

Insights from a BBB evaluation of Social Prescribing

A Theory of Change
approach

November 2017





BBB CAMPUS

Social Care and arts space

Social care, inclusive arts space and programmes, including for elders and carers. Artists' studios.

Welfare, Debt, Legal Advice, Financial Capability

Social welfare and legal advice on benefits, housing, debt. Money management and fuel poverty programmes. Promotion of Credit Union.

Social Enterprise

Supports establishment of new social enterprises, creates service provision and employment.

Growing spaces

Social and therapeutic horticulture, food growing

Park and playground

Managed by the Centre. Recreational space, children's playground, sporting events, summer fairs

Connection Zone

A warm welcome with engagement staff, tea and coffee. A place to meet, make friends and build social networks. Group activities, internet café with digital inclusion support, homework club, informal learning and family learning. Time Banking, Community Grants for small projects.

Café

Provides training and volunteering opportunities

Church / Nursery

Childcare provision, community celebration space

Vocational Learning

A range of learning options for young people and adults, including traineeships and apprenticeships

Employment Service

Careers advice. Extensive employer relationships, work experience placements, and support in applying for jobs.

Health Centre

General Practice, Community Health Services
Social Prescribing
Supports access to all Centre services

Children's Centre activities Activities for parents and children

Health and social care

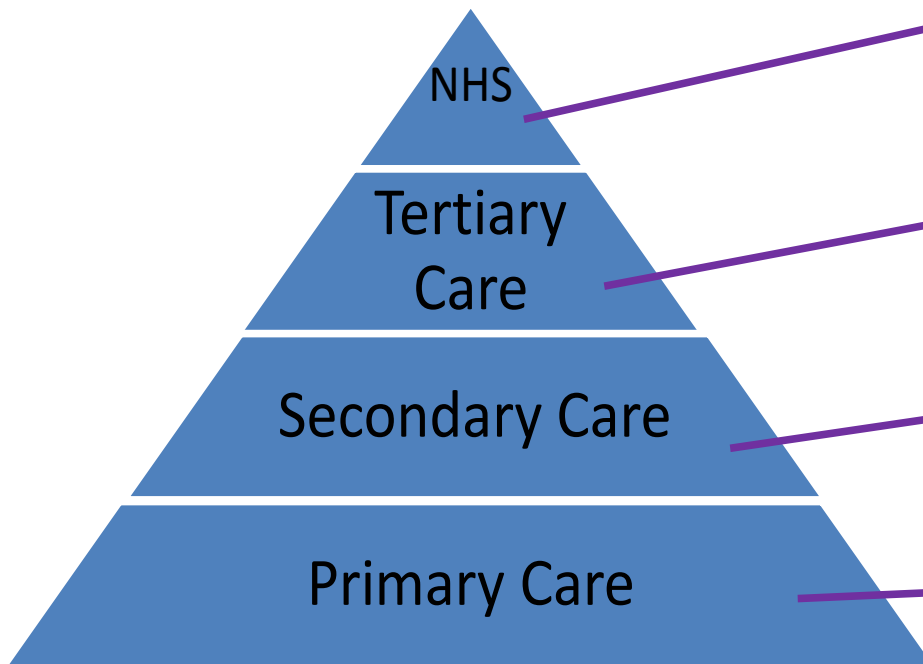
Healthy lifestyles promotion, weight management, mental health projects, social care brokerage, carers support, disability sports.

Social Prescribing

Receives referrals and supports those referred







Care accessed through the NHS

Care accessed in communities

Care provided by family and friends

Self care, your choices

Well programme



A Theory of Change approach

We use a Theory of Change approach:

- A ToC shows the relationship between inputs, activities, quality of delivery and outcomes
- Importantly, it shows the assumptions which underpin a project/service
- It also shows the barriers and enablers to successful outcomes
- And the context which surrounds an intervention

Value of ToC for evaluating SP

1. Focuses on the patient journey

- Patient journey = referral to the SP service, the SP intervention, and accessing other services and supports (not all of which are part of the SP referral pathway)
- → We've found a ToC approach helps to articulate the 'full' journey, especially the role that the onward service/support plays for people

2. The reality – rather than the rhetoric

- ToC approaches are only considered robust when they include a variety of perspectives on an intervention
- Our ToC approach involved with practitioners, people accessing support, clinicians and funders

Findings from our research

Boundary spanning work

- SP bridges fragmented health, social services and care systems
- → It is our view that there is misunderstanding of the drivers for the SP service – for patients and SP practitioners, the role is to provide more holistic approach to support and ensure that people get access to a wide set of supports
- The primary driver for people and practitioners is *not* driven by a need to reduce demand on primary and secondary care – but rather to ensure these supports are more joined up with other kinds of care
- Therefore measures of effectiveness should show:
 - The ability of the service to help people address the breadth of their concerns
 - The fit between the needs/concerns of people and the supports available
 - The linking role of the SP services + the quality of its holistic, person-centered, approach

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bromley by bow

active values



- **be compassionate**
- **be a friend**
- **have fun**
- **assume it's possible**

Contact details:

Dan Hopewell

**Director of Knowledge & Innovation
Bromley by Bow Centre**

Website www.bbbsc.org.uk

Email dan.hopewell@bbbsc.org.uk

Twitter [@hopewelldan](https://twitter.com/hopewelldan)

[@bromley_by_bow](https://twitter.com/bromley_by_bow)

[@SolS_BbBC](https://twitter.com/SolS_BbBC)