



National Association of Link Workers

Membership Brochure

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About Us

The National Association of Link Workers (NALW) is a self-governing professional and representative body, representing the pinnacle of excellence for Social Prescribing Link Workers. Operating independently, our membership reflects the dedication of social prescribing link workers in providing high-quality services to patients and communities.

As the bedrock of the profession, while not a regulator, we spearhead standards and advocate for the pivotal role of social prescribing link workers in healthcare. Serving as the guiding force for social prescribing link workers and a crucial link to other professional occupational groups.

Our commitment is unwavering in ensuring safety and promoting evidence-based practices within the field. Through providing invaluable insights and intelligence, we advocate for improvements in both policy and practice related to social prescribing. NALW serves as a unifying voice and professional identity for social prescribing link workers.

We produce social impact activities to deliver our cause and social mission. As a social enterprise, our strengths lie in our memberships.

Our Aim

- Promote link worker professional standards and practice
- Unite the voices of link workers
- Increase link worker connectedness
- Build link worker capability and resilience

As an unregulated *new* profession, in order to achieve our aims, cause, and mission, we require both employers and social prescribing link workers to enable this. For this reason, we have corporate membership and individual memberships, which mirror our code of practice so that we support both.

Please see our website for more details [about us](#).

Impact Report You can view our impact report [here](#).

Awards & Influence

NALW stands as the acknowledged independent influencer in social prescribing, holding accolades both within the industry, government and across the nation!

Association Excellence Awards

The Association Excellence Awards have been run annually since 2014 and were founded to recognise the essential work that associations, trade bodies, unions, and professional organisations conduct on behalf of their members. Attended by over 300 association executives each year, the Association Excellence Awards are a trusted and reputable fixture in the calendar. We take great pride in the robustness and integrity of our judging process – facilitated by our illustrious panel of 20+ CEOs and directors hailing from a diverse cross-section of UK and international membership organisations.

1. Bronze Award for Best Awareness Campaign or Advancement of a cause
2. Finalist for UK Association of the Year
3. Finalist Best Association Virtual or Hybrid event

Read more [here](#).

Health Service Journal Power List

The Health Service Journal's (HSJ) top 50 Black, Asian, and minority ethnic powers seek to measure positive power and influence in the English NHS and health policy.

Our Founder and Chief Executive, Christiana Melam MBE, made the power list for three consecutive years (2021, 2022, 2023).

Read more [here](#).

King's New Year Honours 2024

Christiana Melam, Founder and Chief Executive of the National Association of Link Workers (NALW), was awarded an MBE in the King's New Year Honours 2024 for services to social prescribing. This is the first recognition of social prescribing service in the honours system.

Read more [here](#).

Our Advantage

A one-stop shop providing peace of mind, reducing risks and stress, and saving you time, money, and effort. Value is provided to associates; practising social prescribing links workers, employers, and those who support them; this is demonstrated in our [impact reports](#) and testimonials.

- Professional Standards
- Education Standards
- CPD Guidance
- Accreditation
- Training
- Supervision Standards
- Collective Voice
- Partnership
- Insights & Initiatives
- Careers
- Body of Knowledge
- Membership services

See our [What We Do page](#) for more information.

Membership

Our membership structure is designed for flexibility, catering to the evolving needs of professionals at every stage of their journey, fostering career planning, development, and progression while addressing practitioner concerns and bridging gaps. This approach not only provides value to employers but also supports recruitment and retention, ensuring mutual benefit for both organisations and individual practitioners. Please download the [guide to the use of our membership logo, certificate, and affiliations](#).

Employer Benefits

- Attract and retain staff, include membership of NALW in your offer
- Make your staff feel valued and enhance their professional status and career
- Access training, best practice resources, briefing, and guidance
- Free events and conferences
- Provide Career development
- Recognition: Our Link Worker Day awards are exclusive to members and you distinguish yourself with our member logo
- Showcase opportunities and influencing opportunities
- Save money, time and efforts
- Reduce risks and mistakes.

We are your one-stop shop!

Individual Benefits

- Enhance professional status and identity
- Stand out from the crowd with post-nominal letters membership certificate, and logo
- Gain access to CPD and development opportunities
- Opportunity for career progression, recognition and accreditation
- Opportunity to lead, influence, win awards and enhance career
- Access to guidance, insights, briefings, and updates
- Free events, conferences and training with certificates
- Access peer support and be part of your community

We are your one-stop shop!

Who pays for membership?

- Self-sponsored (paid for by the individual)
- Employer-sponsored (corporate membership)

Types of Membership

- We offer associate, professional, and accredited memberships.

Please see the [website](#) for detailed information on what is included in each and the eligibility criteria.

Testimonials

“NALW has been brilliant in supporting our team, an opportunity for link workers to share their knowledge and experiences, look at the standards required, influencing policy and holding politicians to account for funding and ensuring link workers continue to be placed in the heart of communities and primary care”.

- Roseann Logan, Programme Manager (Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland)

“The Black Country & West Birmingham Training Hub has worked with NALW and sourced Membership for Social Prescribing Link Workers. NALW has provided a consistently high standard of service. They have gone above and beyond expectations including a big emphasis on networking, Supervision, peer group mentoring and allowing delegates to maximise their learning and development.”

- Mani Badhan, Black Country and West Birmingham, Training Hub Project Coordinator

“The NALW’s resources library, code of practice, standards, education helped me immensely in clarifying and understanding my profession and my role as a new social prescriber and inspired me to do my job very well from the very beginning and meeting national standards and above. Provided possibility of career progression and development”

- Anonymous, Social Prescribing Link Worker

“Social prescribing is a powerful tool in preventative medicine, but it can never achieve its full potential without uniform professionalism, which this course delivers. It has really helped me to have a clear framework to evidence my work and the expectations of what I am trying to achieve and how to evidence this to senior managers”

- Casey, Senior Social Prescriber

“I have seen the NALW progress constantly since joining, and the courses it offers and includes in membership are beneficial to all; it helps me to keep up to date with legislation and regulations”.

- Sarah, Senior Social Prescriber

Code of Practice

All our members are required to adhere to our Code of Practice, a set of codes ensuring we maintain high standards of service. The Code of Practice is non-model specific, which increases consistency in professional practice and ensures professional competence and public confidence. It is a helpful guidance for employers and social prescribing link workers on what is expected of them to protect the people they serve and themselves.

How to use the codes

- To inform high-quality social prescribing practice
- As a reflective tool for both employers and social prescribing link workers
- As a self-assessment tool for improving practice for both employers and social prescribing link workers
- To identify learning and development needs for both employers and social prescribing link workers

See more details about the [code of practice here](#).

Good things
come to those
who take
action...

Become a
member!