



**RTPI Cymru**

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20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**e-mail response sent to:** [NationalFrameworkforSocialPrescribing@gov.wales](mailto:NationalFrameworkforSocialPrescribing@gov.wales)

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

**Response to: National framework for social prescribing**

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) is the largest professional institute for planners in Europe, representing some 27,000 spatial planners. RTPI Cymru represents the RTPI in Wales, with 1,300 members. The Institute seeks to advance the science and art of planning, working for the long-term common good and well-being of current and future generations. The RTPI develops and shapes policy affecting the built environment, works to raise professional standards and supports members through continuous education, training and development.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence to the above consultation. Our general comments on the key issues in relation to planning are set out below.

Planning has the potential to play a significant role in the delivery and longevity of social prescribing through a holistic, collaborative and spatial approach.

National planning policy for Wales, [Planning Policy Wales \(PPW\)](#), puts placemaking and well-being at the very heart of the planning system, working to support the sustainability goals set out in the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 and reducing health and well-being inequalities.

Planning is an important mechanism in facilitating economic, social and environmental benefits. Through Local Development Plans and the development management process, planning can influence and support everyday decisions such as movement and access to facilities etc. For example, the location of development can give access to amenities that support healthcare services. The system's key role is to guide development to the most

sustainable locations, which in turn can assist social prescribing. The RTPI's research on the Location of Development sets out the importance and potential of planning in this respect. [RTPI | New from the RTPI](#).

Planning has the capacity to connect people to community support to better manage their health and well-being, through enhancing active travel choices. Active travel encourages 'greener' and healthier modes of transport, creating a multiplier effect of positive impacts, including reducing air pollution. An aim of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 is 'to make walking and cycling the most natural and normal way of getting about,' this is embedded in national planning policy (PPW).

The role of Section 106 agreements in securing community infrastructure which can be used to ensure new developments contribute towards sustainable transport, education, public open green spaces etc. should also be recognised.

The Placemaking Wales Charter equally plays an important part in supporting the development of sustainable, high-quality places, drawing in stakeholders with a wide range of interests to support that goal. [Placemaking Charter - Design Commission for Wales \(dcfw.org\)](#)

The RTPI Cymru discussion paper on [Living Locally in Rural Wales](#) investigates the benefits of living locally, looking at solidarity and participation within rural communities and issues including access to services and social contact. The paper includes a case study: The Thrive Platform (pg27), that aims to solve rural transportation issues alongside isolation and loneliness, by incorporating opportunities for groups to meet and socialise.

If you require further assistance, please contact RTPI Cymru on 020 7929 8197 or e-mail Roisin Willmott at [walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:walespolicy@rtpi.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,



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**Director**  
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