Global Social Presribing Alliance Playbook 2026

Global Social Prescribing Alliance

Advancing Access, Quality, and Innovation in Social Prescribing

Foreword

The Global Social Prescribing Alliance Playbook 2026 builds on the vision set out by global leaders in September 2015 at the United Nations General Assembly, when the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted with the ambition to "Leave No One Behind."

Focusing on Good Health & Wellbeing (SDG 3), this playbook provides an implementation framework to create ethical, scalable platforms that enhance citizens' health and wellbeing while strengthening existing public services.

It is designed for system leaders, policymakers, clinicians, community organisations, and international partners leading the implementation of social prescribing globally through the Global Social Prescribing Alliance.

Global Adoption – Countries Advancing Social Prescribing Through GSPA Collaboration:
United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Greece, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Argentina.

Key Focus Areas 2026 :

- Expansion of social preacribing healthcare services - supporting global training and workforce development.
- Quality, safety, and patient experience enhancement
- Digital health adoption and operational efficiency

Executive Message

Reflecting on the journey of the Alliance, Gareth Presch, CEO, shares:

"Since launching the Global Social Prescribing Alliance in 2021, we have witnessed extraordinary global momentum. What began as a shared vision to embed prevention and personalised care into health systems has grown into a worldwide movement.
Today, we are mobilising social prescribing across more than 45 countries connecting communities, clinicians, and policymakers to deliver sustainable health and wellbeing solutions.

The 2026 Playbook captures this journey and provides leaders with the implementation framework to scale impact even further ensuring communities everywhere can thrive and that no one is left behind."

Social Prescribing is a holistic approach connecting people to non-clinical community services "prescribing a life, not just medicine." Types of social prescribing include:

Green – Nature-based activities for mental & physical wellbeing (e.g., community gardening, nature walks, forest bathing).

Blue – Water-based activities for health benefits (e.g., wild swimming, coastal walks, river mindfulness).

Arts & Culture – Creative engagement to support emotional health (e.g., art classes, music therapy, theatre, museum visits).

Physical Activity – Tailored movement and exercise (e.g., walking groups, yoga, swimming, dance).

Social & Community – Reducing isolation through connections (e.g., friendship clubs, volunteering, peer support).

Mental Health & Wellbeing – Non-clinical mental health support (e.g., mindfulness, meditation, resilience workshops).

Work & Skills – Building confidence, skills, and purpose (e.g., job clubs, mentoring, skills workshops).

Practical Support – Assistance with daily challenges affecting health (e.g., housing, debt advice, food banks).

Social Prescribing Day 26TH MARCH '26

How Leaders Across the World Can Start to Build Local Social Prescribing Approaches

The key points for implementation are outlined in seven foundational steps:

1. Bring Everyone Together to Build Social Prescribing Locally
Successful social prescribing begins with collective leadership.

This requires:

- All local partners working together
- Health systems, local authorities, and voluntary sectors aligned
- Co-production with communities most impacted
- Building on existing community assets and services

A whole-system approach ensures sustainability and trust.

2. Community Development & Support for Local Community Groups

Strong communities are the foundation of social prescribing.

Key actions include:

- Mapping community assets
- Identifying service gaps
- Investing in grassroots infrastructure
- Providing sustainable funding models
- Supporting voluntary and social enterprise sectors

Investment in communities drives prevention and resilience.

How Leaders Across the World Can Start to Build Local Social Prescribing Approaches

3. The Role of the Social Prescribing Link Worker / Community Connector

The Link Worker sits at the heart of effective delivery.
Their role includes:

- Providing time to listen
- Understanding "what matters" to the person
- Using a personalised care approach
- Connecting individuals to community support
- Strengthening community resilience

They act as the bridge between clinical systems and community ecosystems.

4. Create Shared Plans with the Person
(Personalised Care Approach)

Social prescribing is deeply rooted in Personalised Care.
A co-produced support plan should include:

- What matters to the individual
- Relevant community connections
- Expected outcomes
- Self-management actions
- Personal and community assets available

This ensures dignity, ownership, and empowerment.

How Leaders Across the World Can Start to Build Local Social Prescribing Approaches

5. Training & Workforce Development
Workforce investment is critical.
This includes:

- Formal Link Worker training
- Accredited learning programmes
- Informal peer networks
- Clinical supervision structures

Training should also extend to referring agencies so they:

- Understand the Link Worker role
- Recognise appropriate referrals
- Support integrated working

6. Ensure Clinical Engagement
Clinical buy-in is essential for scale.
This requires:

- Training clinicians to identify suitable patients
- Embedding referral pathways
- Multidisciplinary collaboration
- Establishing Clinical Champion Schemes

Clinical champions help raise awareness and unify system partners.

7. Measure Impact
Robust evaluation ensures credibility and investment.
A standardised framework should measure:

- Health outcomes
- Wellbeing improvements
- Service utilisation
- Economic value

The National Health Service in England has developed a Social Prescribing Common Outcomes Framework to support consistent data collection and reporting.

Six Principles for Creating Social Prescribing Opportunities

These principles underpin successful implementation globally:

1. Creating a Universal Narrative
Redefining health and wellbeing through:
- Rethinking Medicine
- Personalised Care
- Social Prescribing

All aligned to advancing SDG3.

2. Delivering Clinical Leadership
Establishing a global network of:
- Clinical champions
- Medical leaders
- Health system innovators

To embed social prescribing into mainstream care.

3. Creating Innovative Community Development
Focusing on:
- Existing community assets
- Place-based partnerships
- Sustainable financial structures
- Long-term economic models

4. Implementing the Building Blocks for Social Prescribing
Including:
- Referral systems
- Governance frameworks
- Partnership infrastructures
- Commissioning pathways

Principles for Creating Social Prescribing Opportunities

These principles underpin successful implementation globally:

5. Creating Workforce Solutions
Developing new workforce platforms to support:

- Healthcare providers
- Community organisations
- Integrated care systems
- Link Worker expansion

6. Harnessing Digital Solutions
Using digital innovation to enhance:

- Information sharing
- Outcomes measurement
- Community connectivity
- Insight generation

4 zones of social prescribing (Arts, Nature, Physical Activity, Practice Help and Knowledge).

Conclusion
The Global Social Prescribing Alliance Playbook 2026 provides leaders across the world with a practical roadmap to design, implement, and scale social prescribing systems.

By aligning clinical care, community assets, workforce development, and digital innovation, social prescribing enables thriving communities and advances the global mission of Good Health & Wellbeing for All.

Global Social Prescribing Alliance – 2026 Edition

GSPA International Playbook 2021
Social Prescribing Student Movement Framework 2021

Partnerships & Ecosystem

Building strong collaborations with key stakeholders to enhance healthcare quality, research, and innovation.

Collaborative Network

Government & Regulators:

Ministry of Health programs, public health initiatives

Research & Clinical Partners

Clinical trials, new treatment development

Academic Partners:

Joint research, student training programs

Investors & Innovation

Funding for digital health platforms and pilot projects

Strategic Impact

Collaboration strengthened service quality, expanded research capabilities, and improved organizational resilience, enabling us to deliver better patient outcomes and support long-term healthcare innovation.

Apendix - multiple languages

English (Original)
Global Social Prescribing Alliance Playbook 2026 – Implementation & Scaling Framework

Spanish / Español
Manual de la Alianza Global de Prescripción Social 2026 – Marco de Implementación y Escalamiento

French / Français
Manuel de l'Alliance Mondiale de Prescription Sociale 2026 – Cadre de Mise en Œuvre et de Déploiement

Portuguese / Português
Manual da Aliança Global de Prescrição Social 2026 – Estrutura de Implementação e Expansão

Arabic / العربية
دليل التحالف العالمي للوصف الاجتماعي 2026 – إطار العمل للتنفيذ والتوسيع

Chinese / 简体中文
全球社会处方联盟手册 2026 – 实施与扩展框架

Hindi / हिन्दी
ग्लोबल सोशल प्रिस्क्राइबिंग अलायंस प्लेबुक 2026 – कार्यान्वयन और विस्तार ढांचा

German / Deutsch
Playbook der Globalen Social Prescribing Alliance 2026 – Umsetzungs- und Skalierungsrahmen

Apendix - multiple languages

Spanish (Español)
Prólogo
El Manual 2026 se basa en la visión establecida por líderes mundiales en 2015 en la Asamblea General de la ONU con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y la ambición de "No dejar a nadie atrás".
Resumen Ejecutivo – Gareth Presch, CEO

"Desde el lanzamiento de la Alianza Global de Prescripción Social en 2021, hemos sido testigos de un impulso global extraordinario... Hoy estamos movilizando la prescripción social en más de 45 países, conectando comunidades, clínicos y responsables políticos para soluciones sostenibles de salud y bienestar."

Siete pasos para implementar la prescripción social localmente

1. Reunir a todos los actores
2. Desarrollo comunitario y apoyo a grupos locales
3. Rol del Trabajador de Enlace / Conector Comunitario
4. Crear planes compartidos (Atención Personalizada)
5. Capacitación y desarrollo de la fuerza laboral
6. Garantizar participación clínica
7. Medir impacto

Seis Principios para Oportunidades ODS3

1. Crear una narrativa universal
2. Liderazgo clínico
3. Desarrollo comunitario innovador
4. Implementar los bloques fundamentales
5. Crear soluciones de fuerza laboral
6. Aprovechar soluciones digitales

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Apendix - multiple languages

French (Français)
Avant-propos
Le guide 2026 s'appuie sur la vision de 2015 de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies et les ODD avec l'ambition de « Ne laisser personne de côté ».
Résumé exécutif – Gareth Presch, CEO

Depuis 2021, l'Alliance est devenue un mouvement mondial… Aujourd'hui, nous mobilisons la prescription sociale dans plus de 45 pays, reliant communautés, cliniciens et décideurs pour des solutions durables de santé et bien-être.

Sept étapes pour construire la prescription sociale locale

1. Rassembler tous les acteurs
2. Développement communautaire et soutien
3. Rôle du Travailleur de Liaison / Connecteur Communautaire
4. Plans partagés (Soins Personnalisés)
5. Formation et développement de la main-d'œuvre
6. Engagement clinique
7. Mesurer l'impact

Six principes pour créer des opportunités ODD3

1. Créer une narration universelle
2. Leadership clinique
3. Développement communautaire innovant
4. Mettre en œuvre les éléments de base
5. Solutions pour la main-d'œuvre
6. Exploiter les solutions numériques

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Arabic (العربية)

المقدمة
يعتمد دليل 2026 على رؤية 2015 للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة وأهداف التنمية المستدامة مع شعار "عدم ترك أحد خلف الركب".
الملخص التنفيذي – Gareth Presch, الرئيس التنفيذي

«منذ إطلاق التحالف عام 2021، أصبح حركة عالمية... اليوم نقوم بتفعيل الوصف الاجتماعي في أكثر من 45 دولة، وربط المجتمعات والأطباء وصانعي السياسات لتحقيق حلول صحية مستدامة.»

سبع خطوات لبناء النظام المحلي
1. جمع جميع الشركاء
2. تطوير ودعم المجتمع
3. دور عامل الربط / الميسر المجتمعي
4. وضع خطط مشتركة (الرعاية المخصصة)
5. التدريب وتطوير القوى العاملة
6. ضمان المشاركة السريرية
7. قياس التأثير

ستة مبادئ لفرص الهدف 3
1. إنشاء سرد عالمي
2. القيادة السريرية
3. تطوير المجتمع المبتكر
4. تنفيذ اللبنات الأساسية
5. حلول القوى العاملة
6. الاستفادة من الحلول الرقمية

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Chinese (简体中文)
前言
本手册基于2015年联合国大会提出的“一个都不落下”的可持续发展目标愿景。
执行摘要 – Gareth Presch, CEO

“自2021年联盟成立以来，社会处方已从愿景发展为全球运动...目前已在45多个国家实施，连接社区、临床人员和政策制定者，提供可持续健康与福祉解决方案。

七个实施步骤
1. 集合所有利益相关方
2. 社区发展与支持
3. 链接工作者/社区联络员角色
4. 制定共享计划（个性化护理）
5. 培训与人才发展
6. 确保临床参与
7. 衡量影响

六项原则
1. 创建通用叙事
2. 临床领导力
3. 创新社区发展
4. 实施基础构建
5. 人才解决方案
6. 利用数字解决方案

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Hindi
प्रस्तावना
यह प्लेबुक 2015 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा में निर्धारित सतत विकास लक्ष्यों की दृष्टि पर आधारित है — 'किसी को पीछे न छोड़ें'।
कार्यकारी सार – Gareth Presch, CEO

"2021 के बाद से, एलायंस वैश्विक आंदोलन बन गया है... आज हम 45+ देशों में सोशल प्रिस्क्राइबिंग को लागू कर रहे हैं, समुदायों, चिकित्सकों और नीति निर्माताओं को जोड़कर स्थायी स्वास्थ्य समाधान प्रदान कर रहे हैं।"
सात कार्यान्वयन चरण

1. सभी साझेदारों को एकत्र करना
2. समुदाय विकास और समर्थन
3. लिंक वर्कर / समुदाय कनेक्टर की भूमिका
4. साझा योजनाएँ (व्यक्तिगत देखभाल)
5. प्रशिक्षण और कार्यबल विकास
6. नैदानिक संलग्नता सुनिश्चित करना
7. प्रभाव मापना

छः सिद्धांत

1. सार्वभौमिक कथा बनाना
2. नैदानिक नेतृत्व
3. नवाचारी समुदाय विकास
4. आधारभूत तत्व लागू करना
5. कार्यबल समाधान
6. डिजिटल समाधानों का उपयोग

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German (Deutsch)
Vorwort
Das Playbook 2026 basiert auf der Vision der UN-Generalversammlung 2015 und den Nachhaltigkeitszielen — „Niemanden zurücklassen".
Executive Summary – Gareth Presch, CEO

Seit 2021 hat sich die Allianz von einer Vision zu einer globalen Bewegung entwickelt... Heute setzen wir Social Prescribing in über 45 Ländern um, verbinden Gemeinden, Kliniker und Entscheidungsträger und liefern nachhaltige Lösungen für Gesundheit und Wohlbefinden.

Sieben Implementierungsschritte

1. Alle Beteiligten zusammenbringen
2. Gemeinschaftsentwicklung & Unterstützung
3. Rolle des Link Workers / Community Connectors
4. Gemeinsame Pläne erstellen (Personalisierte Pflege)
5. Ausbildung & Workforce-Entwicklung
6. Klinische Einbindung sicherstellen
7. Wirkung messen

Sechs Prinzipien

1. Universelle Erzählung schaffen
2. Klinische Führung
3. Innovative Gemeinschaftsentwicklung
4. Grundbausteine implementieren
5. Workforce-Lösungen entwickeln
6. Digitale Lösungen nutzen

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Portuguese (Português)

Prefácio
O Playbook 2026 baseia-se na visão da Assembleia Geral da ONU de 2015 e nos ODS, com a ambição de "Não deixar ninguém para trás".
Resumo Executivo – Gareth Presch, CEO

Desde 2021, a Aliança evoluiu de uma visão compartilhada para um movimento global... Hoje mobilizamos a prescrição social em mais de 45 países, conectando comunidades, clínicos e formuladores de políticas para soluções sustentáveis.

Sete passos para implementação

1. Reunir todos os parceiros
2. Desenvolvimento comunitário e apoio a grupos locais
3. Papel do Link Worker / Conector Comunitário
4. Criar planos compartilhados (Cuidados Personalizados)
5. Treinamento e desenvolvimento de pessoal
6. Garantir engajamento clínico
7. Medir impacto

Seis princípios para ODS3

1. Criar uma narrativa universal
2. Liderança clínica
3. Desenvolvimento comunitário inovador
4. Implementar os blocos fundamentais
5. Criar soluções de força de trabalho
6. Utilizar soluções digitais

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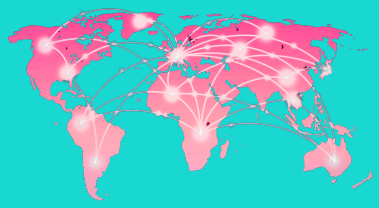

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Let's collaborate for better healthcare.