

York Mental Health Partnership Connecting our City

Mental Health Social Prescribing Grant Opportunity Expression of Interest Brief

Context

The York Mental Health Partnership is a multi-agency partnership group whose vision for York is of a city where:

- We all feel valued by our community, connected to it, and can help shape it.
- We are enabled to help ourselves and others, build on our strengths, and can access support with confidence.
- We are proud to have a Mental Health Service that is built around our lives, listens to us, is flexible and responds to all our needs.

The partnership has a vision and set of design principles that support for people with mental ill health will be:

- Easy to access
- Warm and welcoming
- Built on freedom and trust
- Tailored to your individual needs and wishes
- Flexible and responsive
- Consistent and well-co-ordinated

The Connecting Our City project is a subgroup of the Mental Health Partnership and is working to develop a community approach to mental health. This work has initially been focussed on supporting the first Community Mental Health Hub but will roll out across the whole of York.

We are seeking a VCSE organisation to develop a mental health social prescribing service for York.

This will primarily support people who are receiving support from the York Community Mental Health Hub.

Description of the work

Do you have a track record of delivering good Mental Health support and feel passionate about transforming services to better meet the needs of those who use them?

We are looking for a voluntary organisation to develop and deliver mental health social prescribing that will support people in the community as part of the development of the York Community Mental Health Hub as well as one role in-reaching into Foss Park hospital. This social prescribing role will work as part of a multidisciplinary team alongside peer support, carer support, clinicians, social work, and other partnering organisations where we value a strong ethos of collaboration. The team work with partners, individuals,

their families and carers to support individuals to take greater control of their own health and wellbeing and to build resilience and strong support networks and community connections.

Members of the hub team report day to day to the hub manager (employed by TEWV) through a matrix management arrangement. Clinical supervision and reflective practice sessions are provided to staff within the hub.

Social prescribing widens, diversifies, and makes more accessible the range of support available to people, thus moving them away from traditional health services. This includes amplifying individuals:

- Self-management of health conditions
- Access to a range of mental health support services across the whole system, including the VCSE
- Self-confidence
- Sense of wellbeing
- Social benefits (inclusion, participation, access to new networks, feeling more connected to others)
- Uptake of activities that promote physical and mental health (physical activity, arts and creativity, learning, volunteering)
- Practical and material benefits (resolving problems with debt, benefit, housing)
- Skills (linking people to opportunities for training, routes to employment)
- Quality of life (reducing isolation, loneliness, lack of confidence and self-esteem)

Social prescribing develops tailored plans led by the person, connecting them to local groups and support services, learning and volunteering opportunities and peer support networks – by providing:

- Proactive case management, early intervention, and preventative services, reducing the demand for primary and secondary care services.
- More choice to people through supporting a widening range of non-clinical options delivered by VCSE sector organisations.
- More appropriate and effective contact with clinicians in primary and secondary care settings.
- Strong relationships across the VCSE sector, identify gaps in provision and work together across the system to address these gaps.
- Provision of a social prescribing model that continues to be fit for purpose across the city.
- Working closely with existing strength-based programmes and models within the city, such as Local Area Coordination.

The successful organisation will be required to monitor and measure outcomes relating to the above to the Connecting Our City steering group. Training will be provided in

conjunction with York CVS to support the successful organisation to develop social prescribing and to induct initial staff roles.

Please note that we are seeking to establish this service at pace due to the previous provider being unable to continue to deliver. Therefore, we will require the successful provider to recruit to roles, estimate April 2024, on completion of the grant agreement and will provide support as appropriate. TUPE of existing staff may apply.

Role/responsibilities/skills/background

We need an organisation who has experience and track record in:

- providing mental health support in York
- working with a range of mental health needs including supporting individuals with severe mental illness
- providing comprehensive induction and supervision to staff
- working in a partnership model of service delivery

Ideally the successful organisation will have experience of delivering similar projects and have links to the Mental Health Partnership and Connecting Our City Project. We require a provider to be able to recruit at pace to this service.

Please note this service was previously run by York CVS.

Transferring employees

The Authority envisages that the staff working on the current service shall transfer to the Supplier or its subcontractors, under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) along with the Services. These employees are currently employed by York CVS.

Provisional lists of the Third-Party Transferring Employees can be obtained by contacting savanna.thompson@yorkcvs.org.uk.

Applicants pricing models must include the costs associated with the TUPE transfer of the Third-Party Transferring Employees. [If the costs associated with a TUPE transfer (including pensions costs) are subsequently found to be lower than envisaged, the Supplier shall make a corresponding reduction in the grant agreement price.]

Applicants should note that the Authority accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the provisional list for Third Party Transferring Employees nor does it accept any responsibility for any subsequent amendments to the provisional lists for the grouping of employees who are envisaged to transfer under TUPE Regulations.

In the event that third party employees transfer but TUPE does not apply then the Authority shall apply, and the Applicant shall accept, the principles set out in the Cabinet

Office Statement of Practice on Staff Transfers in the Public Sector and the annex to it, A Fair Deal for Staff Pensions.

Applicants should note that the Authority does not offer any indemnity to any person against any costs that may be incurred should the provisions of TUPE or the Cabinet Office Statement apply.

IT IS FOR EACH APPLICANT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE LEGAL AND/OR PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ON THE APPLICATION OF TUPE.

Who is involved

The below organisations are actively involved in the Connecting Our City Project. A small panel of representatives from some of the below organisations and carers will consider the submissions.

- City of York Council
- Vale of York ICB
- TEWV
- York Carers Centre
- York Mind
- York CVS
- A variety of voluntary groups, universities and social enterprises with an interest in improving mental health services and support in York.

Funding Available

The funding available is NHS Community Mental Health Transformation funding, hosted by City of York Council.

There is a maximum of £107,000 grant available which would include all applicable on costs. This should cover the following roles:

- **2 x social prescriber roles (one focussed on the hub and one providing in-reach into Foss Park hospital initially as part of the pathway to recovery team)**
- **1 x part time social prescribing team leader role (to line manage the above with the potential to line manage further social prescribing roles)**

This is a one-year grant agreement, with the potential opportunity for the hub model to expand and extend.

Further Information

For further information about the hub contact: Savanna Thompson (Community Mental Health Project Officer) savanna.thompson@york.gov.uk

For a discussion about social prescribing contact: Christine Marmion, Deputy Chief Executive York CVS: christine.marmion@yorkcvs.org.uk

Further information about social prescribing click [here](#)

How to Apply

Please complete the attached proposal form and send to connectingourcity@york.gov.uk **no later than 12 noon Friday 1st March 2024.**

Please include:

- your proposed delivery method including costings;
- how you will meet the intended outcomes, including monitoring measures;
- the training, ongoing support and supervision that will be provided to social prescribers;
- any previous experience in providing mental health support in York, working with a range of mental health needs including supporting individuals with severe mental illness;
- knowledge and understanding of strength based practice, including knowledge of the local voluntary and community sector;
- any related work that complements and demonstrates experience of delivering similar projects, including working in a partnership model of service delivery;
- your understanding of, and commitment to, the principles and values of Connecting Our City and the Mental Health Partnership;
- your commitment to partnership working and the need for a collaborative approach - links to the Mental Health Partnership and Connecting Our City;
- your ability to move at pace to deliver the project outcomes.

Please note that this funding is only available to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.