Social Prescribing and the current NHS Landscape
Prof Helen Stokes-Lampard PhD FRCGP
@HelenRCGP    #SocialPrescribing
Conflicts of interest declaration

- I am Chair of RCGP & a Trustee
- I am GP Partner (GMS)
- I am a Prof at University of Birmingham & visiting Prof St George’s HMS London
Daily, within UK General Practice:

- Over 1 million consultations take place
- Nearly 1.5 million prescriptions issued
- GPs are consultants in General Practice

“Expert Medical Generalists, considering holistically the Physical, Social and Psychological welfare of our patients”
RCGP Vision and Values

• **Vision:** *Excellence in general practice for patients worldwide*

• **Values:** We are the heart and voice of general practice, we promote the principles of holistic generalist care in partnership with other HCPs and our patients. Committed to equitable access to and delivery of high-quality and effective primary healthcare for all. Committed to the academic and practical development of high quality general practice.
RCGP & HSL Priorities

- **Campaign**: Put patients first, back General Practice, delivery & 4 nations
- **Workforce**: Recruit, retain, return & resilience
- **Workload**: AHPs, innovation, safety
- **Interface**: primary & secondary care
- **Extending GP Training**
- **Exam review (10yrs MRCGP)**
- **Joy in General Practice…**
Social Prescribing & the NHS

- Signposting our patients to non NHS resources, with the intention of giving GPs more options to provide holistic support to patients with interrelated health and social and economic problems.
- New idea vs repacking what good GPs have always done, but scaling up, using other colleagues and technology to help…
• 2011 BJGP: GPs recognise social prescribing as a valuable part of their practice. They believe that community resources are important in supporting the health of their patients. They also acknowledge the role of advocacy in helping patients to make better use of health services.”
• 2016 “Social prescribing schemes can certainly be beneficial to a patient’s overall health and wellbeing – as some pilots have shown. To be effective, there needs to be better integration between health and community services, so that GPs and our teams can signpost our patients most appropriately.”
2017 “To be able to effectively deliver social prescribing GPs need to be effectively resourced, giving them the time to be able to consider the whole person more consistently, and they need access to fully resourced community services to which to refer patients when appropriate. However, promotion of social prescribing ultimately needs to be managed carefully as it generates expectations of general practice to carry out non-health functions which it has limited capacity to do.”
The majority:
Nice idea, intuitive, we would love to but where to start?
need some help / exemplars / pump priming …

Visionaries:
Vanguards shining lights early adopters

Ostriches:
Not interested
Six Steps for Safer General Practice

General Election Manifesto 2017 for England from the Royal College of GPs

ELECTION 2017

PUT PATIENTS FIRST
BACK GENERAL PRACTICE

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What will the future look like?

- HSL predictions
  - Working at scale the norm
  - Acute vs chronic care more differentiated
  - More & varied HCPs in the GP team
  - More time with patients who really need it
  - More care based in the community
  - Social prescribing a normal part of service
  - Several models of delivery of general practice services
Thank you
Risk & Mitigation

ELECTION 2017

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