Speaking the Same Language: Developing a Glossary of Terms for Social Prescribing

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What is Social Prescribing?

- **Various models and descriptions of social prescribing used by the nations of the UK**

  - **Within Wales** social prescribing uses a cross-sector working practice & a "no wrong door" approach

  - Defined as: *"connecting citizens to community support to better manage their health & well-being"*

  (Rees et al, 2019)

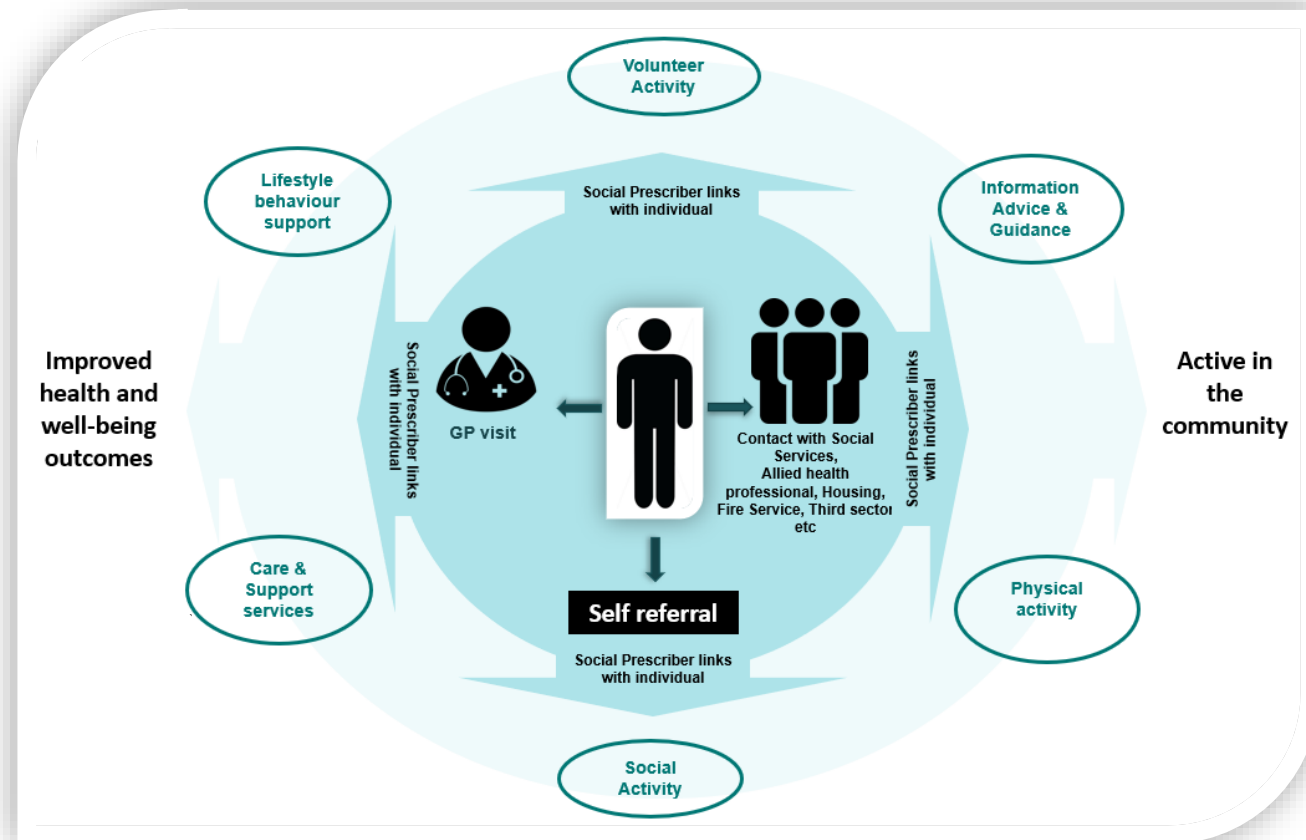- **SP = Umbrella term** – pathway that support & empower via engagement with community-based assets.

Figure 1. Model of social prescribing in Wales. (Wallace et al., 2021)

The Need for a Glossary of Terms for Social Prescribing

- **Social prescribing has seen a period of growth and development over the last decade**

(Bertotti et al., 2018; Morse et al., 2022; Rempel et al., 2017).

- Resulted in diverse and confusing terminology

- Creates barriers to engagement & impairs communication.

- **A need for a glossary** (Wallace et al., 2018, 2021)

- Provide clarity on the terminology used

- Aid the standardisation of social prescribing language

- Facilitate communication

- **Research was conducted by WSSPR & PHW with the aim of:**

- Identifying the terminology associated with social prescribing

- Producing a glossary of terms for social prescribing (Newstead et al., *Release Pending 2023*).

Community connection
Care farming
Healing arts
Social prescribing
Bibliotherapy
Link worker

Development of the glossary of terms

Scoping Review

- Screening:
  Title & abstract (46,242)
  Full text (738)

- Charting Data (205 docs)
  UK Peer (163)
  Welsh Grey (42)

- Terms identified (373)

GCM Study
- Brainstorming Task

- SP professionals in Wales

- Statements (120)

- Terms identified (49)

- Removal of duplicate terms (19)

Consultation
- SP Coordinating Group
- WSSPR Steering Group
- SP Professionals (Wales)

- Additional terms (41)

- Criteria for:
  Exclusion (18)
  Inclusion (426)

- Division of terms into:
  - Non-Core Terms (234)
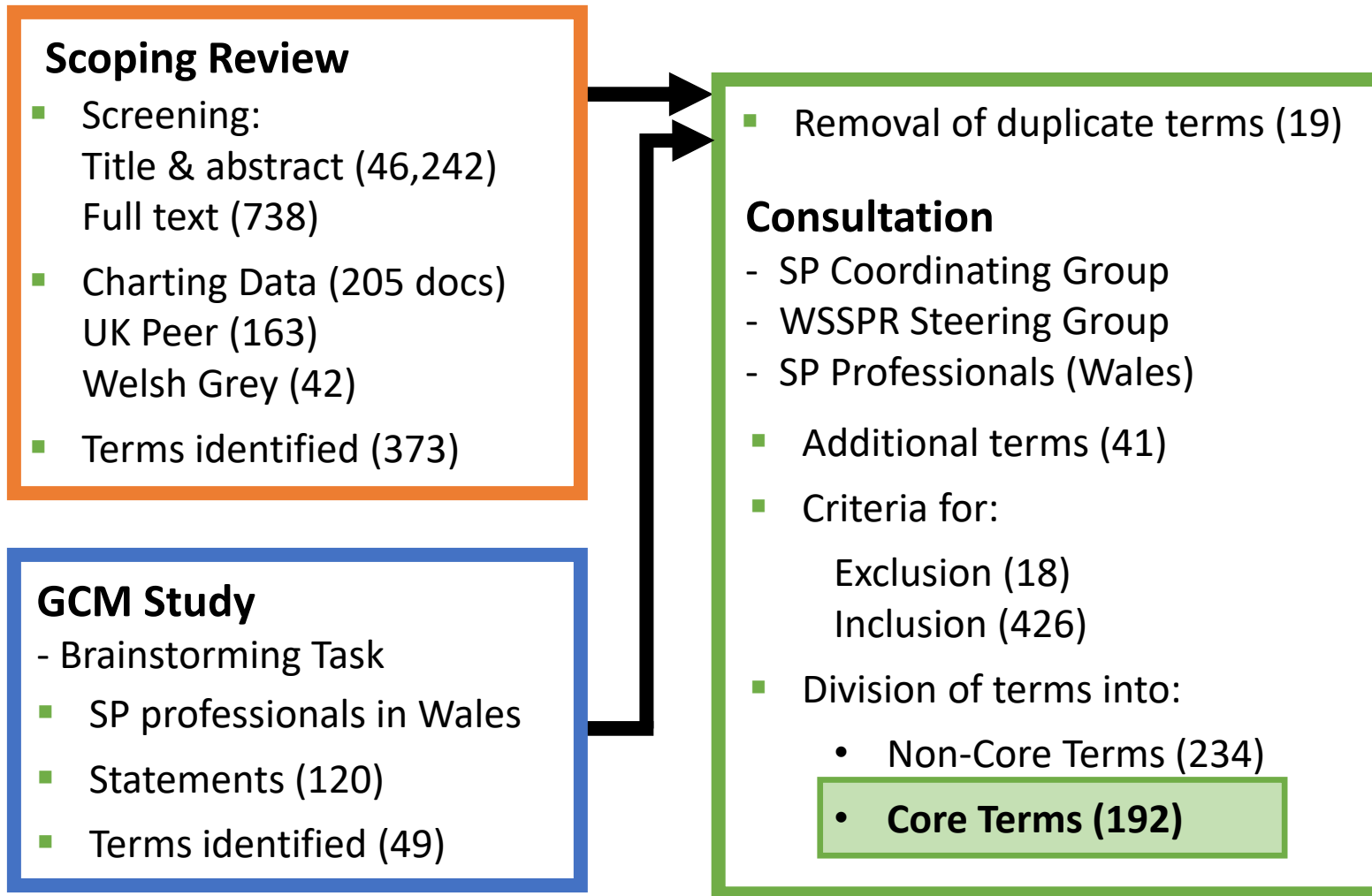 - **Core Terms (192)**

Figure 2. Identification and classification of social prescribing terminology for inclusion in the glossary of terms.
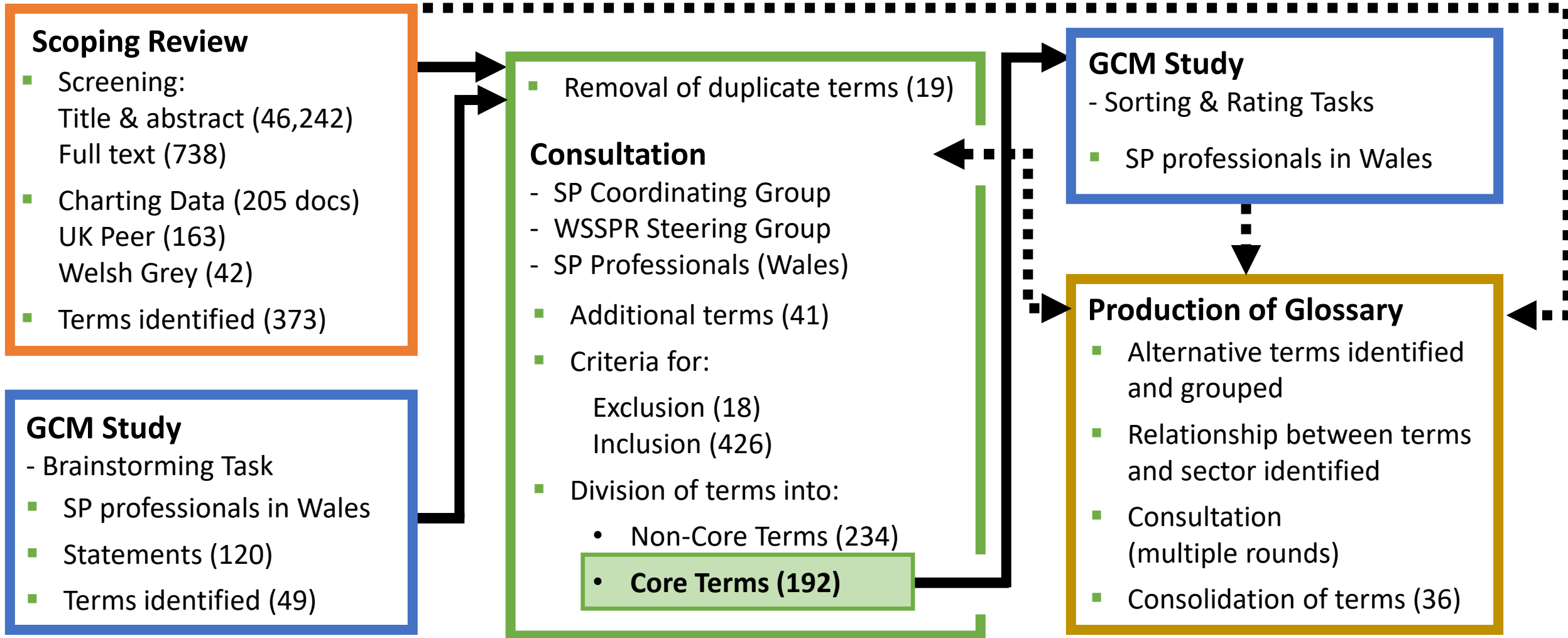
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  - **Core Terms (192)**

GCM Study
- Sorting & Rating Tasks
- SP professionals in Wales

Production of Glossary
- Alternative terms identified and grouped
- Relationship between terms and sector identified
- Consultation (multiple rounds)
- Consolidation of terms (36)

Figure 2. Identification and classification of social prescribing terminology for inclusion in the glossary of terms.

Scoping Review

- **Peer-reviewed articles (UK) and Grey Literature (Wales)**

  - **Screening:**

    - Title & abstract (46,262)

    - Full text (738)

  - **Data charted from 205 documents**

    (163 peer-reviewed articles + 42 grey literature).

    - Terms

    - Location in the UK
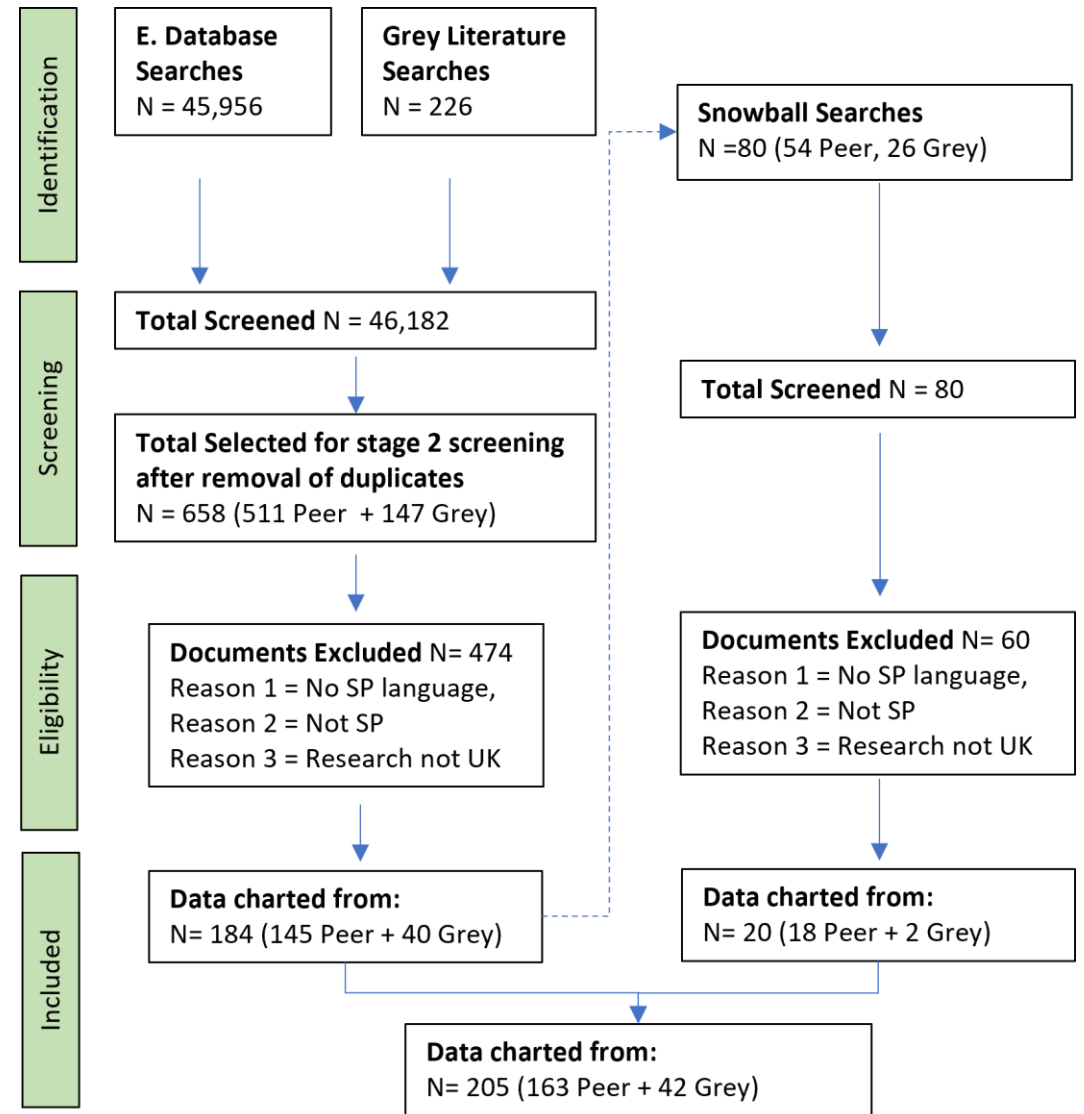
    - Authored perspective

  - **373 Terms identified**

Identification	
E. Database Searches N = 45,956	**Grey Literature Searches** N = 226

Snowball Searches N =80 (54 Peer, 26 Grey)

Screening

Total Screened N = 46,182

Total Screened N = 80

Total Selected for stage 2 screening after removal of duplicates N = 658 (511 Peer + 147 Grey)

Eligibility

Documents Excluded N= 474
Reason 1 = No SP language,
Reason 2 = Not SP
Reason 3 = Research not UK

Documents Excluded N= 60
Reason 1 = No SP language,
Reason 2 = Not SP
Reason 3 = Research not UK

Included

Data charted from:
N= 184 (145 Peer + 40 Grey)

Data charted from:
N= 20 (18 Peer + 2 Grey)

Data charted from:
N= 205 (163 Peer + 42 Grey)

Figure 3. PRISMA diagram of scoping review

(Newstead et al., *Under Review*).

Scoping Review – Terms by Source
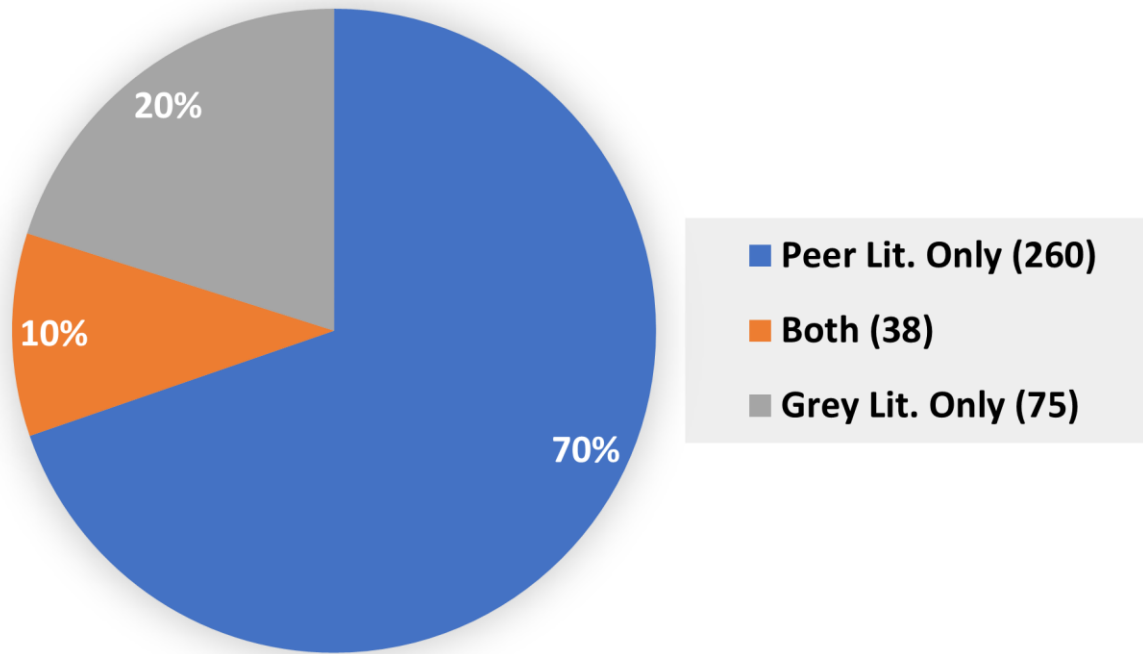
- Total number of terms Peer = 298

- Total number of terms Grey = 113

- 70% of terms identified occurred solely in peer-reviewed literature

- 20% of terms identified occurred solely in Welsh grey literature

- Overlap of 10% across both sources.

Figure 4. Scoping review terms by source.

(Newstead et al., *Under Review*).

Scoping Review- Terms by Location

Peer-reviewed literature (298 terms)

Legend:
- England (147)
- Scotland (16)
- N.I. (2)
- Wales (7)
- UK (77)
- England & UK (28)
- Various that account for ≤1% each (19)
- All (2)

Grey literature (113 terms)

Legend:
- England & Grey (10)
- Scotland & Grey (1)
- NI & Grey (0)
- Wales & Grey (1)
- UK & Grey (10)
- Grey Only (75)
- England, UK & Grey (4)
- England, Wales, UK & Grey (5)
- All (2)
- Various that account for ≤2% each (5)
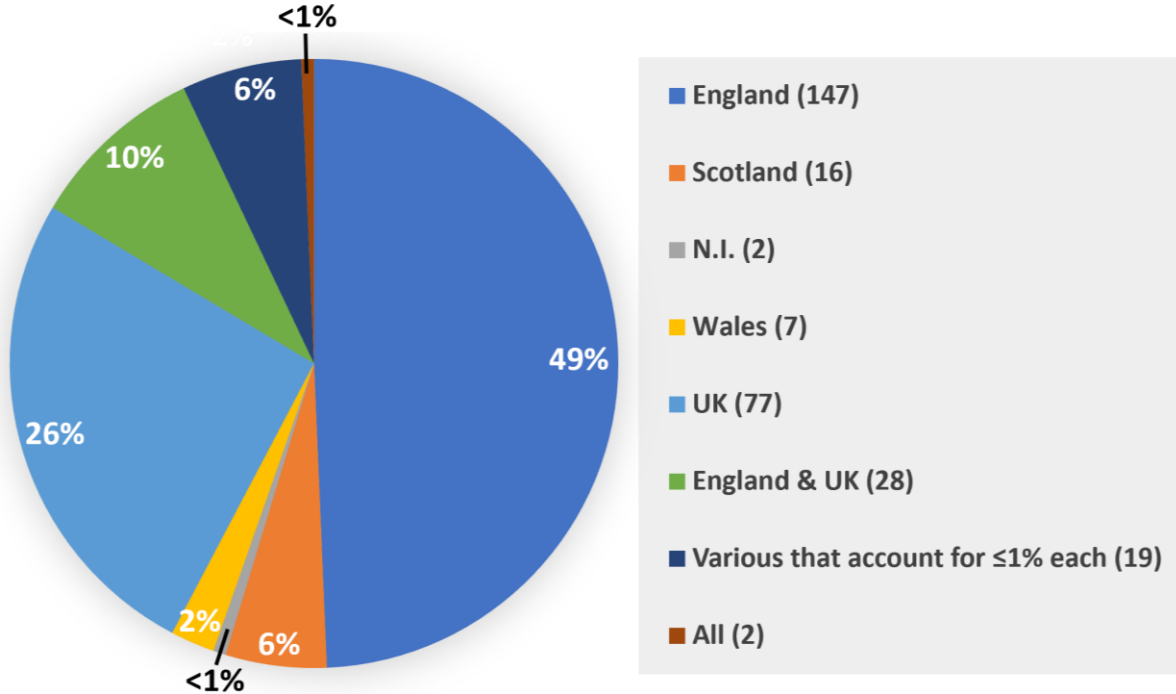
- 49% solely in literature based in England
- 26% solely in literature based across UK
- 10% crossover - in literature based across UK & England
- 'social prescribing and 'link worker' - all nations
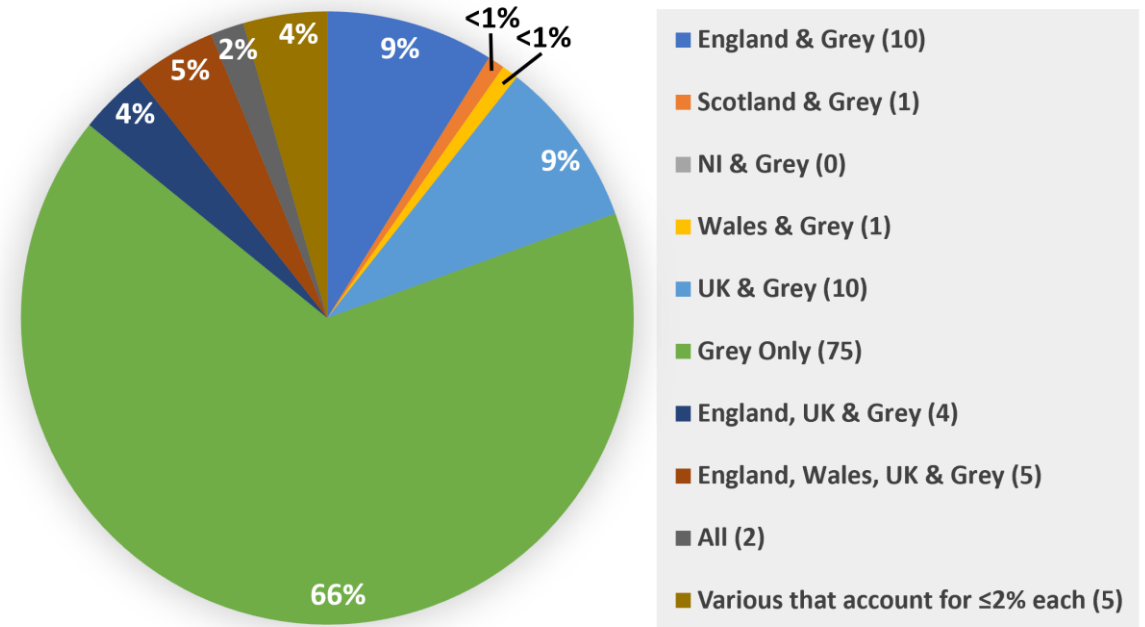
- 66% occurred solely in Welsh grey literature
- Highest co-occurrence with literature based across UK & England (9% each)
- Little co-occurrence with other nations of UK

Figures 5 & 6. Scoping review terms by location. (Newstead et al., *Under Review*).

Scoping Review- Terms by Authored Perspective

Peer-reviewed literature (298 terms)

Legend:
- H (158)
- H&SC (47)
- CVSO (9)
- H&MH (16)
- Law&H (4)
- Psych (5)
- H/H&SC (29)
- H&Psych (8)
- Various that account for ≤2% each (22)
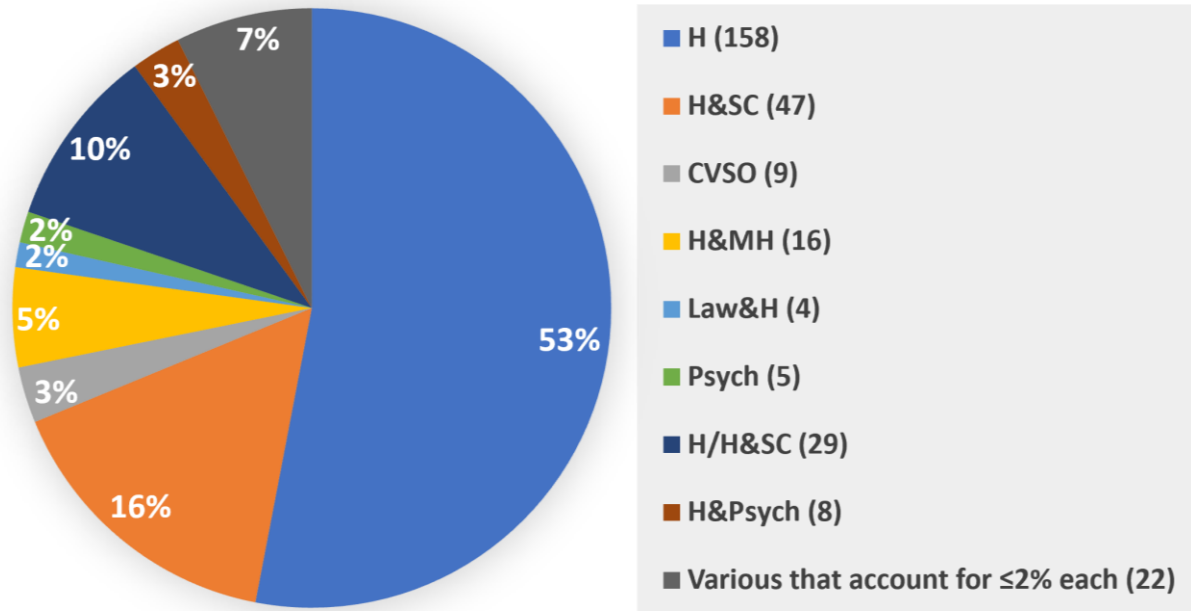
- 53% solely from HC perspective
- 36% partially from HC perspective
- 5% authored with no HC perspective (3% CVSO)

Grey literature (113 terms)

Legend:
- H (25)
- H&SC (21)
- CVSO (2)
- H&MH (18)
- H&CVSO (22)
- H&SC&CVSO (2)
- H&SC/H&CVSO (3)
- H/H&SC (5)
- Various that account for ≤2% each (14)
- All (1)
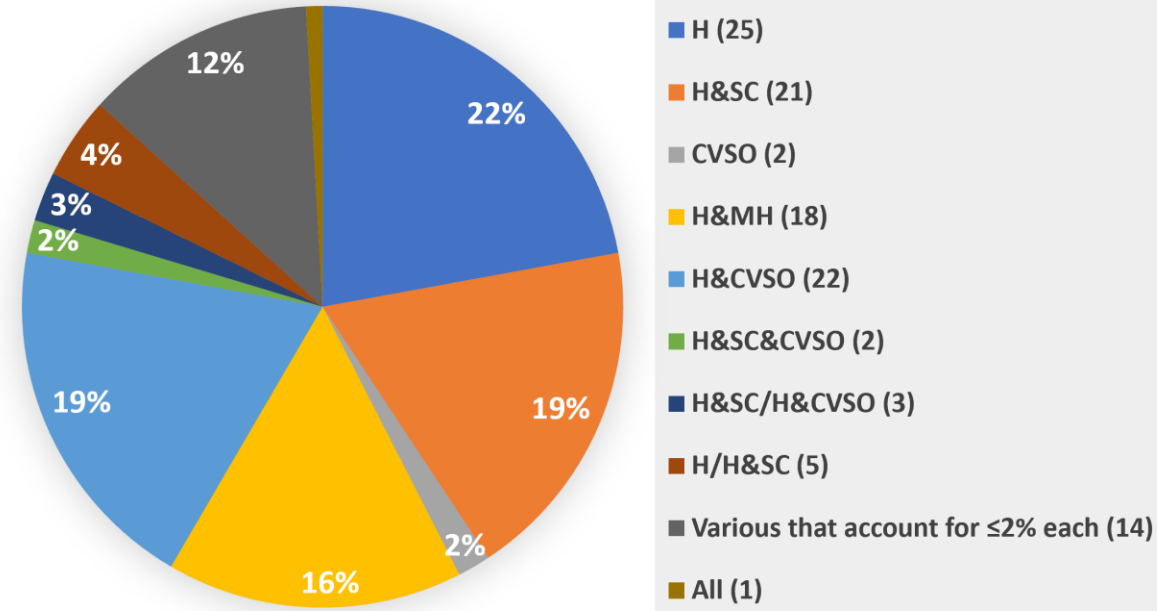
- 22% solely from HC perspective
- 63% partially from HC perspective
- 2% no HC perspective
- 24% Partially from CVSO perspective

Figures 7 & 8. Scoping review terms by location. (Newstead et al., *Under Review*).

Group Concept Mapping Study

- **Brainstorming task –** Prompt: "A term or phrase used within the social prescribing pathway is…"

  - Statements (120)

  - Terms (49)

- **Sorting Task -** Core terms

  - 6 clusters

  'Principles underpinning social prescribing

  systems' ranked highest for

  usefulness & relevance

- **Rating tasks**

  - Usefulness in everyday practise

  - Relevance to social prescribing

  - Data & demographic info used to identify   sector-specific preferences for terms
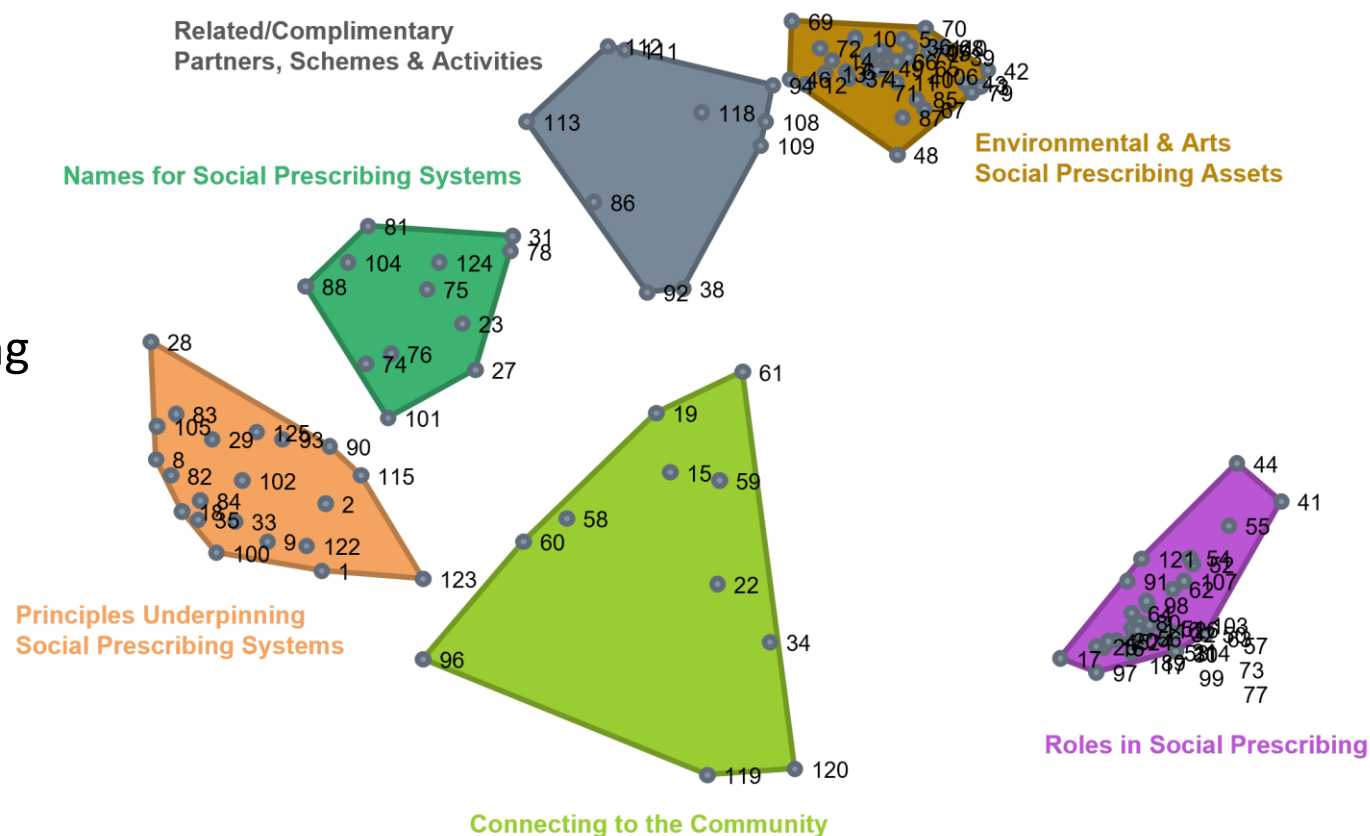
Figure 9. Cluster Map of Core Social Prescribing Terms (n=29**). (**Newstead et al., In Preparation).

Development of the Glossary of Terms

- **Clarify and facilitate the standardisation of social prescribing language**.

- Most glossaries are a list of 25-50 words (Tetlow et al., *In Preparation*).

  - Diversity of terminology necessitated a different approach. **Core Terms (192) → 'Suggested Terms' (36)**

  - Description

  - Alternative terms, sector-specific preferences for terms

  - Relationship of terms to each other

- **The glossary available as a PDF and via a dedicated website** www.socialprescribing.wales (launching Oct 2023)

  - Language Welsh/English

  - Different versions for target audiences: Professional view / Public View / Easy-Read – learning disabilities

  - Future iterations will likely be needed as the landscape evolves.

    - Website will facilitate data capture & dissemination of updates.

The Glossary of Terms – Navigation Table

Action Planning

Asset-Based Approach

Asset Mapping

Blue Referral

Books on Referral

Buddy System

Building the Practice

Care Navigator

Community Assets

Community Support Hubs

Community & Voluntary Sector Organisations

Co-Production

Creative Referral

Digital Social Prescribing

Education on Referral

Exercise Referral

Green Referral

Health Facilitator

Holistic

Nature-Based Interventions

Person-Centred Approach

Practice-Managed Scheme

Referral

Signposting & Active Signposting

Social Cafes

Social Prescribing

Social Prescribing Approaches

Social Prescribing Champion

Social Prescribing Model

Social Prescribing Outcome Principles

Social Prescribing Pathway

Social Prescribing Practitioner

Statutory Services

Welfare Support Referral

Well-Being

What Matters Conversation
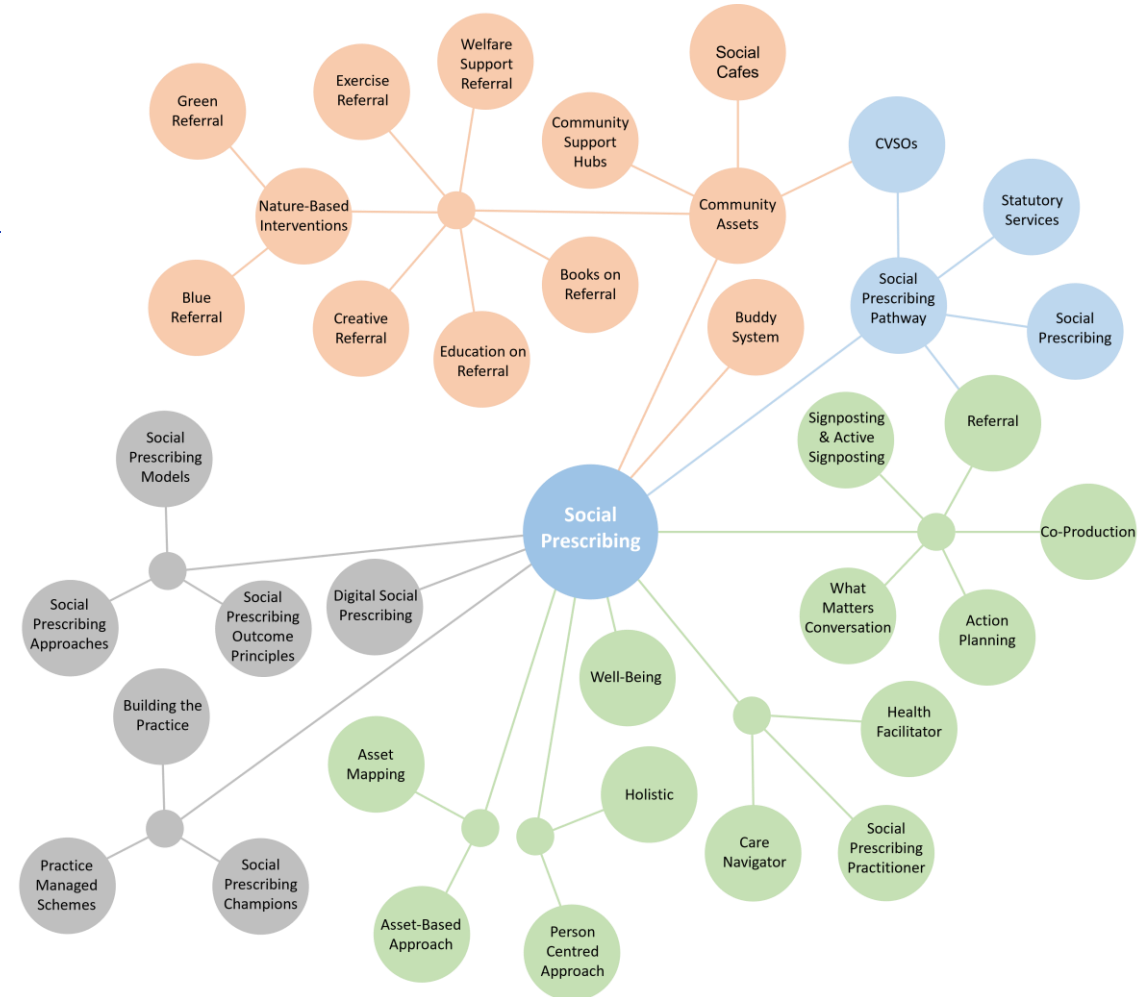
Figure 10. Navigation table of terms, professional view. www.socialprescribing.wales
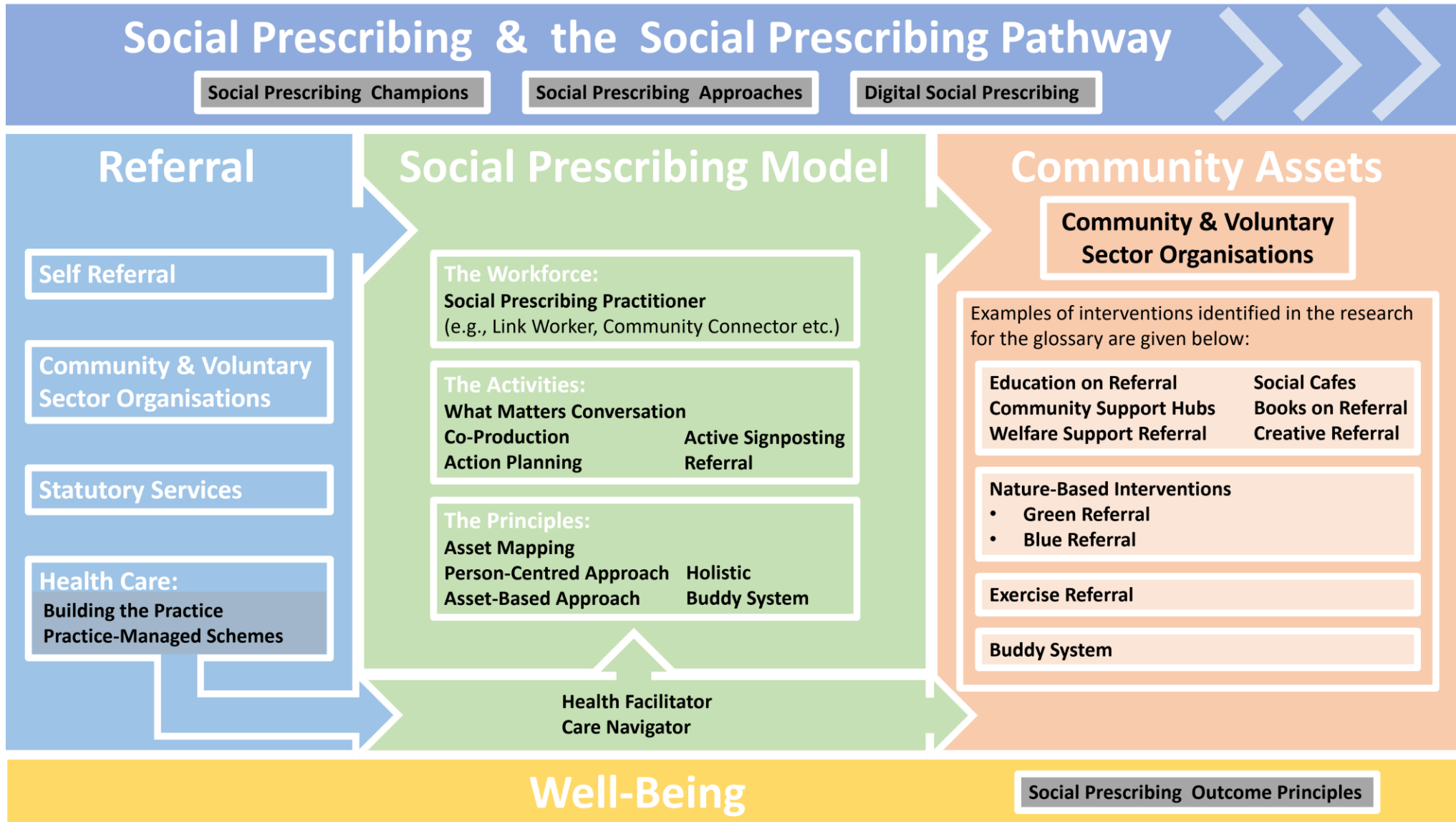
The Glossary of Terms – Pathway Flowchart

Figure 11. Pathway flowchart of terms (Newstead et al., *Release Pending 2023*).

The Glossary of Terms – Term Descriptions

Social Prescribing Practitioner [C, GCM, SR]

Description: **Social prescribing practitioner** is an umbrella term for someone who assists individuals with identifying their non-medical needs through a [what matters conversation](#), and helps them [co-produce](#) an [action plan](#) and access local [community assets](#) and sources of support. If they identify a potential medical need they may also refer to GP or pharmacist. **Social prescribing practitioners** will work with individuals to find activities tailored to their preferences and needs, explore barriers and challenges to attending, and encourage ongoing participation. While there are preferred terms for the **social prescribing practitioner** role within sectors, they may also be known by a variety of terms that can be specific to the organisation in which they work. **Social prescribing practitioners** can be employed by a range of different organisations, such as local authorities, health boards or [Community & Voluntary Sector Organisations](#).

Alternative Terms: **Community connector** [CVSO], **community co-ordinator** [SC], community health champion, community link officer, community links practitioner, **community navigator** [CVSO], facilitator, health adviser, health broker, health connectors, link co-ordinator, **link worker** [HC], **local area coordinator** [SC], **local asset coordinator** [SC], non-medical link worker, referral agent, referral worker, referrer, social prescriber, social prescribing coordinator, social prescription officer, well-being advisor, well-being community co-ordinator, well-being co-ordinator, well-being links advisor, well-being worker.

Figure 12. Example term from the glossary (Newstead et al., *Release Pending 2023*).

The Glossary of Terms – Connected Terms

Connected Terms: Action planning, asset mapping, care navigator, community assets, co-production, health facilitator, holistic, person-centred approach, referral, signposting & active signposting, social prescribing, social prescribing models, social prescribing pathway, well-being, what matters conversation.
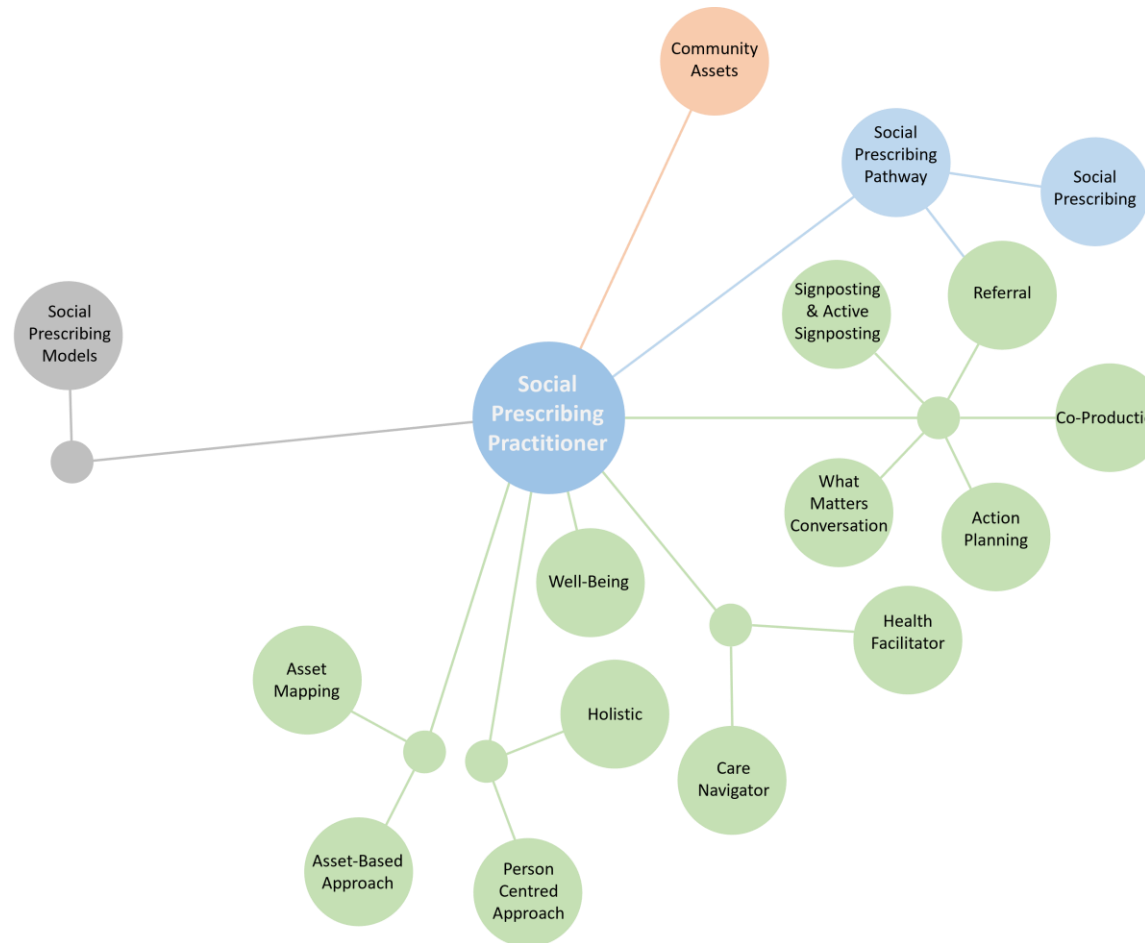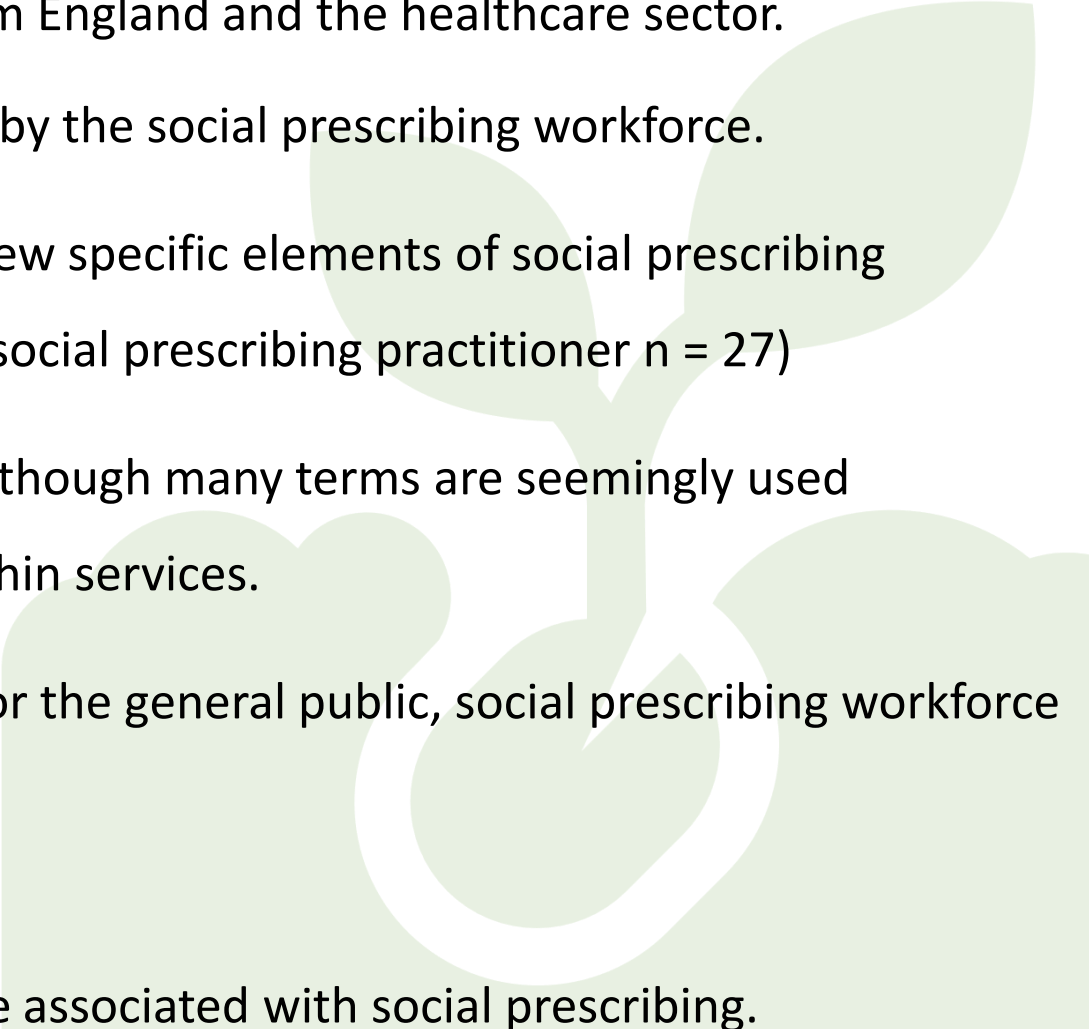
Figure 13. Connected terms. www.socialprescribing.wales

Summary

- Largest proportion of articles and terms originate from England and the healthcare sector.

  - May not reflect the terminology commonly used by the social prescribing workforce.

- Many terms identified describe/related to the same few specific elements of social prescribing (e.g., Process of social prescribing n = 28, Role of the social prescribing practitioner n = 27)

- Some sector-specific preferences for certain terms, although many terms are seemingly used interchangeably with little standardisation across/within services.

- The glossary provides an informative reference tool for the general public, social prescribing workforce and commissioners (both within Wales and beyond).

  - Improve understanding

  - Facilitate the standardisation of the language associated with social prescribing.

References & Links

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Rees S, Thomas S, Elliott M, Wallace C, 2019. Creating community assets/social capital within the context of social prescribing. Findings from the workshop held 17/7/2019. WCVA, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, University of South Wales

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Wallace, C., Davies, M., Elliott, M., Llewellyn, M., Randall, H., Owens, J., Philips, J., Teichner, L., Sullivan, S., Hannah, V., Jenkins, B., & Jesurasa, A. (2021). *Understanding Social Prescribing in Wales: A Mixed Methods Study*.

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- **www.socialprescribing.wales Due for launch October 2023**