



## National Association of Link Workers CONNECT LINK

### Coronavirus: Information for Social Prescribing Link Workers

With the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, it's more important than ever that we support our members and the people they serve as their safety and wellbeing continues to be our main priority.

#### How Social Prescribing Link Workers can continue to power up community wellbeing

Here are some ideas from some of our [Social Prescribing Link Worker Champions](#)

- **Use** telephone or video appointments to manage caseloads
- **Follow** employers risk assessment protocol
- **Promote** relevant existing initiatives such as <https://nextdoor.co.uk/>
- **Ensure** you are up to date with all national and local initiatives that are there to help people during this time so that you are able to connect and link people to these initiatives including [National Association of Link Workers UK Corona Virus \(Covid-19\) facebook support group](#)
- **Plan** weekly check-in telephone calls for older clients or those that live alone or have on-going mental health issues
- **Support** local VCSE to facilitate local community support e.g. food shopping, prescription pick up etc. for those self-isolating or vulnerable residents.
- **Offer** support to health care providers where required and as per your competency level
- **Proactively** work with GP practices and local organisations to raise awareness of support available to those who may be self-isolating
- **Ensure** you are aware of relevant and up to date information, telephone and online support services available from organisations such as:
  - o Age UK
  - o Asthma UK
  - o British Heart Foundation
  - o Diabetes UK
  - o Mind Charity
  - o Scope
  - o The Silver Line

Credible information sources include;

- NHS England guidance for primary, secondary care, community based health and social care and ambulance services
- Health Protection Scotland guidance for primary and secondary care
- Public Health Wales latest information
- Public Health Agency Northern Ireland latest information
- WHO

### **How we are supporting Social Prescribing Link Workers:**

- We are holding a Coronavirus webinar on 16th April at 12:30pm to share how social prescribing link workers are powering up community wellbeing at this time. Book [here](#)
- With the challenges presented by Coronavirus clinical directors and managers are likely to be extremely busy and therefore may struggle to provide adequate support to Link Workers for what can be an isolating role. National Association of Link Workers is offering limited number of FREE facilitated online peer group clinical supervision sessions to Link Workers on a first come first served basis. [Contact us](#) to request booking details or to find out more
- You can join our 230 strong Link Worker exclusive [Facebook Community](#) to ask questions and share ideas/information
- Remember you can access our [online courses and member resource library 24/7](#). Perhaps this is a good time for your professional development