged between 5 and 25 in the area. The first project relates to the care of Children and Young People with a diagnosis of Asthma, with the aim of reducing A&E attendances for Children and Young People presenting with an exacerbation of Asthma. The second project relates to the care of Children and Young People who are seeking help in relation to their mental health and have been unable to access clinical support from the [BeeU Service](https://camhs.mpft.nhs.uk/beeu) (emotional health and wellbeing service for young people) but do not meet the criteria for clinical intervention. There is also a need to support those young people who need support and meet the criteria but are unable to be seen quickly in order, to prevent an escalation.

Social prescribing is a way for services in collaboration with young people to find innovative solutions to the problems that many young people face. Instead of medical intervention we can use sources of non-medical support in the local community such as sport, volunteering, social groups, mentoring, lifestyle balance and advice to help. Although the programme is still in development, we anticipate referrals into the programme coming from the BeeU Service, GPs, Asthma Community Nurses and Schools. To find out more about Social Prescribing please see the following link [RCN - Social Prescribing](https://www.rcn.org.uk/clinical-topics/public-health/self-care/social-prescribing/social-prescribing-models)

We are now looking for providers to tell us what additional provision they could provide for children and young people to connect with in Shropshire, Telford or Wrekin. As part of this funding opportunity, we would expect providers to say how the additional provision would benefit children and young people with a diagnosis of Asthma or Mental Health issues.

It is the intention of the project team is to ensure that any social prescribing intervention meets the following criteria;

* Has an evidence base for its effectiveness on reducing the symptoms or impact of asthma or mental health on the child or young person
* Opportunities are as evenly spread and accessible as possible across the geographical area
* Includes offers from local independent artists and members of the community who are interested in providing creative health opportunities
* Children and Young People can take a lead in the process of selecting interventions to ensure alignment with their needs and interests.

As part of this Expressions of Interest process you will be required to demonstrate evidence of engaging with children and young people who are suffering with Asthma or a Mental Health issue to reflect on how your activity will;

* meet the needs and interests of children and young people
* support the health outcomes for Asthma or Mental Health
* be accessible
* provide ways of helping children of different age groups (between 5 and 25)
* provide a different approach to what is already available in the community

The Project Team is currently engaging with a group of Children and Young People in conjunction with the BeeU Service to explore how Personalised Care can support children and has been working with the SYA (formally Shropshire Youth Association) to increase the numbers and breadth of children engaged in this project.

The aim of this bidding process is to offer out Grant funding to the community through Expressions of Interest to identify a variety of individuals and organisations who could offer creative solutions to the cohorts of Children and Young People identified in this project. Applications will be open between end of January and mid-March; during this period there will be an opportunity for you to attend a workshop to develop an understanding of the project and to present your offer to the Project Group and children involved in the coproduction process.

Once applications are closed, all forms will be evaluated for quality, potential to improve health outcomes, alignment with the needs and interests of children and young people and overall value for money. This process will involve Children and Young People who will be encouraged to lead the decision-making process.

Successful bidders will be asked to agree impact measures with the ICS to enable an evaluation of the funded activities to take place which will inform future provision and learning in this area. Bidders are therefore requested to demonstrate any experience of providing such evidence and feedback in this application form

**What do we know so far?**

**Through engagement the themes that we have noted are:**

* Reasons for referral to Asthma
  + Diagnosis of Asthma in Primary Care
  + Admission to A&E with exacerbation of Asthma symptoms
* Reasons for Referral to Social Prescribing for Mental Health
  + Emotional Health
  + Confidence
  + Loneliness
  + Eating Disorders
  + Anxiety
* Feedback from young people who took part in activities tells us:
  + Time is often required to build a trusting relationship with a social prescribing link worker to open up and gain confidence and interest in new activities.
  + Children who are waiting for support from the BeeU Service may be very anxious, and do not always feel comfortable about joining activities in unfamiliar circumstances and people they do not know. Online workshops have often been suggested as a solution to this problem.
  + There are currently very few services being made available in rural areas and those living in North Shropshire or Whitchurch since the majority of the provision is in Shrewsbury.
  + Travel has been highlighted as a barrier to accessing activities, in particular in more rural areas.
* Enjoyment is the main reason for joining and continuing with an activity and getting away from their home environment to socialise with friends / peers.
* Other activities such as choir, clubs, explorers and young farmers were held as good examples alongside volunteering, helping others and fund raising.
* Main reasons for stopping attendance from groups were, lack of time, day or time of the activity, difficulties with meeting people for the first time, low self-esteem, lack of interest and cost.
* Feedback from children who did not take part in any activities gave similar responses although a main response was not wanting to attend alone due to
  + Shyness
  + Fear / lack of trust of new situations and people
  + Not interested in activities on offer
  + Other commitments
  + Not wanting to attend alone
  + Confidence
  + Transport
* Feedback from Children and Young People as part of the development of this programme – themes include:
  + Impact of Covid is at the forefront of thoughts and concerns for CYP
  + School is an important connector for CYP, with regard to peer relationships, but also for support mechanisms and information about the wider community
  + It’s very hard for CYP to take the first step to ask for help or to explore something new; therefore, accessing CYP at an early stage, to prevent emotional difficulty is really tricky and must be taken into significant consideration
  + Peer groups are a significant influence on CYP, as is family
  + Interventions and support must be available when CYP are ready to access it
  + Sometimes it takes time working with CYP for young people to gain confidence to do new things, mentorship can play an important role

**What do we want to achieve? What are our expected outcomes?**

* To provide a range of activities for children and young people
* To reduce attendances at A&E for Children and Young people with an exacerbation of Asthma
* Improve the physical and mental health and happiness of young people whose confidence has been impacted by COVID19
* Reduce referrals to NHS mental health services; in particular the BeeU Service
* Improve self-image in Children and Young People suffering with an emerging eating disorders
* In Eating Disorders, improve children’s relationships with their body through activities which focuses on positive things the body can achieve.
* Offer ways for Children and Young People to manage their stress and anxiety
* Improving problem solving skills
* Increase confidence and motivation
* Positive social interaction
* Improving wellbeing and resilience
* To provide measured results

**Target Groups:**

* **Children and young people, but especially those at risk of struggling with emotional wellbeing who have been referred but are unable to access Clinical support from the BeeU Service.**
* **Children and young people who are struggling with their mental health due to the impact of COVID19.**
* **Children and young people with a diagnosis of Asthma by their GP and who have in place a Care Plan through the Community Services.**
* **Children and young people who don’t currently have support mechanisms or who don’t already access activities in their communities**

**Can your group or service help to provide activities and interventions?**

What could be provided by you to achieve the listed outcomes and what would be the associated costs?

We are looking for a range of creative interventions offering a wide choice of options for young people. These must be good value for money; the funding is one off and not recurrent therefore, we are also keen to understand how the funding will be used to ensure that the activity can continue once the grant funding has ended. This might be through investing in volunteering or assets, and it might include connecting with other local and national organisations to create a legacy.

The ICS will consider making a small grant available to support activities provided by interested providers. It is important that the ICS maximises the benefits from the available funding and therefore we look to work with several providers who:

* Understand and have engaged with the needs of children and young people through coproduction
* Understands the needs of on-going engagement with young people to develop activities
* Can prioritise support as required
* Can show sustainability beyond this short-term funding
* Can measure and report on the number of children referred and participating, what activities they are accessing and on the impact of their activities on children and young people.
* Can demonstrate that the ICS grant complements their existing activities and contributes to the aims of the social prescribing programme.
* Can evidence compliance with Shropshire children's safeguarding protocols [www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk)

To support this work and provide bidders with a wider understanding of the role they could play in Person-Centred Care in Shropshire, a workshop event is being developed. The aim of the workshop will be to answer any questions about the bidding process and to explore what is meant by Creative Health. There will be 2 opportunities to attend during week commencing 28 February. If you are interested in taking part in this workshop please email [Nicola.Siekierski1@nhs.net](mailto:Nicola.Siekierski1@nhs.net) who will be able to confirm the dates and issue meeting invites (meetings will be on Microsoft Teams).

Grant conditions are listed in **Appendix A** - the draft grant funding agreement, published with this form. We expect interested parties to meet the grant conditions and to demonstrate value for money.

**Next steps**: Interested providers need to complete this application form and return it to:

[Nicola.Siekierski1@nhs.net](mailto:Nicola.Siekierski1@nhs.net) by: **18 March 2022**

Interested providers can seek clarifying information from the email above.

Regarding the application form, interested parties are asked to provide accurate and concise information, specific for this grant. Non-relevant information will not be considered. The ICS reserves the right not to award the grant if applications do not meet the council’s requirements.

The ICS preference is to award several smaller grants to a range of providers. If the total amount of grant funding applied for exceeds the ICS budget, then the ICS may further negotiate with individual applicants.

The deadline for applications is 18 March 2022. Applications will be evaluated by Shropshire Council Public Health and Commissioning Teams as well as Children and Young People.

The outcome of the evaluation will be communicated on 1 April, 2022

This is a one-off grant agreement. It will start on 1st April, 2022 and end on 31st March 2023.

**Grant Application Form**

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| **Name of Organisation** | |
| **Address of Organisation**  **Website:** | |
| **Contact person**  **Name: Role:**  **Tel No: Mobile no:**  **Email:** | |
| **What type of organisation are you and what is your legal status e.g. Registered charity?** | |
| **Are you applying as a partnership / a consortium or an individual organisation? Please describe**  **We would consider a collaboration/ joint approach.** | |
| **What are the aims and objectives of your organisation? [500-word count]** | |
| **What activities /interventions do you currently provide (if any)?**  **In which areas of Shropshire can your activity support Children and Young People?**   * **North Shropshire** * **Central Shropshire, including Shrewsbury** * **South Shropshire** * **Other – please specify** | |
| **Do you use volunteers to deliver your service, and if so, how many?**  **How many staff do you have?** | |
| **Describe your recruitment, induction and training process including what checks are carried out on employed staff and volunteers. [200-word count]** |
| **What additional activities / interventions do you plan to provide for young people, using this grant funding and how do these support the aims of the social prescribing programme? [500-word count]** |
| **Who are you targeting with your activities? [250-word count]** |
| **How would you ensure that your activities in support of social prescribing can be sustained beyond the term of this grant fund? [250-word count]** |
| **Engagement with young people is essential to the project: Commissioners want to better understand what young people need. Activities should develop as a result of feedback. Please outline any engagement you have conducted with Children and Young People to understand their needs? [300-word count]**  **How would you use feedback to inform the local authority and how would you use it to develop your own activities? [150-word count]** |
| **Please detail how the following will benefit from you receiving a grant award. [300-word count each]**  **1) Children and Young People:**  **2) The wider community/ other parts of Shropshire:**  **3) Your organisation and its existing service users:**  **4) Shropshire Council:** |
| **The council requires evidence that the grant funding contributed effectively to its programme specific aims. Therefore, the council will require three reports from grant recipients:**  1) A brief interim report with an update of how the grant fund is being used. This includes a breakdown of actual costs covered by the grant fund. To be sent to the council by 30 June 2021  2) An early, more detailed report, reflecting activity and impact of the first 9 months. To be sent to the council by 31 January 2022.  3) A final, detailed report reflecting activity and impact of over 12 month of funding period. To be sent to the council by 30 April 2022 |
| **In applying for Grant Funding from Shropshire Council I undertake on behalf of (Name of Organisation)**   * to abide by the principles and codes of practice set out in the [Shropshire Voluntary and Community Sector Compact.](https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/information-intelligence-and-insight/insight-and-engagement/shropshire-compact/) * to comply with the conditions of this grant as set you in the draft grant agreement, published with this grant application form. * to ensure that activities and staff and volunteers comply with [local safeguarding children protocols](http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/professionals-and-volunteers/) and general health and safety protocols. * to hold public liability insurance and employer’s liability insurance. Please enclose copies of your insurance certificates * to have in place, or will have in place by the commencement of the grant funding, the human and technical resources to ensure compliance with the [General Data Protection Regulation](https://gdpr-info.eu/) and to ensure the protection of the rights of data subjects.   **Signed:……………………………………………………………………………………**  **Name:…………………………………………………………………………………..**  **Position in Organisation:…………………………………………………………………..**  **Date:………………………………………………………………………………………** |