

Case Study

Social Prescriber enables Susan* to establish new relationships

Background

Susan had recently moved to the area and had been referred to Herefordshire Social Prescribers as she had been diagnosed as having Parkinson's Disease. Parkinson's is a condition that affects most aspects of the patient's life and can have serious implications for their wellbeing .

How we helped

The Social Prescriber helped Susan to link up with the local Parkinson's Society. As a consequence, she became involved in activities that seek to mitigate the effects of the disease. In particular, feelings of isolation and depression.

At the same time, from another surgery, the Social Prescriber was referred another Parkinson's patient, this time a man. The man, in common with many men of retirement age, had no social contacts since the death of his wife.

The Social Prescriber gained permission from both patients to share their details and was able to bring them together in a way that enabled the two of them to face their issues together and for the lady to become a befriender for a lonely person at a time of great need.

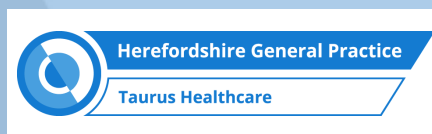
An important part of the role of the Social Prescriber's role is linking together people who may have limited or non-existent social networks, where appropriate. This case study is a great example of how wider connections can be utilised to bring greater benefits for more than one party.

Issues on referral

Mental wellbeing

Chronic physical illness

Limited social networks



Herefordshire Social Prescribing is a joint initiative between Herefordshire General Practice (supported by Taurus Healthcare) and Herefordshire Council.

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* Not her real name