Dear Colleague,

We are inviting members of the public, GPs and Pharmacists in Bristol to participate in a research study. The study is funded by the Avon Primary Care Research Collaborative and is designed to explore experiences and perceptions of social prescribing and to use this information in the co-design of a social prescribing pilot for an area in Bristol. The research will use interviews and focus groups to discuss and explore the views of GPs, pharmacists and members of the public about the design and provision of a social prescribing pilot.

We are inviting you to take part in this research study. Please take time to read the following information clearly. The information is divided into two parts. Part 1 tells you the purpose of the study and what will happen if you take part. Part 2 tells you more information on how the study will be conducted. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for reading this.

Dr Denise Taylor, Principal Investigator
Telephone: 01225 382677
Email: socialprescribing@bath.ac.uk
Study website: https://socialprescribing.wordpress.com/
Study Twitter Feed: @socialscript_sw
PART 1

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to explore your experience and understanding of social prescribing, particularly in relation to supporting patients with mild anxiety or depression. We would like identify the barriers and enablers to introducing a social prescribing pilot in Bristol. Understanding your views and experiences of social prescribing will enable us to co-design and develop a model social prescribing scheme for Bristol. We hope this design will form part of the work for a larger project where we plan to implement and evaluate the efficacy of such a scheme.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited because you are a GP or pharmacist in Bristol and may be involved in the provision of social prescribing advice (either currently or in the future).

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you whether to participate in the study or not. If you decide to participate, then please keep this information and you will be asked to sign a consent form at the start of the interview or focus group. You are free to withdraw at any point during the study without giving a reason.

What will happen during the study?

If you decide to participate in the study a researcher will contact you to explain things in further detail. We would like to invite you to take part in a focus group or an interview (it is up to you whether you would prefer to take part in an interview or focus group), the interview can be arranged at a convenient time for you, or if you would like to take part in the focus group you will be offered a selection of dates for the meetings. The focus group will take place at the Bristol CCG offices in central Bristol, the interview can be organised at a convenient time and place for you, but we will aim to meet people and complete interviews at their office, the Bristol CCG offices, or the University of Bath. When you take part in the focus group or the interview you will be asked to sign a consent form as we will record these sessions using a Dictaphone-type device. Once the recording has been written up, you will not be able to be identified in any way. We anticipate the focus group to last around 50 minutes and the interviews will last up to 40 minutes. The interviews will be run by one researcher who will meet you, the focus groups will be facilitated by two researchers. In the interview or focus group the questions asked will be prompted by the topic guide (see enclosed document).

Expenses

Any travel expenses will be paid for at University of Bath standard rates. As a small token of our thanks for your participation in the study, you will receive a £20 gift voucher at the end of your participation.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?
We do not anticipate there to be any disadvantages or risks in participating in the study. If the interview or focus group raises difficult issues for you, then these will be dealt with sensitively by the researcher. You are free to leave the interview or focus group at any time.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

We anticipate that findings from the interview or focus group will directly inform the design of a pilot scheme for offering social prescribing in an area of Bristol. This scheme will be subject to a full systematic evaluation, for which we will be applying for research funding in the near future.

**What if there is a problem?**

Any complaint in the way that you have been dealt with or potential harm you may suffer from taking part in this study will be addressed promptly. Detailed information on this is covered in Part 2.

**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

Yes. We will follow all legal and ethical guidance regarding confidentiality. All information about you will be handled anonymously and treated as confidential. Further details can be found in Part 2.

If the information in Part 1 has interested you and you are considering taking part please continue and read the additional information in Part 2 before making a decision.

**PART 2**

**Will my taking part be kept confidential?**

All information from the interview or focus group will be anonymous and will not be shared with anyone who is not involved with the study. You will not be able to be identified from the audio recording or the typed up record of the interview or focus group that you participate in. The person who types up the audio recording will not know who you are. Once the study is completed the audio recording of the interview or focus group will be kept in a secure place for five years and then destroyed.

**What if there is a problem?**

In the unlikely event you are harmed whilst taking part in the study, there are no compensatory arrangements in place. If you have concerns or wish to complain about how you have been approached or treated during the study, please contact Denise Taylor (D.A.Taylor@bath.ac.uk or 01225 383677).

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results will be used to inform the design of a social prescribing pilot to be run in an area of Bristol. We will then apply to a national funding agency for funding to extend the pilot and to fully and systematically evaluate it. Finally we hope that the findings will be written up into a paper in order to be published. A report of the study will also be given to Bristol CCG. This will inform them of the opportunities and challenges arising from the introduction of such a scheme in Bristol. The report and
journal paper may contain some quotes from the interview or focus group. If this does happen your name and any details will be removed so that no one knows whose words they are. If you are interested in the results of the study, please contact the Principal Investigator and we will provide you with a summary.

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

The study is supported by the Avon Primary Care Research Collaborative. The project team are: Dr Denise Taylor (Principal Investigator), Dr Andrea Taylor (Researcher to the Project), Dr Hannah Family (Researcher to the Project) and Dr Matthew Jones (Co-Investigator).

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed by the funding body; has received Health Research Authority Approval on 26\textsuperscript{th} October 2016 (IRAS No: 214818) and reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Approval Committee for Health at the University of Bath (Ref: EP/16/17 069). It has also been peer reviewed by Dr Anita McGrogan at the University of Bath. The University of Bath is sponsoring and indemnifying the study.

**Who do I contact for further details?**

If you have any questions, please contact Denise Taylor at the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of Bath, Claverton Down, BATH BA2 7AY or email: socialprescribing@bath.ac.uk

**What do I do now?**

If you would like to take part in the study then please complete the form at the end of this information sheet and return it in the freepost envelope enclosed. I will then contact you within a few days of receiving your form to discuss the research with you.

Thank you for your time.

Dr Denise Taylor, Principal Investigator  
Telephone: 01225 383677  
Email: D.A.Taylor@bath.ac.uk  
Project email: socialprescribing@bath.ac.uk
I would be interested in helping with this research project about the design of a social prescribing pilot in Bristol

Name:

Preferred method of contact (circle one):

Letter Telephone Email

Address:

This is my work/home address (please delete as applicable)

Telephone:

Email:

What is the best time of day to contact you?

Where do you work?

Which would you prefer an interview or focus group?

☐ Interview ☐ Focus Group ☐ Either

I would like to receive a report of the summary findings from this study

☐ No ☐ Yes

Thank you for your help!

Please return this form in the FREEPOST envelope provided to:
Freepost RTTT–CGAA–HLRR
Dr Denise Taylor
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