

## Press Release

### Devon Social Prescribing Conference Showcases Innovation and Collaboration

On Tuesday 18th November, the Jan Cutting Healthy Living Centre in Devon hosted the Devon Social Prescribing Conference, organised by the Wolseley Trust. The event was officially opened by Cllr Aspinall, setting the tone for a day focused on collaboration, innovation, and community health. Healthcare professionals, community organisations, and local innovators gathered to explore how social prescribing strengthens health and wellbeing across the county.



*Cllr Aspinall opens the conference*



*Dr Michael Dixon*

Dr Michael Dixon delivered the keynote address, reflecting on the past, present, and future of social prescribing. He highlighted how the movement has evolved from small pilot projects into a nationally recognised approach that links patients to community support, emphasizing its potential to address loneliness, prevent illness, and improve quality of life.

Nikki Taylor and Martha Rees from Health Innovation Southwest shared insights into neighbourhood health and how local innovations can be piloted and scaled. Susan Taheri presented the Growing Well Garden project, showing how green social prescribing can reduce isolation, improve mental wellbeing, and support long-term health through community gardening.



*Dr Daisy Robinson and Beth Bramble*

Dr Daisy Robinson and Youth Link Worker Beth Bramble showcased innovative approaches for children and young people, while Joe Harman of the Wolseley Trust demonstrated how collaboration across health, primary care, and voluntary sectors maximises impact.



*Joe Harman*

Exeter Co-Lab and Wellbeing Exeter showcased collaborative models connecting communities and reducing isolation at scale. Camilla Rooney highlighted the impact of gaps in social prescribing, while health coach Jake Price explained how health coaching complements social prescribing to improve outcomes. Gavin Jones introduced the MySoc app, a digital journaling tool supporting social prescribing journeys and empowering patients to track and engage with their wellbeing



*Andres Rees, Edward Shaw, Ebbie Peters*

The conference celebrated the growing impact of social prescribing in Devon, fostering learning, partnership, and innovation. Attendees left with practical insights, new connections, and renewed enthusiasm for embedding social prescribing into local health systems, ensuring communities across Devon benefit from holistic, person-centred support.

For more information about the Devon Social Prescribing Conference and the projects presented, contact Joe Harman:

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