

# Social Prescribing Link Workers in the COVID-19 Pandemic Response - 2021

## The Role of SPLWs

The general role of SPLWs in the pandemic response is set out in the [GP Standard Operating Procedure 7.2](#).

## Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) and Shielding

The Government has reintroduced [shielding advice for people who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable \(CEV\) from Covid-19](#) across all areas of England from 5 January. This advice does not alter if an individual has received the COVID-19 vaccination.

CEV people will be eligible for support to stay at home, which includes free delivery of medicines (where friends, family, or local volunteers are unable to provide help) and statutory sick pay where they are unable to work from home.

The Government will be writing to all CEV individuals in England to inform them of the advice and support available (including individuals already advised to shield as part of Tier 4 restrictions). This letter will be published [here](#). It is expected that Government will also be sending text messages and emails to affected patients where the NHS holds the relevant contact information.

We know this is a difficult time and anticipate people may have questions about the advice they should follow. Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting those at highest risk from COVID-19. Given the re-introduction of this guidance for CEV to shield, we have uploaded [FAQs](#) to the collaboration platform. This may be of use for SPLWs supporting people who are shielding, and the FAQs also signpost to organisations that you can contact to support patients, including how to arrange food and support from NHS GoodSam volunteers.

## Vaccination roll-out

SPLWs may be required by their PCN to support COVID-19 vaccination roll-out. The most appropriate way for SPLWs to support the vaccine roll-out is through supporting in waiting areas, picking up referrals, and helping GP's proactively identify people at risk of not receiving a vaccination they are eligible for. SPLWs should discuss their role with their associated PCN in order to ascertain if they are required to support vaccine efforts and how they can add most value.

All the relevant information about the vaccine programme is on the [NHS England website](#) and if you have friends, family or colleagues who want to get involved with the vaccine programme, please share the link to the [national COVID-19 vaccines recruitment page](#).

## General Resources

You can also access further information to support you in your role in the [Collaboration Platform coronavirus response section](#) and in the [coronavirus forum](#).

We have also uploaded [updated FAQs on coding social prescribing activity](#).

We know that primary care is under extreme pressure in the pandemic response and that this is impacting on SPLW workload and wellbeing. Please see [a message from Nic Gitsham](#), head of Social Prescribing at NHSE and please make use of resources to support your wellbeing including those from [Our NHS People](#) and [#LookingAfterYouToo](#).