

# ADEPT

Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

## ADEPT President's Awards 2022

### Entry form

<b>Award category:</b>	Shaping Places for People
<b>Title:</b>	Surrey Heartlands Green Social Prescribing 'Test and Learn' Programme
<b>Entrant:</b>	Surrey County Council
<b>Main contact name:</b>	David Greenwood
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<b>Partner/s (if applicable):</b>	Surrey County Council Environment, Adult Social Care; Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership and partners
<b>Headline summary (150 characters, c. 20-25 words)</b>	
'Testing and Learning' Green Social Prescribing with Environment, Social Care and Health partners to deliver positive outcomes for mental health, people and places in Surrey.	

Please note we need **at least one supporting image** per award submission.  
Supporting images should be attached separately as jpg or png files.

Please paste links to any supporting video evidence here

Link 1	
Link 2	



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**500-word project outline** (please ensure you do not exceed the word count and address all the judges' criteria – for more info see [here](#))

Since the coronavirus pandemic, when many people have experienced loneliness, anxiety or mental health impacts, there has been an increased public awareness of the benefits of regular access to green spaces. Studies have shown that this has the potential to improve mental health and wellbeing, however there are disparities in people's access to, and use of greenspace.

We formed an innovative partnership across Surrey County Council Environment, Adult Social Care and Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership to secure £500,000 from a cross-government partnership to 'test and learn' how green social prescribing can help communities hardest hit by coronavirus. This includes those living in deprived areas, people with mental health conditions, learning disabilities and from BAME communities.

As a result of the Green Social Prescribing programme, the following **outcomes** are being achieved:

- Communities at risk are accessing green opportunities and experiencing health and wellbeing benefits
- People accessing social prescribing are supported to access the natural environment
- A pilot is being developed to enable people who can't physically access greenspace to do so through immersive technology
- Health and Wellbeing and Green Sector commissioners work together on shared policy and delivery
- Learning from Surrey Heartlands is scaled up and embedded, delivering system wide change, long term sustainability and informing national policy

We have achieved a **significant level of collaboration** between place services and people services, both within the council and with external partners and providers. We have developed a partnership including over 130 representatives from health, care, district and boroughs, environment sector organisations, voluntary community and faith sector representatives, and Surrey communities. We have created a new Green Health and Wellbeing Network that brings partners together to share learning and opportunities and seven workstreams with collaboration and advice from across the network.

We have ensured **buy-in to the project** including by creating a 'nature connection fund' that local communities and service providers have been able to bid to deliver projects. An independent grant panel of health and social care, environment and external organisations decided which projects that meet the aims of the programme. This included reaching all our identified communities, both across our specified range of mental health and wellbeing needs and in terms of the geographic areas of focus.

10 projects received funding including:

- Sorbus Learning is partnering with local community groups in East Surrey including Surrey Care Trust and Patchworking Garden to develop a year-long programme of outdoor activities and courses to help with mental and physical health.

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- Mindful Ninja is running mindfulness courses in Stanwell for teenagers, meeting the needs of a range of mental health needs. The courses will take place in local green spaces and incorporate nature.
- SMEF (Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum) is running a Muslim Women and Girls Eco Warrior Project to engage with regular activities for residents to connect with nature and learn about environmental issues. The year-long project will include exercise, planting and arts and crafts work to enhance wellbeing.