

Lambeth Food Co-Op Event
Thursday 7th February 2019

Dr Michael Dixon
National Clinical Champion for Social Prescription (NHS England)

Ma'am, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is the future. Something of which the NHS and Britain can be truly proud. Many congratulations to Ed Rosen and his team, general practice and the people of Lambeth. I know that you have had to fight through thick and thin but what you have achieved here is absolutely stunning.

Food is the single most important factor in health and disease. But what you are achieving is not just about food. It is about physical activity and social interaction which are also very important for health. You are also leading the way in connecting general practice with its community and enabling it to offer something beyond pills and potions.

The Co-Op also represents the vanguard of social prescription. As you will know the NHS Ten Year Plan published a month ago announced that social prescription will now become universally available to every patient and every GP and only last week came the announcement that funding will be available for a social prescriber in every group of GP practices this year. I am hopeful and confident that what you are doing here will become common practice in future and that activists and funders will step forward to help you extend the wonderful work that you are doing here. You were the very first - an example for all of us. Showing us that with will and determination just about anything is possible.

And Ma'am your visit here today is such an important acknowledgement of the great work that is being done here. Doubly important because you and HRH The Prince of Wales have been tireless advocates of the importance of good food, physical activity and social prescription - well before these things were national policy. Thank you for making this such a very special day.

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