

How does Social Prescribing work?



What Link Workers do:

- (1) Needs assessment (social anamnesis)
- (2) Building trust & goal setting
- (3) Establish an «action plan»
- (4) Information, support & connecting (motivational interviewing)
- (5) Individual evaluation of the measure(s)
- (6) Ongoing support



Patient Work

- ▶ Network development (of small grassroots movements)
- ▶ Network maintenance
- ▶ Promotion of services (identification of service gaps)
- ▶ Super- und intervision
- ▶ Continuous education



**Network development
& quality measures**

Where is the service provided?

- ▶ NGOs & volunteer sector
- ▶ Local authorities (e. g. social services, senior citizens' services)
- ▶ (primary) Healthcare
- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Universities
- ▶ ...



Wallace et al. (2021)

Comparison to similar social services



Social Prescribing

- ❖ Connecting patients
- ❖ Network maintenance



Primary Care Social Work







- ❖ Professional counselling
- ❖ Expertise & immediately help



Community Work

- ❖ Neighborhood development
- ❖ Own offerings

Nuts to crack

-  Evidence of social prescribing is still inconclusive.
-  Why? Lots of different forms, locations, expertise, quality measures, ... of SP
-  Patients motivation, (financial) capabilities, mobility to reach community assets
-  Identification of social needs
-  Overcoming the logic of «simple» «patient pathways»
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 - ▶ Hypothesis: Social Prescribing may help, but is not the (final) answer to adress patients with complex bio-psycho-social needs.



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