**Title:** Social Prescribing Link Worker

**Reports to:** Health & Wellbeing Programme Manager

**Contract type:** Fixed term contract

**Location:** Athy

**Do you want to make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities?**

County Kildare Leader Partnership in partnership with Sláintecare Health Communities are delighted to offer this exciting opportunity for a dynamic individual with a strong track record in making a difference in people’s lives to work with individuals who are struggling with isolation, loneliness and feeling disconnected.

The **Social Prescribing Link Worker** will be responsible for working with individuals on a one- to-one basis to improve health and wellbeing as well as working in partnership with health professionals and the community and voluntary sector. Social prescribing involves taking referrals from individuals seeking support as well as from healthcare professionals and supporting them to connect and participate with a local community activity or service they have an interest in engaging with.

## Role and responsibilities – What you will do

**Work on a one-to-one basis with individuals to improve health and wellbeing**

* + Provide nonjudgmental support, respecting diversity and lifestyle choices working from a assets-based approach
  + Work with individuals on a one-to-one basis, complete needs assessment and co- produce a plan to improve health and wellbeing through social prescribing
  + Support and encourage individuals to access appropriate services in the community. Where appropriate, physically introduce people to community groups, activities, and statutory services, ensuring that they are comfortable. Follow up to ensure they are happy, able to engage, included and receiving good support
  + Follow up cases and manage caseload, remaining as a point of contact and support throughout the individual’s social prescription

## Work in partnership with health professionals and the community and voluntary sector

* + Build on the relationships with key staff in GP practices, members of primary care teams within the locality including dieticians, occupational therapists, mental health professionals, psychologists, and social workers among others.
  + Attend relevant meetings providing information and feedback on social prescribing.
  + Build on the relationships with local community organisations, community groups and statutory services to make timely, appropriate, and supported referrals for the person being introduced
  + Build and maintain and expand a comprehensive database of local community groups, resources and services and ensure information on sources of voluntary and community support is up to date at all times to enable effective and accurate support ed access and linking of individuals with services
  + Work closely with the HSE Health Promotion and Improvement Officer to support the ongoing development of the service taking an active part in reviewing and developing it.
  + Work in partnership with all local agencies to raise awareness of social prescribing and how partnership working can reduce pressure on statutory services, improve health outcomes and enable a holistic approach to care
  + Gather regular feedback and develop reports on the quality of the service and impact of social prescribing on referral agencies
  + Ensure that local community and voluntary organisations being accessed have basic procedures in place ensuring that vulnerable adults are safe and where there are safeguarding concerns, work with all partners to deal appropriately with issues in line with the HSE Framework for Social Prescribing

## Monitoring and Evaluation

* + Gather and collate quantitative/ qualitative data to support service evaluation.
  + Work sensitively with clients to administer evaluation tools to capture key information, enabling tracking of the impact of social prescribing on participant health and wellbeing and other outcome measures
  + Populate and maintain social prescribing software database, which includes documenting and reporting case notes and social prescriptions
  + Provide progress reports and presentations to oversight groups and funders detailing the progress of the service

## Professional development

* + Undertake continuous personal and professional development.
  + Adhere to organisational policies and procedures, including confidentiality, safeguarding, lone working, information governance and health and safety.
  + Develop communications plan and materials to publicise the service.
  + Attend local forums and relevant meetings with stakeholders from community and voluntary sector as necessary.
  + Make regular reports and presentations on the progress of the service to committees and funders.

**What we offer:**

* Salary €43,152
* Annual leave: 21 days annual leave per year pro rata, with an increase of one day leave each year up to a maximum annual leave allowance of 25 days per annum
* PRSA: Option to join the organisation’s PRSA scheme after successful completion of probation
* Flexible working practices
* Training and Development opportunities
* Employee Assistance Programme
* Open culture encouraging interaction and sharing of ideas and opinions
* Opportunity to apply for up to two days’ remote working as per CKLP policy.

# Social Prescribing Link Worker Person Specification

**We are seeking someone who has the following essential and desirable skills:**

## Specific requirements

* Educated to a third level qualification in Social, Community, Health, or related field.
* A minimum of 3 years’ experience in community development or health / care setting.
* Experience of partnership / collaborative working and of building relationships across a variety of stakeholders and organisations

## Knowledge and experience

* Reducing health inequalities and proactively working with people with diverse needs from all communities to improve health and wellbeing
* Knowledge, understanding and commitment to addressing key determinants of health, including their impact on communities
* Working from an asset-based approach, building on existing community and personal assets
* Knowledge of the structure of the HSE and the health services provided at Community Healthcare Network level
* Ability to work to policies and procedures including confidentiality
* Excellent IT skills
* Experience of data collation and reporting

## Communication and Interpersonal Skills

* Listening and empathising with people and providing person centred coaching and support in a non-judgemental way
* Supporting people in a way that inspires trust and confidence, motivating others to reach their potential
* Organising, planning, and prioritising on own initiative, including when under pressure and meeting deadlines
* Building and maintaining relationships with a variety of stakeholders including with individuals referred, their families, carers, community groups, GPs, health professionals and other stakeholders
* Presenting information in a clear and concise manner
* Working independently and collaboratively within a team and multi stakeholder environment
* Flexibility, adaptability, and openness to working effectively in a changing environment

## Evaluating information, problem solving and decision making

* Analysing and interpreting information, developing solutions, and contributing to decisions quickly and assessing / managing risk when working with individuals
* Understanding when it is appropriate or necessary to refer people back to health professionals / agencies when what the person needs is beyond the capacity of the social prescribing link worker role e.g., when there is a mental health need requiring a qualified practitioner.

## Commitment to a quality service

* Appreciating the importance of working with clients with diverse needs in an empathetic, non-judgmental, empowering manner
* Promoting a quality and professional service to internal and external stakeholders
* Developing own knowledge and expertise

## Other

* Car owner with full clean driver’s license
* Garda vetting will apply to this role