

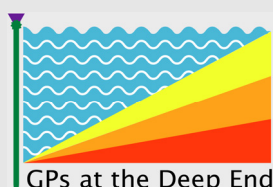
DEEP END SUMMARY 8

Social prescribing

Ten Deep End general practitioners from Glasgow, Dundee and Ayrshire took part in this postal project on social prescribing, by providing reports on their practice's use of non-medical community resources to respond to the needs of their patients.

KEY FINDINGS

- GPs in Deep End practices routinely encourage their patients to make use of non-medical community resources to address their health and social needs
- Helping patients to become more self reliant and able to control and improve their own health is a core value for GPs in Deep End practices
- Current processes to distinguish between deserving and undeserving poor on the basis of medical assessments are perceived to produce disability and dependence and to undermine the doctor-patient relationship
- Key interventions that would support more effective social prescribing by GPs are:
 - Benefits reform that reflects the realities of life in Scotland's poorest communities.
 - An internet directory of community resources: if user friendly, locally relevant and kept up to date.
 - More medical and nursing time in consultations to respond to very challenging needs by clear explanation and guidance.
 - Clear guidance for patients and organisations approaching GP practices for reports or advocacy support.
 - Increased funding to voluntary and local agencies in deprived communities.
- GPs with substantial experience of practice in deprived areas also have educational and development needs, requiring new arrangements for protected time and professional support.



GPs at the Deep End

“General Practitioners at the Deep End” work in 100 general practices, serving the most socio-economically deprived populations in Scotland. The activities of the group are supported by the Royal College of General Practitioners (Scotland), the Scottish Government Health Department, the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, and the Section of General Practice & Primary Care at the University of Glasgow.

Contacts for further information

Paul Alexander *RCGP Scotland* palexander@rcgp-scotland.org.uk

John Budd *Lothian Deprivation Interest Group* John.Budd@lothian.scot.nhs.uk

Petra Sambale *Keppoch Medical Practice, Glasgow* psambale@btinternet.com

Graham Watt *University of Glasgow* graham.watt@glasgow.ac.uk

Full report available at <http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/generalpracticeprimarycare/deepend>