



National
Academy
for Social
Prescribing

SOCIAL PRESCRIBING LINK WORKER TRAINING





Introduction

Set up in 2019 by the Department of Health and Social Care, The National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) is a national charity that champions social prescribing.

Through our Workforce Programme, we support the recruitment, retention and development of Social Prescribing Link Workers. Our courses help Link Workers to gain skills, confidence and competencies, enabling them to work towards the [NHS England Social Prescribing Link Worker Competency Framework](#).

Link Workers play an integral role in health and community settings to improve health outcomes. Excellent professional development for Link Workers ultimately benefits individuals, communities and the health system - and evidence shows that workforce training can improve retention and recruitment.

With the recent commitment in [the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan](#) to expand the number of Link Workers to 9,000, there is clear need for the best possible training and support to help them thrive in their role.



Our courses

Link Worker Induction

This course is ideal for Link Workers who are starting in their role and is also appropriate for those wanting to refresh their learning. It consists of five modules and includes interactive delivery and pre-recorded tutorials.

Learning outcomes include:

- Understanding the definition of social prescribing, its history and its context within the NHS and beyond
- Being able to develop personalised care support plans effectively through a “what matters to me” conversation
- Understanding how to manage caseloads effectively
- Understanding how to maintain accurate records and the importance of measuring the impact on individuals and the health system
- Knowing how to co-produce and co-design a social prescribing offer with your local community
- Feeling confident in your role, with a peer group of Link Workers

Commissioners can purchase the full course to accommodate up to 15 learners.

[Register your interest](#)

Introduction to Social Welfare Advice

- in partnership with Bromley by Bow Health and The Benefits Training Company

This is a four-session course for Link Workers to understand social welfare advice needs and how to connect people to effective support. The course covers welfare benefits and the welfare benefits system, housing need, debt, immigration and employment rights, money management and fuel poverty. It is delivered by Bromley by Bow Health and The Benefits Training Company.

Learning outcomes include:

- Being able to identify the signs that someone has a social welfare advice issue
- Gaining knowledge of the range of issues social welfare advice services can support
- Understanding what a Link Worker can help with and what needs to be addressed by a trained social welfare advisor and how to make a referral to advice services
- Understanding how the benefits system is structured and who can claim each of the benefits and complete a basic benefits check
- Knowing how to talk to clients about their financial situation, how to support budgeting
- Understanding what support is available to clients with their energy and other costs



[Find out more](#)



Social Welfare Advisor training for Link Workers

- in partnership with Bromley by Bow Health and Island Advice Centre

This more in-depth training programme helps Link Workers obtain a qualification to become hybrid advice-social prescribing Link Workers. The course would be based on the arrangements at Place level. It will be studied in two parts. The second part is optional, but essential if the Link Worker wants to give welfare advice themselves:

Part One - Learning to Advise

The Learning to Advise course is studied as a cohort, through 16 full and half day sessions over five months. The sessions cover an extensive range of areas of law, the main issues Link Workers might be presented with and what social welfare legal advice might be appropriate. The course is delivered by Island Advice Centre and certified by Advice UK.

Part Two - NVQ Level 3 in Advice and Guidance and work experience placement

This is studied over six to nine months, with a one day a week work experience placement with a local social welfare advice provider. Through the NVQ portfolio development and the placement, link workers gain the practical experience, and confidence, of giving accurate social welfare advice to clients. This course is accredited by City and Guilds.

[**Find out more**](#)



Bespoke training packages

We offer tailored workforce training for Link Workers and equivalent roles in the UK and around the world, with support offered by our expert team. Costs vary according to the topics, duration and delivery method. For more information and to discuss your needs, please get in touch.

Our approach to training

We develop and deliver training with applied learning principles, ensuring Link Workers understand the fundamental components of their role. Our training is practitioner-led and all training has been co-developed and quality assured by practising Link Workers.

Our training supplements the twelve mandatory social prescribing modules that Link Workers are required to complete as part of the NHS England Workforce Development Framework. It includes up-to-date information on the Minimum Dataset, the Information Standard and best practice collated from our Link Worker Advisory Group.

All our training encourages peer learning and critical thinking and includes practical day-to-day insights to ensure link workers feel confident in the role.

Why NASP?

As the UK's leading national social prescribing charity, we are uniquely placed to understand the social prescribing landscape. Our courses have been developed by Link Workers for Link Workers, alongside experts and practitioners in the UK and from across the world.

Our Link Worker Advisory Group - consisting of Link Workers from all NHS England regions with a wide range of specialisms - ensures that our courses reflect the reality of the Link Worker role. Our expert staff team includes medical professionals, former NHS Link Workers, Managers and Commissioners.

We have an excellent knowledge of the latest developments and opportunities in social prescribing through our Innovation Network, our International Evidence Collaborative, our Social Prescribing Champions and our partnerships with NHS England and a range of national bodies.

Our webinars are attended by hundreds of professionals every month, and we have delivered training and consultancy internationally to groups from across the world.

We have delivered a wide range of resources including a Link Worker Induction Guide, a Portfolio of Evidence for Link Workers as part of the NHS England Workforce Development Framework, and toolkits on Green Social Prescribing, Population Health Management and Link Worker recruitment.

For more information, visit www.socialprescribingacademy.org.uk

Contact

Please do get in touch with any queries related to any of our training offers.

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