

A Realist Evaluation on Social Prescribing in HSE-funded services in Ireland



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Funder: The HSE

Aim: To conduct a realist evaluation of HSE-funded social prescribing services in Ireland.

Objectives:

- To determine the active ingredients of social prescribing to inform future training and best practices in terms of social prescribing in the Irish context.
- To ascertain how social prescribing works for different population subgroups and for whom is social prescribing most effective.
- To identify facilitators/barriers to high-quality implementation of social prescribing
- To determine the social, health and well-being outcomes that social prescribing is most likely to impact.

Design

This study uses a realist evaluation approach to examine what works, for whom and under what circumstances. This is done through an exploration of context, mechanisms of change and outcomes. The study uses a predominantly qualitative approach (interviews with health and social service providers (operational and strategic) and service users).

Public Patient Involvement (PPI)

PPI contributors include service users and providers who are represented on the Advisory Board. These have provided guidance to the research team on interview guide development and recruitment planning. In addition, stakeholder consultations were undertaken to determine the context, mechanism of change and outcomes and initial programme theory development (IPT)

Knowledge translation:

It is anticipated that findings will inform future training and best practices in terms of social prescribing in the Irish context.

Digital mental health support for young people	Atlantic Futures Research Stream 4 HPRC 2023.docx (placed document into HPRC SharePoint: Documents> Marketing & Dissemination. Please move to wherever best saved)
Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Ireland	Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Ireland LL.docx
HIV-related Stigma in Healthcare Settings in Ireland: A Collaborative Joint Stakeholder Study	HIV Stigma Project EV.docx
Communicating food poverty on the island of Ireland	Communicating Food poverty on the island of Ireland EV.docx
Research to inform the development of a cross-government research programme on children and young people in Ireland	DCEDIY EV.docx