



Gloucestershire Nature on Prescription Funding 2023

Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership & Gloucestershire NHS Integrated Care Board

Funding Guidelines

Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership and Gloucestershire NHS Integrated Care Board are pleased to be working together to offer funding for not-for-profit organisations working in Gloucestershire, to deliver green social prescribing projects to individuals who live and work in some of the county's more deprived areas.

Social prescribing is a mechanism for linking people from primary care, social care, self-referral or other referral routes to voluntary sector projects to support their health and wellbeing or address unmet needs in communities. Nature-related projects can help improve mental health and wellbeing or help to strengthen social networks. Nature also benefits, directly through project activities or through people building a relationship with, and interest in, the natural world.

This funding is for:

- **Projects that deliver a green social prescribing project to support the tackling of health inequalities in Gloucestershire.**
- There is a total of £100,000 available, to fund potentially between two and four projects. Grants are likely to be between £20,000 - £50,000.
- Projects can involve adults or children or both.
- We're looking for nature connection, nature engagement or community nature projects that can bring health or social benefits, for example helping to improve mild mental health conditions such as anxiety or depression, and/or offering people support with personal wellbeing, isolation or confidence. Above all we're interested in your creative ideas.

Funding Priorities

These social prescribing projects should

1. prioritise wards within the most deprived 20% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation
2. be co-designed with Social Prescribers
3. focus on good evaluation and evidence of outcomes

1. Prioritise wards within the most deprived 20% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation

This funding is aimed at the communities in Gloucestershire that are within the most deprived 20% in the Index of Multiple Deprivation. We are encouraging projects that benefit people in these areas to apply, and projects covering these areas will be given priority. These priority wards are listed below.

- Gloucester: Barton & Tredworth, Coney Hill, Kingsholm & Wotton, Matson & Robinswood, Moreland, Podsmead, Tuffley (south part of ward), Westgate (east part of ward).
- Cheltenham: Hesters Way, Oakley, Springbank, St Marks (south-west part of ward), St Pauls, Swindon Village (south part of ward).
- Cinderford West
- Tewkesbury South

We recognise that the dispersed inequalities of rural deprivation may not be well recorded in the Index of Multiple Deprivation, so we will also give priority to projects in areas of rural deprivation.

2. Co-designed with Social Prescribers

We are looking for these projects to be co-designed with Social Prescribers. We will assess initial early project concepts and then put a short-list of these applicants in touch with the relevant Social Prescriber to ask them to co-design a project. By co-design, we mean that the project organisation(s) and the social prescriber can design together the fundamentals of how the project will run, so that it can be set up well to meet the needs, timings, processes and opportunities of both.

Have a think about whether you might be interested in creating a partnership project – for example, a partnership between a community group who is embedded in one of these wards, or a mental health organisation, with an organisation whose main purpose is around nature. The Social Prescriber may be able to help identify potential partner organisations.

3. Good evaluation and evidence of outcomes

It is important to us that your project will collect high-quality monitoring and evaluation evidence of the health and wellbeing benefits of the project. This will help steer and strengthen the future case for green social prescribing in Gloucestershire in the future.

Please think about this in the planning and costing of the project. We would recommend the use of one of these evaluation methods that are already in use within the NHS sector:

- ONS 4 questions

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/methodologies/personalwellbeingsurveyuserguide>

<https://measure.whatworkswellbeing.org/measures-bank/ons4/>

- Shorter Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/med/research/platform/wemwbs/>
<https://measure.whatworkswellbeing.org/measures-bank/swemwbs/>
- Goals-based outcomes for children
<https://www.corc.uk.net/outcome-experience-measures/goal-based-outcomes-gbo/>

Qualitative case study evaluation is also valuable. It would also be good to think about the biodiversity, climate and community benefits and how to demonstrate these outcomes.

Types of Green social prescribing projects

The image below illustrates some of the different types of green social prescribing that are possible.



With permission from *A Handbook for Nature on Prescription to promote mental health*. Version 2. University of Exeter (Fullam J, Hunt H, Lovell R, Husk K, Byng R, Richards D, Bloomfield D, Warber S, Tarrant M, Lloyd J, Orr N, Burns L, Garside R (2021) https://www.ecehh.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/A-Handbook-for-Nature-on-Prescription-to-Promote-Mental-Health_FINAL.pdf).

Timescales

Projects can run for one year, or for more than one year. If they run for more than one year then we would ask for interim evaluation results on an annual basis.

It can be a good idea to build in enough lead time at the start of a project to facilitate good awareness of the project among those who are referring people to it, to help ensure a good level and flow of project participants.

How to apply

We would like to first select a short-list of early project concepts, and then ask those short-listed organisations to co-design the project with the relevant Social Prescriber. We will then assess the co-designed project application.

- **Early project concept**

Please do seek an initial phone call or online meeting with Local Nature Partnership manager Nicola Hillary on nicola.hillary@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk.

Whether or not you start with a phone call, please then send a short description of the early project concept. Please write a maximum of 2 pages please; alternatively if you would prefer to send this as a voice recording or video please Whatsapp 07485 321724. We would like information about:

- A summary of the project idea and how it will improve health and wellbeing through nature connection, nature engagement or community nature projects.
- What communities and locations the project will involve.
- If this is a partnership idea, outline the potential partners and their roles.
- Information or links showing your experience or track record of delivering similar projects, and of working with the target community.
- How you would envisage evaluating the project outcomes.
- A ballpark budget total and the main elements of the budget that are foreseen.

Early project concept ideas should be received by **31st March 2023**.

Of the organisations that send early project concept ideas, a short-list will be asked to co-design a project application with the relevant Social Prescriber.

- **Co-designed project application**

We will put you in touch with a relevant Social Prescriber, and we will ask you to co-design your project in collaboration with them. The Local Nature Partnership and the NHS Integrated Care Board are also likely to discuss the project idea more with you, to offer advice and suggestions.

We would look for an updated project idea, covering the information of the bullet points above in relation to the early project concept. We would also need:

- Evidence of additionality – i.e. that the intervention could not have happened without this funding.
- Your most recent accounts, and a description of how project finances would be managed.
- Organisational policies on safeguarding and diversity, equality & inclusion.
- Proof of relevant insurance.

Decision-making

The project ideas will be assessed by a small team of:

- Nicola Hillary, Local Nature Partnership manager
- Hannah Gorf, Commissioning Development Manager, NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board
- Doug Hulyer, Local Nature Partnership chair
- Dr Matthew Sitch, University of Gloucestershire
- A member from Barnwood Trust

The grant funding will be distributed from the bank account of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, on behalf of the Local Nature Partnership.

Useful inspiration

This Nature on Prescription handbook is free to access and contains evidence-based guidance for providers, commissioners and referrers: https://www.ecehh.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/A-Handbook-for-Nature-on-Prescription-to-Promote-Mental-Health_FINAL.pdf

Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership

Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) is formed of over 40 organisations from public, private and third sector bodies from across the county, all working together to recognise the importance of embedding nature's value in local decisions for the benefit of wildlife, people and the economy. Find out more, or sign up for the partnership newsletter, here: <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/>