
**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives

Active Travel Social Prescribing Feasibility Study

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Somer Valley Forum - 3rd March 2022

Active Travel Social Prescribing funding – Background

Summer 2021

- The Department for Transport (DfT) called for expressions of interest from Local Authorities for a '**GP Prescribing Pilot**' – which would look to provide cycling and walking interventions as part of their local social prescribing offer.
- This pilot is about **helping people to live healthier lives**
- The pilot aims to improve physical and mental well-being of individuals referred to the pilot, **managing existing physical and mental health conditions**, and **reducing the prevalence of future conditions**. This is supported by developing the transport environment to support efficient and safe travel.
- *This pilot seeks to understand the relationship between personalised support plans to walk & cycle and increased walking & cycling infrastructure in a local authority, as a means to increase physical activity and modal shift to cycling and walking*



Active Travel Social Prescribing funding – Background

Requirements of the EOI outlined by the DfT are summarised below:

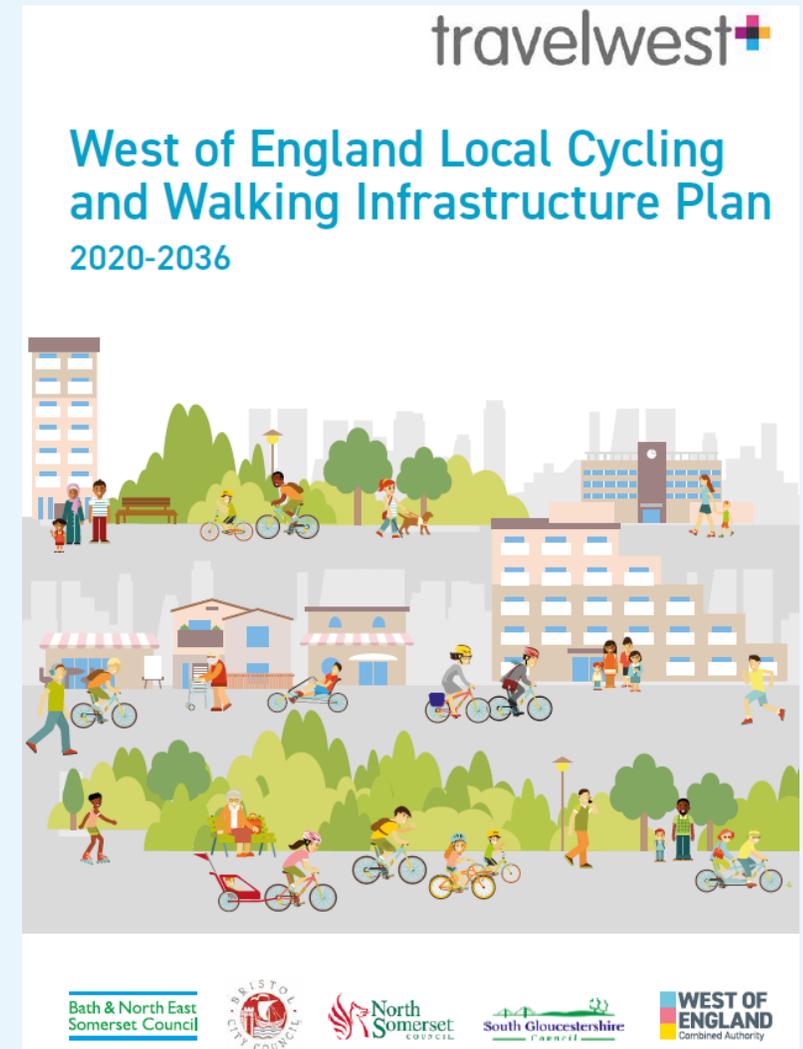
- *The Department wishes to invite local authorities with areas of poor health and low physical activity rates to express their interest*
- *The pilot project will seek to deliver **personalised care** through approaches determined most appropriate for the identified areas. **A key network for this will be link workers experienced in social prescribing in primary care networks.***
- *Pilots will prescribe cycling or walking wherever appropriate, and make available cycles, as well as training, access to cycling groups and peer support*
- *The pilots must be supported by the local Clinical Commissioning Groups and Primary Care Networks*
- ***To support patients to feel safe to cycle in their local community, places will need to invest in infrastructure improvements such as segregated lanes, low-traffic neighbourhoods and secure cycle parking***

Active Travel Social Prescribing funding – Somer Valley

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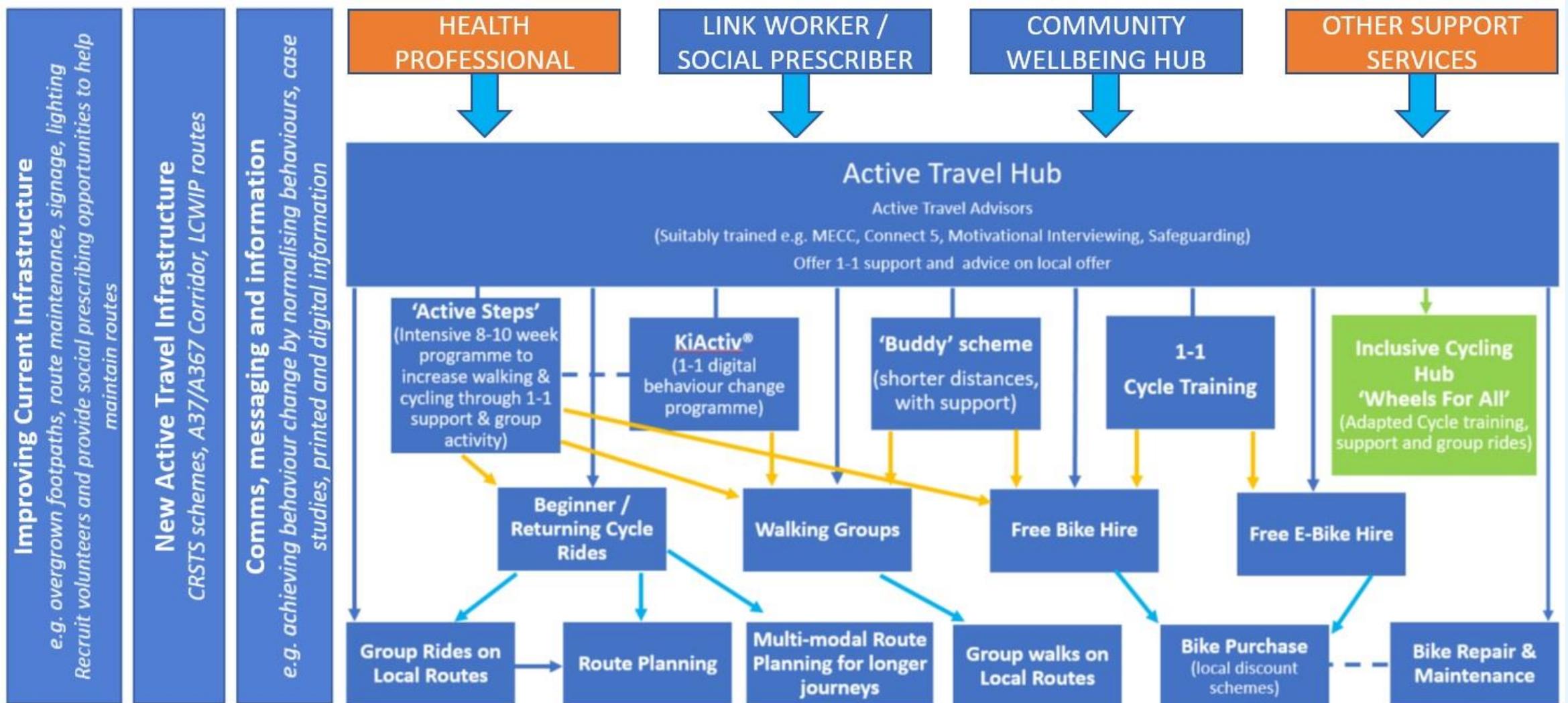
- Somer Valley is an area with high health need, with four LSOAs being in the most deprived quintile locally in B&NES
- Initial focus on Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Westfield and Paulton - *due to the current and planned active travel infrastructure*
- Within the [West of England Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan \(LCWIP\)](#), several walking and cycling schemes have been identified for improvement in the Somer Valley area
- 2011 Census data shows that the number of people who walk or cycle to work is lower than the B&NES average in all four areas
- Combination of beautiful landscape, interesting heritage, an extensive PROW system and existing segregated shared used paths created from disused railway corridors, makes this an ideal location to promote as a walking and cycling hub
- Within this area we also have significant developments and projects underway that the GP Prescribing Pilot could link to and provide mutual support – Somer Valley Rediscovered, Somer Valley Enterprise Zone, Midsomer Norton High Street Action Zone Project



Active Travel Social Prescribing funding – Timeline

- August 2021 Initial EOI was submitted to the DfT
- Late September 2021 Invited through to the second stage of the application process
- End of October 2021 Submitted Stage 2 application to the DfT
- Mid-December 2021 Informed of our success of securing funding for Feasibility Study - but communications were embargoed until 23rd January 2022
- Mid- February 2022 Project Manager recruited to lead on Feasibility Study
- **Jan – April 2022** **Active Travel Social Prescribing Feasibility Study**

Active Travel Social Prescribing Feasibility Study



Providing people with travel choices and supporting changes in behaviour, to support modal shift to active travel

Address local health & wellbeing needs and support reducing health inequalities

Marmot Review Policy E 'Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities' 'improving active travel across the social gradient'

Feasibility Study – Project Manager

- Ferhan Khan – Project Manager for the ATSP FS (Active Travel Social Prescribing Feasibility Study)
- Currently assigned to the Public Health dept. at BaNES but with a Transport Planning background.
- Wealth of experience in Public Transport and Active Travel advocacy and also Private and Public Sector roles within Transport Planning.
- Passionate about closing the gaps in both social and health inequalities.
- Excited to be working within the Somer Valley area.

Feasibility Study – Active Travel Hub

- Looking at options for a vibrant community hub to base our operations
- The wealth of walking and cycling opportunities in the Somer Valley area are key to residents' health and wellbeing.
- The Active Travel hub will host opportunities and further information on how we intend to make best use of these opportunities.

Feasibility Study – Community Partnerships

- In addition to creating an active travel hub, looking to partner with local community to bring about services and activities.
- Partnering with organisations like Wheels for Wellbeing and Sustrans, among many others.
- Looking to work with local PCNs and charities.
- Looking to also work in partnerships with prominent community members such as Village Agents.