



Community Helper: Social Prescriber

– Maria Tomlinson

Self-Employed Carer Coach

Founder of the Professional Carers Network





Social Prescriber

This can also be known as Community Referral.

This is when a health professional, usually located at the GP surgery, refers patients to support in the community in order to improve their health and wellbeing.

Your care services, can offer support to someone at home to maintain their independence, support to access the community and provide companionship. All of which have excellent health and wellbeing improving abilities.





Social Prescriber

Social Prescribing is a relatively new thing and means the social prescriber needs to have good local knowledge of what services are available.

By presenting yourself as a trusted service he can recommend can be very helpful.


I would do the same system as we did with the Practice Nurse and leave a note attached to a leaflet asking to arrange a meeting or a chat, and leave it with the receptionist at the GP surgery.





Task:

Find out if your local GP surgery now have a social prescriber, if they do, leave a note and leaflet for them to be able to contact you.





Social Prescriber

For the attention of the Social Prescriber
I would love to come and have a chat with you about the new care service that I have just started. Attached is my leaflet for a further info.

I am fully insured, DBS checked and have lots of experience that I bring to my caring role. I offer help in the home, access to the community and companionship services.

If you would like to meet so you can get a better idea of the support I can provide, please feel free to ring me.

Regards
Your Name,
Your Phone Number.





Task:

Write your intro note out

Give your note and leaflet to the GP receptionist.





Visiting The Social Prescriber

If the Social Prescriber asks you to come and meet them, or rings you to have a chat about your service, make sure you:

- ask if it would be ok to drop some leaflets off at reception or leave some in the waiting area, or with her/him, or on the noticeboard, so people can learn about your new service.
- go smartly dressed
- arrive 5 minutes before your meeting time
- be polite
- have a pile of leaflets ready to leave
- know what makes your service unique
- be confident in what you offer





Task:

Introduce yourself to the Social Prescriber!

