

Rural Health & Care Wales – Summer Webinar, June 2023

Developing a Glossary of Terms for Social Prescribing



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The Need for a Glossary of Terms for Social Prescribing

- **Social prescribing in Wales:**

“connecting citizens to community support to better manage their health & well-being”

- **The concept of social prescribing is relatively simple – the terminology used can be confusing**

- Creates barriers to effective communication & engagement.

- **WSSPR identified the need for a tool to help:**

- Clarify SP terminology
- Standardise SP terminology

- **WSSPR & PHW committed to the development of a glossary of terms.**



Outline of the upcoming session

- Overview of the process we used to identify the terminology and develop the glossary of terms.
- Two forms: professional-facing PDF & a website.
- Demonstrate the glossary.

Development of the glossary of terms

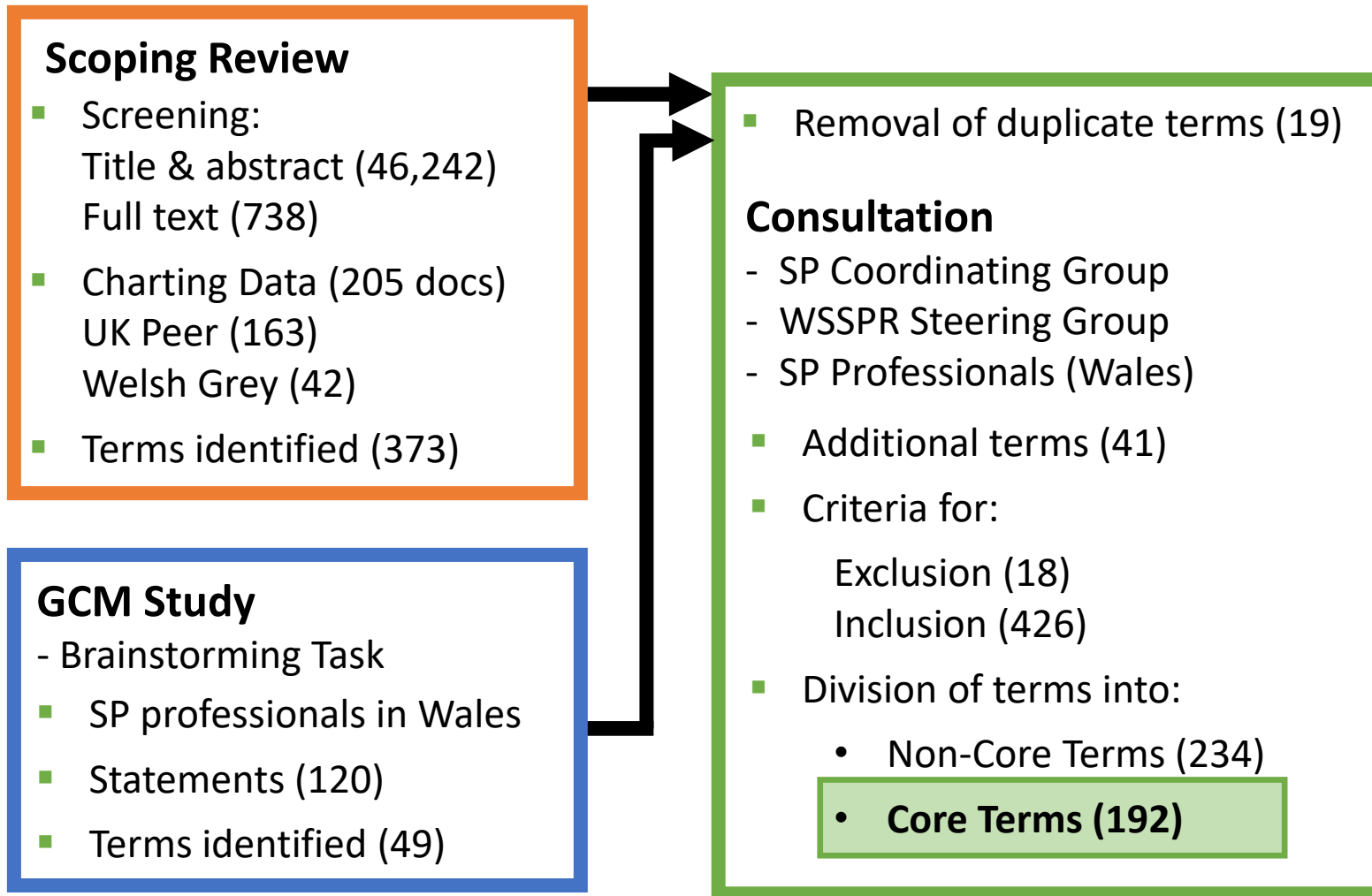


Figure 2. Identification and classification of social prescribing terminology for inclusion in the glossary of terms.

Development of the glossary of terms

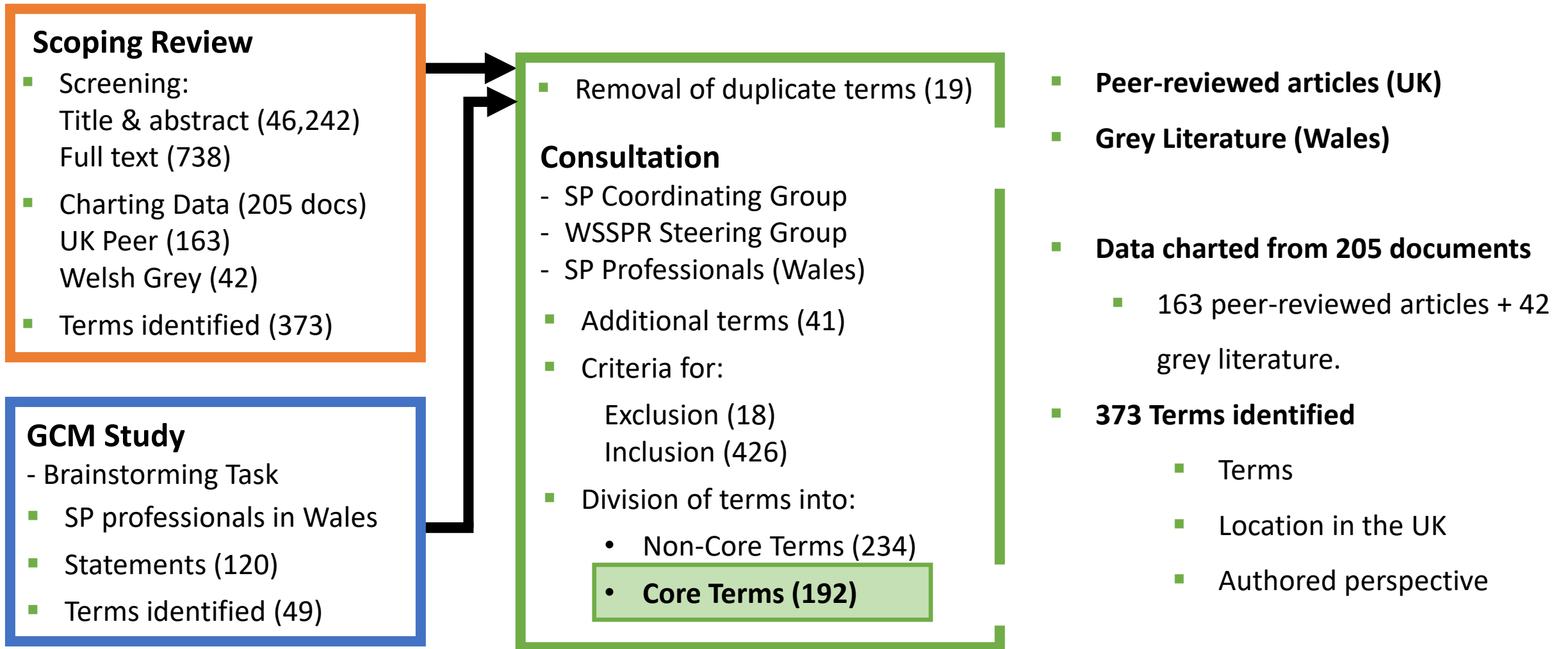
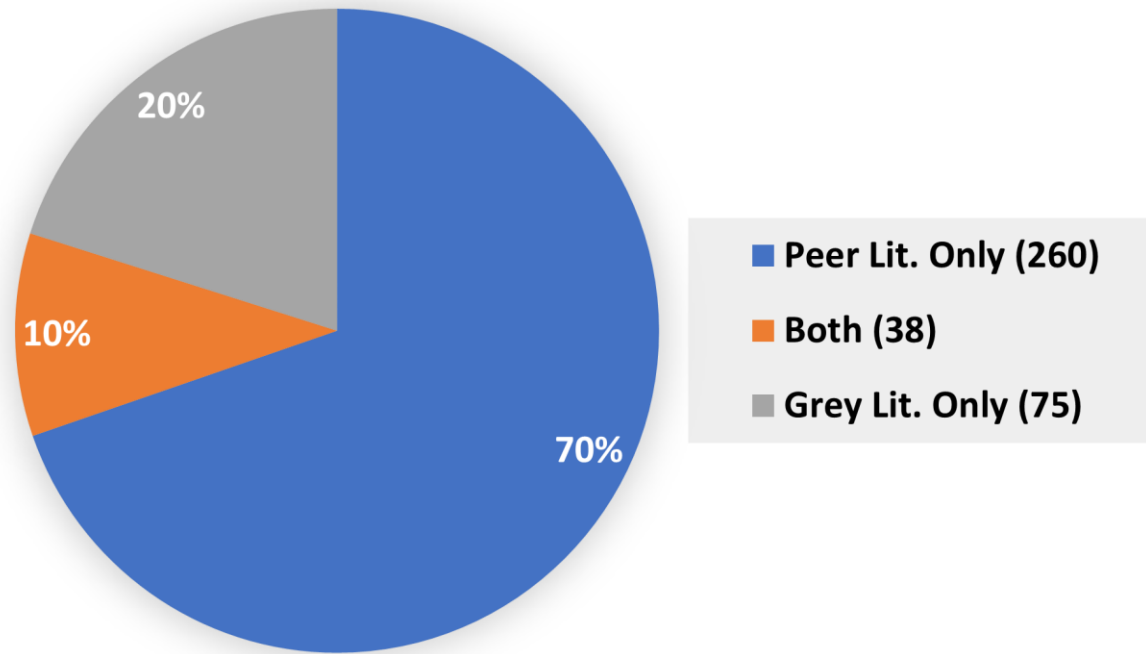


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Scoping Review

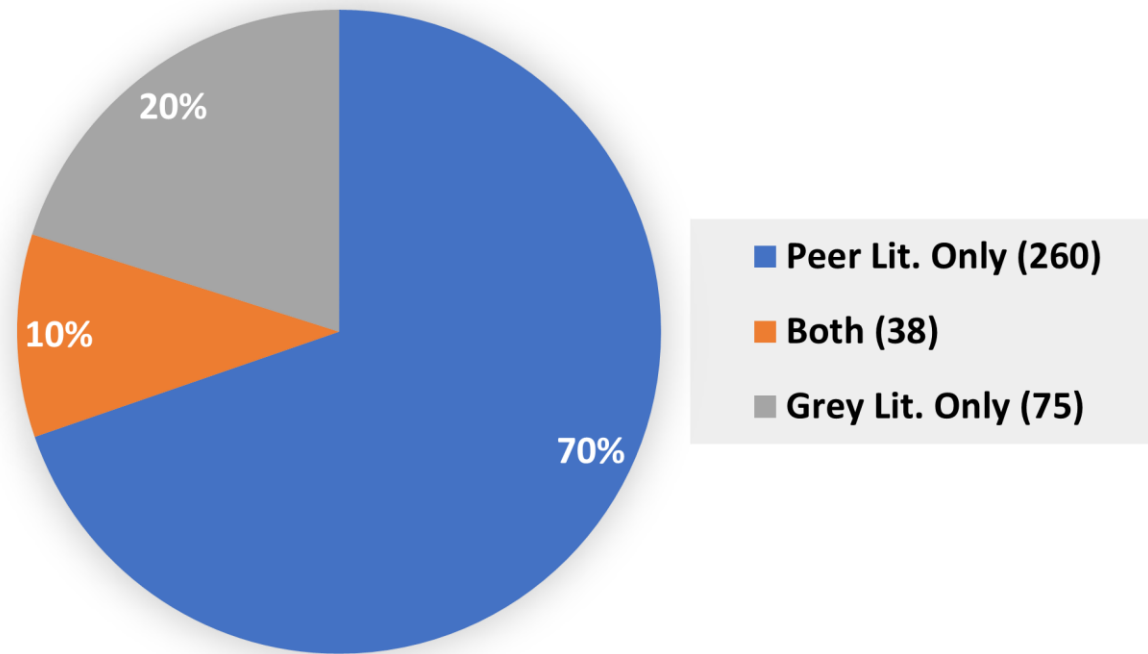


- Total number of terms Peer = 298
- Total number of terms Grey = 113
- 70% of terms identified occurred solely in peer-reviewed literature
- 20% of terms identified occurred solely in Welsh grey literature
- Overlap of 10% across both sources.

Figure 4. Scoping review terms by source.

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

Scoping Review



- Total number of terms Peer = 298
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- 70% of terms identified occurred solely in peer-reviewed literature
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- Location: The largest proportion of terms from England & UK
- Authored perspective: The largest proportion of terms from Health or Health & Social Care
- CVSO/Third sector barely present in peer-reviewed literature but large presence in grey literature

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

Development of the glossary of terms

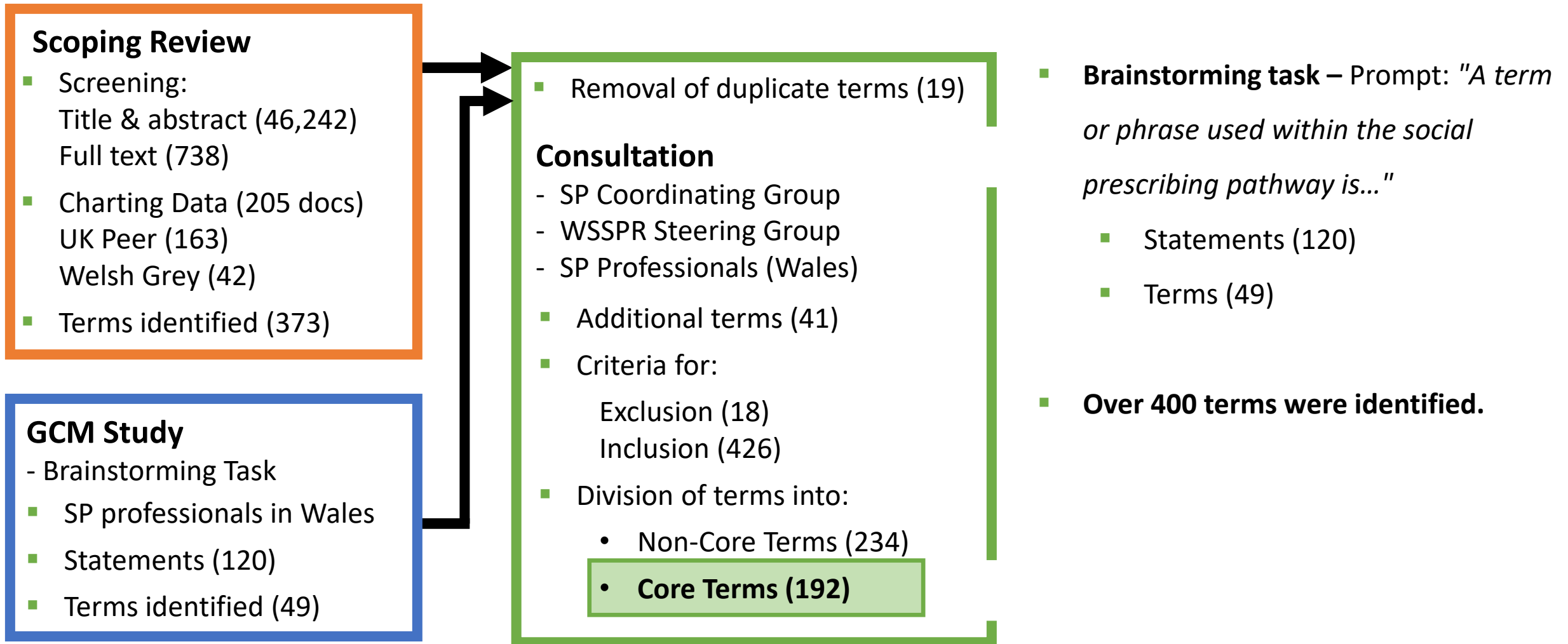


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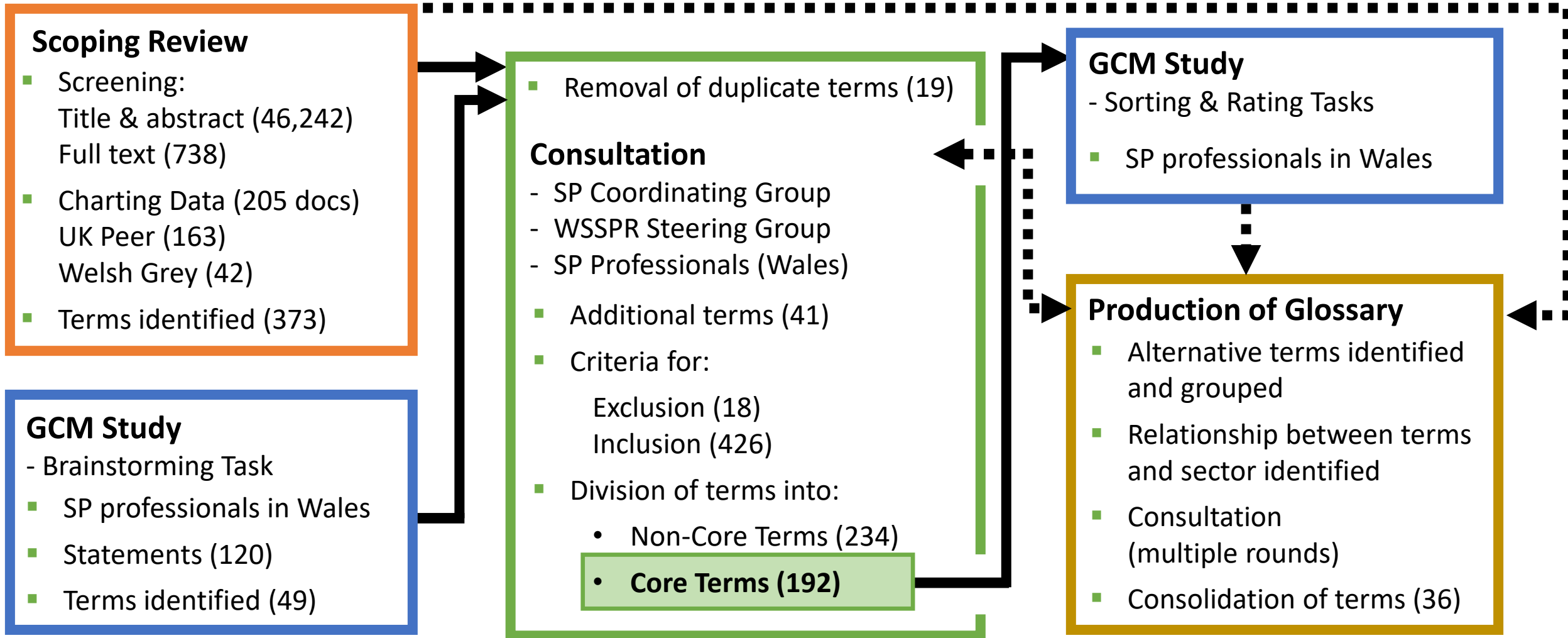


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Group Concept Mapping Study

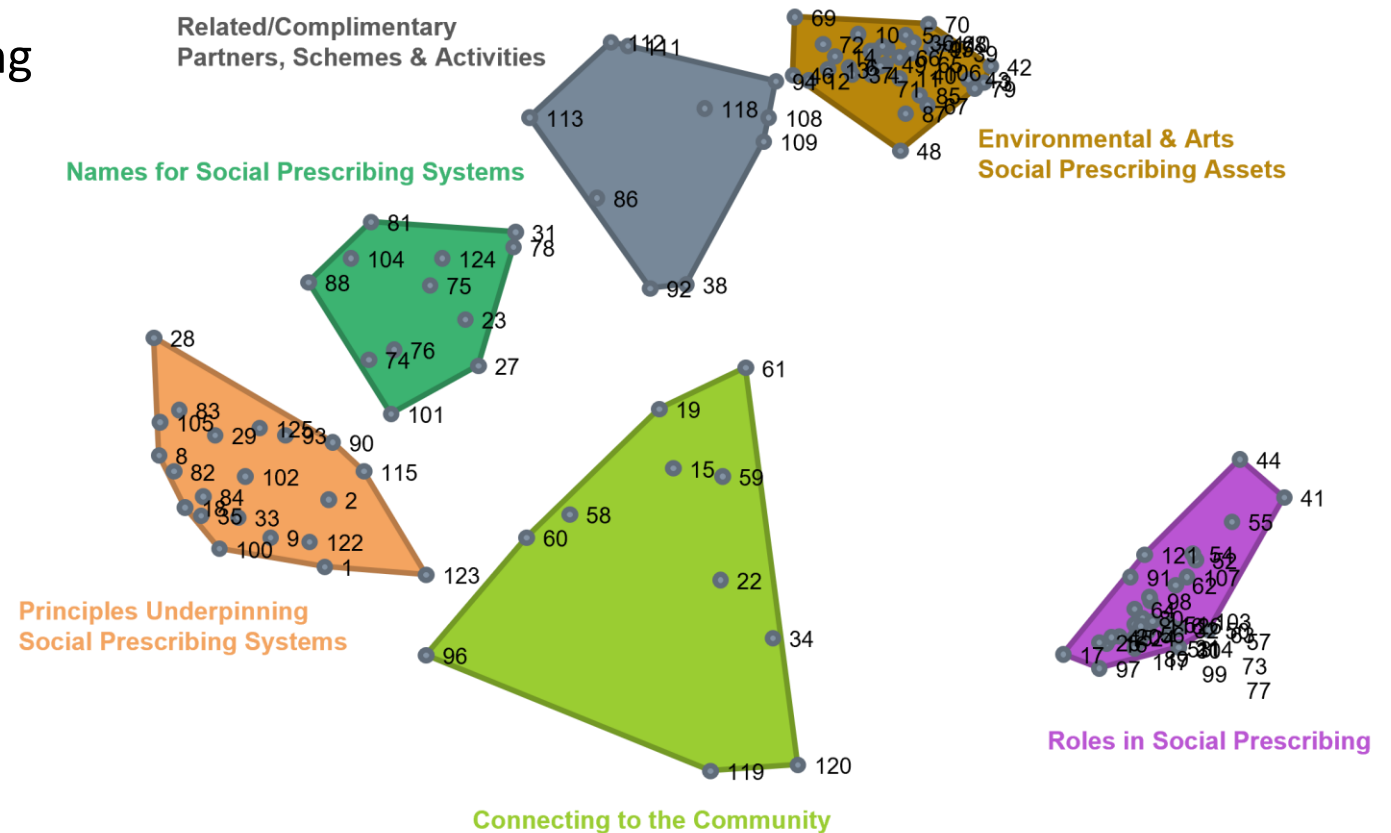
- **Sorting Task - Core terms**

- 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

- Most glossaries are a list of 25-50 words with no description.
- Scale and complexity of the relationships between the terms identified necessitated a different approach.
- **Core Terms (192) → 'Suggested Terms' (36)**
 - Description
 - Alternative terms, sector-specific preferences for terms
 - Relationship of terms to each other
- **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
 - Website will facilitate data capture & dissemination of updates.

Addressing previous comments

- **The concept is simple, why does it need all this explanation?**
 - The act of social prescribing is relatively simple, but the language is broader than the core components.
 - Multiple terms used to describe the same aspects of social prescribing
 - No reference tool for social prescribing and “prescribing” is largely disliked
 - organisations have coined their own more descriptive terms for certain aspects of social prescribing.
 - Language associated can be confusing – people may not even know they are using social prescribing
- The glossary is the first step to:
 - Clarify the diverse and confusing language of social prescribing
 - Standardise the language used in social prescribing – hopefully, future versions will be simpler.

Addressing previous comments

- **The term ‘social prescribing’ is not universally preferred**
- Why have we used it then?
- **Social prescribing extends beyond Wales.**
- Debated using the terms community connection & community connectors instead.
 - More descriptive of the practice of social prescribing
 - More widely adopted by those who work in social prescribing in Wales.
- The glossary needs to align with Welsh Policy and visa-versa.
- Social prescribing is an internationally recognised term.
 - Scoping Review: Only two terms were identified in the literature across all nations of the UK: SP & LW
- We opted for SP and SPP as umbrella terms - were reluctant to indicate a sector-specific preference for a term that may:
 - Alienate users
 - Not be widely recognised or understood

Addressing previous comments

- **Who is the glossary aimed at?**
- Do we really need different versions, why not just have one fully accessible one?
- **It is hoped that the glossary will be used by all.**
- Those who work in/with social prescribing & those who come into contact with social prescribing, including the general public.
 - Policy, job adverts, promotional material, articles etc.
 - Not all terms will be relevant for all users.
- Will be used to inform policy (WGs National Framework for Social Prescribing)
 - Development had to be evidence-based
 - The initial glossary is therefore professional facing and where relevant demonstrates alignment with existing policies in its descriptions - the language is reflective of that.
- We have produced a public-facing version with a more accessible language
 - Easy-read version in development

Addressing previous comments

- **Is the website going to be made accessible to everyone?**
- Most people who are needing a social prescription in the community are unlikely to access the site
- People won't use it, especially if they don't know about it.

- **The glossary will be launched in July and will be freely available to all**
- Having different hard copies of the glossary may be cumbersome & create barriers to use
- The website provides a central reference point that can be used by all.
 - Feedback from members of the public indicates that they can see themselves using it.
 - But only if they know about it!
- Work will need to be done to make professionals and members of the public aware
 - Social media, advertising, journal and newspaper/magazine articles, conferences and referrals (e.g., GPs and SPP)

- Already we have received interest from other countries and the World Health Organisation (Collaborating Centre).