



# Executive Committee

Tue 4 April  
2017  
7.00 pm

Committee Room 2  
Town Hall  
Redditch



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**If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken  
or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information,  
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# Executive Committee

Tuesday, 4th April, 2017

7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall

## Agenda

### Membership:

Cllrs: Bill Hartnett (Chair) John Fisher  
 Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) Mark Shurmer  
 Juliet Brunner Yvonne Smith  
 Debbie Chance Pat Witherspoon  
 Brandon Clayton

<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p>	<p>To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend this meeting.</p>
<p><b>2. Declarations of Interest</b></p>	<p>To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.</p>
<p><b>3. Leader's Announcements</b></p>	<p>1. To give notice of any items for future meetings or for the Executive Committee Work Programme, including any scheduled for this meeting, but now carried forward or deleted; and</p> <p>2. any other relevant announcements.</p> <p>(Oral report)</p>
<p><b>4. Minutes</b> (Pages 1 - 4)</p>	<p>To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017.</p> <p>(Minutes attached)</p>
<p><b>5. Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group - Final Report</b> (Pages 5 - 48) Councillor Nina Wood-Ford</p>	<p>To consider the findings of the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group and any recommendations proposed by the group.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p>

<b>6. Local Transport Plan 4 - response to consultation</b> (Pages 49 - 56)	To seek approval for the informal response submitted to the consultation on the Worcestershire County Council Local Transport Plan 2017-2030.
<b>7. Response to Solihull Local Plan consultation</b> (Pages 57 - 60)	To seek approval for the officer response submitted to the consultation on the Solihull Local Plan.
<b>8. Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding - allocation of unallocated funds for 2017/18</b> (Pages 61 - 64)	To consider recommendations from the Grants Panel for allocation of funds remaining for voluntary and community sector grants in 2017-18.
<b>9. Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan</b> (Pages 65 - 96)	To endorse the Council's participation in the Housing Partnership Plan.
<b>10. Finance Monitoring Quarter 3 2016/17</b> (Pages 97 - 108)	To consider the enclosed report which sets out the performance against revenue, capital and Housing Revenue Account budgets through to the third quarter of the 2016-17 financial year.
<b>11. Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b> (Pages 109 - 118)	To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017.  There are no recommendations to consider.  (Minutes attached)
<b>12. Minutes / Referrals - Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Panels etc.</b>	To receive and consider any outstanding minutes or referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Executive Panels etc. since the last meeting of the Executive Committee, other than as detailed in the items above.
<b>13. Corporate Parenting Steering Group</b>	To receive a verbal update on the work of the County Council Corporate Parenting Steering Group from the Council's representative.

<p><b>14. Advisory Panels - update report</b> (Pages 119 - 120)</p>	<p>To consider, for monitoring / management purposes, an update on the work of the Executive Committee's Advisory Panels and similar bodies, which report via the Executive Committee.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p>
<p><b>15. Exclusion of the Public</b></p>	<p>To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting in relation to the following item of business on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged:</p> <p>“That under Section 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of part 1 of Schedule 12 (a) of the Act, as amended.</p> <p>This paragraph is:</p> <p>Subject to the “public interest” test, information relating to Paragraph 4 – labour relations matters.</p>
<p><b>16. Shared Service Business Case for Customer Access and Financial Support</b> (Pages 121 - 178)</p>	<p>To consider the business case for a shared service in Customer Access and Financial Support.</p>





## Executive

### Committee

Monday, 20 February 2017

## MINUTES

#### Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Debbie Chance, Brandon Clayton, John Fisher, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith and Pat Witherspoon

#### Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton, Sue Hanley, Tracey Hurst, Sheena Jones, Jayne Pickering and Darren Whitney

#### Democratic Services Officer:

Debbie Parker-Jones

#### 91. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

#### 92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Brunner declared an Other Disclosable Interest in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan, as a Governor of RSA Academy Arrow Vale. It was noted that the Medium Term Financial Plan was not an item for consideration by the Executive Committee, as this was to be considered at the Council meeting to take place immediately after the conclusion of the Executive meeting.

#### 93. LEADERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### Additional Papers

It was noted that one set of Additional Papers had been circulated ahead of the meeting, which comprised:

- the Pay Policy Statement 2017/18 at Agenda Item 5; and
- the Council Tax Resolutions 2017/18 at Agenda Item 6.

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Chair

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## Pre-scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Plan

Members were advised that the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee had made no recommendations on the Medium Term Financial Plan following their pre-scrutiny of this on 14th February 2017. Accordingly, no Minute extract had been produced from O&S at that stage as there was nothing for Executive Members to consider on this.

### 94. MINUTES

#### **RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 7th February 2017 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

### 95. PAY POLICY STATEMENT

Members considered the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 which had been circulated as Additional Papers. Officers apologised for the delay in publication of the report owing to a number of Job Evaluation appeals which impacted on this.

Under the Localism Act 2011 all authorities were required to adopt a pay policy statement by 31st March each year. Members were advised that as the Council paid the National Living Wage no jobs within the authority were paid at Grades 1 or 2, with all posts commencing at Grade 3 or higher. It was further noted that the Head of Housing Services post related solely to Redditch as Bromsgrove District Council had not retained its housing stock.

#### **RECOMMENDED that**

**the Pay Policy Statement 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.**

### 96. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMENTS ON THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTIONS

#### Overview and Scrutiny Committee Comments on the Medium Term Financial Plan

As advised under Leader's Announcements, it was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had made no recommendations on the Medium Term Financial Plan following their pre-scrutiny of this on 14th February 2017.



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The Medium Term Financial Plan and the 7th February 2017 Executive Committee's recommendations for this were to be considered at the meeting of the Council taking place immediately following the Executive Committee.

## Council Tax Resolutions

Members considered the recommendations for the setting of the Council Tax for 2017/18, the report for which had been circulated as Additional Papers. Officers apologised for the lateness of the report which was unavoidable as this could only be produced once all of the required information had been received from the relevant precepting authorities.

Uniquely, subsequent to publication of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18 in mid-December, the final Settlement figures had not yet been confirmed by Government. Officers had taken appropriate advice on this and it had been confirmed that Members could still make a decision on the setting of the Council Tax.

The proposed Council Tax for a band D unparished property for 2017/18 was £227.21. This represented a 2.25% increase on the previous year's figure of £222.21. The 2.95% increase from Worcestershire County Council was noted.

## **RECOMMENDED that**

**the recommendations, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and as appended to these minutes, setting a Council Tax for 2017/18 of £227.21 for a band D unparished property, be approved.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm  
and closed at 7.07 pm

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Chair



REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

4th April 2017

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP – COVERING  
REPORT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership (including Voluntary Sector and Health Services)
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report provides an overview of the findings of the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group. More detailed information about the evidence basis for the group's recommendations can be found in the group's final report attached at Appendix 1.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- 1) **The Leader of the Council should write to the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, urging her to ensure that Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Lessons, to include lessons about mental health and wellbeing issues, become a statutory part of the national school curriculum.**

*(Recommendation 4 in the report).*

- 2) **A new theme should be added to the Council's grants programme which is dedicated to projects which help people experiencing mental health and wellbeing problems.**

*(Recommendation 5 in the report).*

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- 3) Senior officers, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Corporate Management and Housing respectively, should review the implications for Council Services of the following actions detailed in the West Midlands Combined Authority Mental Health Commission's *Thrive West Midlands Action Plan*:

Action 4: the proposal to evaluate a financial incentive to encourage companies to demonstrate their commitment to mental health and wellbeing.

Action 5: the proposal to help people to gain housing and work (including potentially supported accommodation).

The outcomes of this work should be reported for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

*(Recommendation 6 in the report).*

The Committee is asked to NOTE the following recommendations from the group to the Emotional Wellbeing and CAMHS Partnership Board and Worcestershire County Council that

- 4) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should not withdraw services from young people who fail to engage during their appointments.

*(Recommendation 1 in the report)*

- 5) A representative of the new Liaison and Diversion Service for Worcestershire should work as a Change Champion in Connecting Families once the service starts to operate in the county.

*(Recommendation 2 in the report)*

- 6) Worcestershire County Council's Public Health Department should review the provision of Youth Mental Health First Aid training to determine whether a concessionary rate could be offered to enable staff from smaller Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to participate.

*(Recommendation 3 in the report)*

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The Committee is asked to NOTE the following recommendation from the group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that

- 7) The Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group should be reconvened in 12 months' time to receive monitoring updates from officers about progress in the Borough with the implementation of:
- a) the actions detailed in the *Worcestershire Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health*;
  - b) the West Midlands Combined Authority Mental Health Commission's *Thrive West Midlands: An Action Plan to Drive Better Health and Wellbeing in the West Midlands*; and
  - c) the Suicide Prevention Plan for Redditch.

*(Recommendation 7 in the report)*

**3. KEY ISSUES****Background**

- 3.1 In May 2016 Elected Members attended an Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme planning event at the Town Hall. The purpose of this session was to provide Members with an opportunity to discuss issues that might be suitable for scrutiny during the year. One topic that Members identified during this event as suitable for further investigation was mental health services.
- 3.2 In July 2016 Councillor Nina Wood-Ford submitted a scoping document for the consideration of the Committee which was endorsed by Members. This document detailed the terms of reference for a review of mental health services for young people. The decision was taken to concentrate on services for young people to enable scrutiny Members to consider action that could be taken to support people manage their mental health and wellbeing difficulties before they reached adulthood.
- 3.3 Councillor Wood-Ford was appointed to Chair the Task Group. Councillors Andrew Fry, Gay Hopkins, David Thain and Jenny Wheeler were also appointed to this group.

**Financial Implications**

- 3.4 All the financial implications arising from the group's recommendations are detailed in the final report.

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**Legal Implications**

- 3.5 All the legal implications arising from the group's proposals are detailed in the final report.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.6 This review has been a very intense exercise. A total of 23 meetings took place over a period of eight months creating a significant workload for both Members and Officers.
- 3.7 Subject to the group's seventh recommendation being approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> March the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group will need to be reconvened in 12 months' time. If this recommendation is endorsed the group leaders are asked to consider reappointing Councillors Fry, Hopkins, Thain, Wheeler and Wood-Ford to serve on the group due to the expertise they have developed in the subject matter.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.8 The group has proposed numerous actions which are designed to enhance mental health services for children and young people. Some of these recommendations could also have a positive impact on services for adults.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

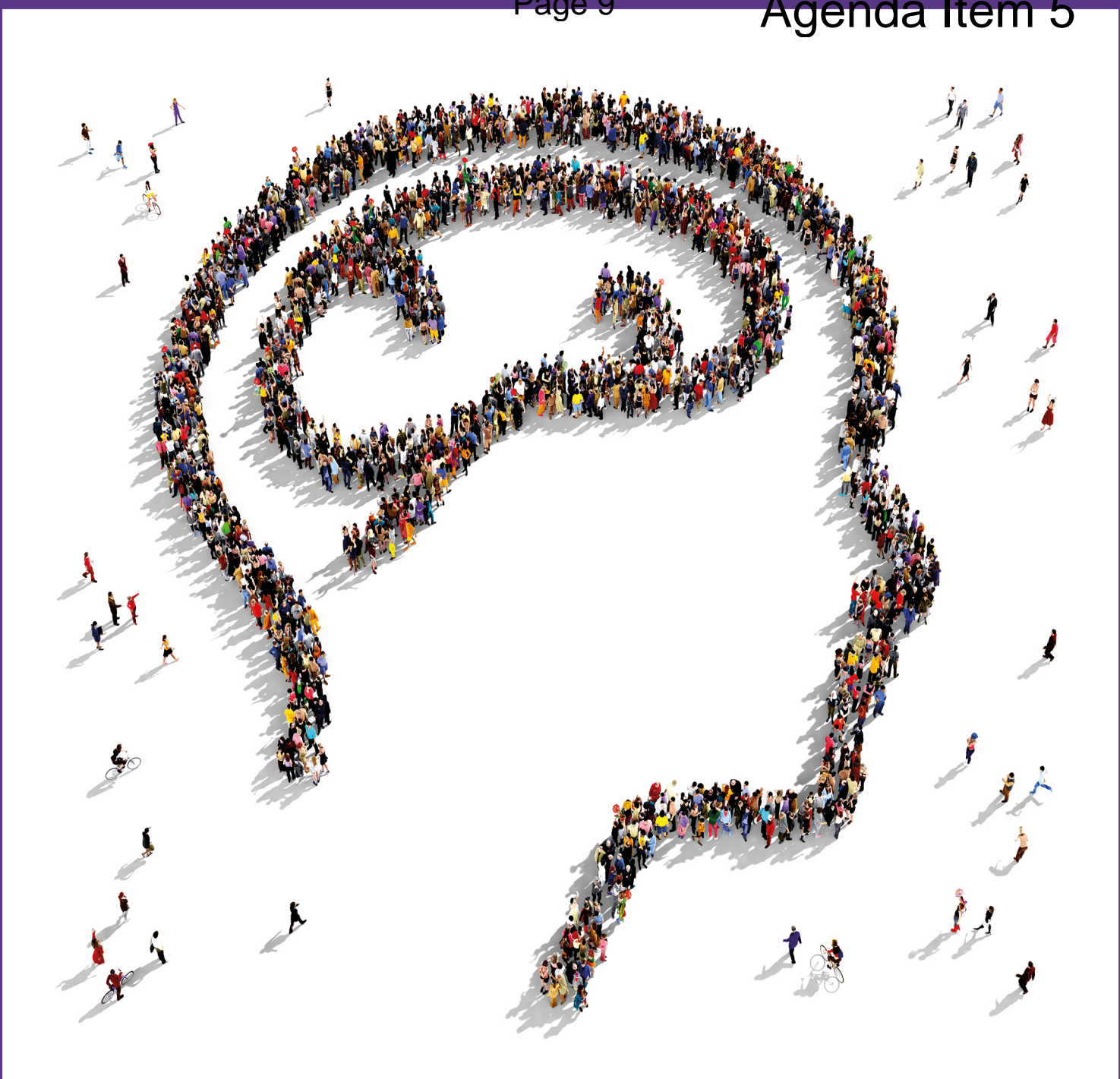
No specific risks have been identified.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – The Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group's final report and appendices.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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# Mental Health Services for Young People

Redditch Task Group  
March 2017

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

*making a difference*

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### **Membership of the Task Group**

Councillors Nina Wood-Ford (Chair), Andrew Fry, Gay Hopkins, David Thain and Jennifer Wheeler.

### **Support Officer**

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### **Completed**

March 2017

### **Contact**

Further copies of this report are available on request from:

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**FOREWORD**

This review of Mental Health Services for Young People in Redditch has taken us through over 23 meetings, during which we have undertaken numerous interviews, including with some very dedicated mental health workers.

The reason we started this Overview and Scrutiny was because of the high levels of mental health issues in Redditch. The timing was good as it coincided with changes to mental health services and we wanted to make sure that these changes would result in a fair share of services being provided to young people in Redditch.

The subject is really complicated but a number of issues did stand out which I feel should be highlighted. Whilst funding for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services has not reduced, wider cuts to public sector finances are worrying and have implications for the support available to young people. There are certain high risk groups who need particular support, including young offenders, care leavers, people from black and minority ethnic communities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and people living in deprived communities. Unfortunately in Worcestershire the young people who live in Redditch are particularly in need of support to help manage their mental health and wellbeing because of the higher levels of deprivation in the Borough than in the rest of the county. Schools have a significant influence over young people and can really help to enhance their students' mental wellbeing, including through good quality Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education lessons.

I would like to thank the people who gave us their time, feedback and advice. Also the rest of my co-workers on this review, Councillors Andy Fry, Gay Hopkins, David Thain and Jenny Wheeler, for all their hard work and of course Jess Bayley for her enthusiasm and continuous hard work producing all that paperwork and, of course, in the end this final document.

We know we do not have all the answers to these problems but we hope that if our recommendations are followed the mental health of young people in Redditch would undoubtedly be improved.



**Councillor Nina Wood-Ford**  
**Chair of the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS****CHAPTER 1: EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND CAMHS PARTNERSHIP BOARD****Recommendation 1**

**Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should not withdraw services from young people who fail to engage during their appointments.**

**Financial Implications:** There would potentially be financial implications, particularly in respect of staff time and administration costs, if CAMHS workers were to persist in arranging to meet with young people who fail to attend their appointments. However, Members note that by removing a young person from the CAMHS system in these circumstances that young person's mental health problems are not addressed and may even deteriorate. In the long-term the group feels that greater persistence by CAMHS would help to reduce the number of subsequent referrals from different organisations of the same young person to CAMHS as well as the overall costs to the wider public sector.

**Legal implications:** No legal implications have been identified.

**Recommendation 2**

**A representative of the new Liaison and Diversion Service for Worcestershire should work as a Change Champion in Connecting Families once the service starts to operate in the county.**

**Financial Implications:** No financial implications have been identified though there may be the costs of officer time in terms of arranging for this to take place.

**Legal implications:** No legal implications have been identified.

**Recommendation 3**

**Worcestershire County Council's Public Health Department should review the provision of Youth Mental Health First Aid training to determine whether a concessionary rate could be offered to enable staff from smaller Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to participate.**

**Financial Implications:** The group understands that currently organisations can pay a fee of £45 for members of staff to participate in Youth Mental Health First Aid training delivered by Worcestershire County Council. The introduction of a concessionary scheme would therefore have financial implications for the County Council both in terms of loss of revenue and the potential to cover the costs of delivering the training.

**Legal implications:** No legal implications have been identified.

**CHAPTER 2: REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL****Recommendation 4**

**The Leader of the Council should write to the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, urging her to ensure that Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Lessons, to include lessons about mental health and wellbeing issues, become a statutory part of the national school curriculum.**

**Financial Implications:** The cost of time producing a letter.

**Legal implications:** PSHE is a non-statutory subject, though the Government expects schools to make provision for it.

**Recommendation 5**

**A new theme should be added to the Council's grants programme which is dedicated to projects which help people experiencing mental health and wellbeing problems.**

**Financial Implications:** The group is not proposing that more funding be allocated to the Grants Programme. They also feel that the Executive Committee, advised by the Council's Grants Panel, should determine the amount of funding from the overall grants pot that should be allocated to this theme.

Subject to the Executive Committee agreeing to add this new theme it should be noted that this would not form part of the Council's grants process until 2018/19.

**Legal implications:** No legal implications have been identified.

**Recommendation 6**

Senior officers, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Corporate Management and Housing respectively, should review the implications for Council Services of the following actions detailed in the West Midlands Combined Authority Mental Health Commission's *Thrive West Midlands Action Plan*:

- a) Action 4: the proposal to evaluate a financial incentive to encourage companies to demonstrate their commitment to mental health and wellbeing.
- b) Action 5: the proposal to help people to gain housing and work (including potentially supported accommodation).

The outcomes of this work should be reported for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

**Financial Implications:** There would be the cost of officer time in terms of undertaking this review. However, the group believes that this would be a useful investment of time if it enables the Council to appreciate the potential resource implications for the local authority of implementing these actions.

**Legal implications:** No legal implications have been identified.

**CHAPTER 3: FURTHER SCRUTINY****Recommendation 7**

The Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group should be reconvened in 12 months' time to receive monitoring updates from officers about progress in the Borough with the implementation of:

- a) the actions detailed in the *Worcestershire Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health*;
- b) the West Midlands Combined Authority Mental Health Commission's *Thrive West Midlands: An Action Plan to Drive Better Health and Wellbeing in the West Midlands*; and
- c) the Suicide Prevention Plan for Redditch.

**Financial Implications:** There would be the costs of Officer and elected Members' time in terms of reconvening the group to hold an additional meeting to monitor progress with these matters.

**Legal implications:** No legal implications have been identified.

## **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### Introduction

In May 2016 Elected Members attended an Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme planning event at the Town Hall. The purpose of this session was to provide Members with an opportunity to discuss issues that might be suitable for scrutiny during the year. One topic that Members identified during this event as suitable for further investigation was mental health services. This suggestion received support from the Leader of the Council, who was in attendance, and the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT). At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2016 Members agreed that this subject should be the subject of a detailed scrutiny review. As the Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) Councillor Nina Wood-Ford was invited to take a lead on this subject.

In July 2016 Councillor Wood-Ford submitted a scoping document for the consideration of the Committee which was endorsed by Members. This document detailed the terms of reference for a review of mental health services for young people. The decision was taken to concentrate on services for young people to enable scrutiny Members to consider action that could be taken to support people to address or manage their mental health and wellbeing difficulties before they reached adulthood. Members were keen for the review to concentrate on the needs of young people with low level mental health problems and to explore how early intervention could help to prevent a young person's condition from deteriorating.

A number of key objectives were set for this review:

- To clarify the roles of different agencies in supporting young people with low level mental health problems.
- To consider current arrangements in the provision of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), including any local strategies which shape services.
- To investigate current preventative action undertaken to support young people vulnerable to developing mental health problems and to identify ways in which this could be improved.
- To consider the impact on Council services of demand from young people with 'low level' mental health problems.
- To clarify at what point a young person's mental health is considered serious enough to merit direct intervention from mental health services.
- To explore best practice in other parts of the country in terms of supporting young people with 'milder' mental health problems and the potential to replicate this in the Borough of Redditch.

### Evidence Gathering

During the course of the review Members gathered evidence from a range of sources. Interviews took place with Officers from Redditch Borough Council and a Focus Group session was held with Redditch staff to find out about the impact of working with young people experiencing mental health difficulties on Council services. Interviews were also held with representatives of Worcestershire County Council's Early Help Team, Public Health Directorate and the Children's Department. In addition the group also consulted with representatives of Worcestershire CAMHS, the Worcestershire Health and Care Trust, Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the West Mercia Youth Justice Service, the Redditch Positive Activities Sub-Group (part of the Redditch

Partnership) and representatives of local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Groups.

Written information formed a key source of evidence considered by the group. In particular Members reviewed the content of the *Worcestershire Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health* (which will be referred to as the Worcestershire Transformation Plan throughout the rest of this report). Documents produced at the national level were also taken into account, including the *Future in Mind: Promoting, Protecting and Improving our Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing* (Department of Health and NHS England, 2012) and *The Five Year Forward View for Mental Health*, (report from the independent Mental Health Taskforce, February 2016). Towards the end of the review the West Midlands Combined Authority's (WMCA) Mental Health Commission published *Thrive West Midlands: An Action Plan to Drive Better Mental Health and Wellbeing in the West Midlands* (January 2017). As the Council recently signed up in principle to the WMCA's Mental Health Concordat and is a non-constituent member of the WMCA Members reviewed the content of this document and it helped to inform their recommendations. The findings of the independent Education Policy Institute's review of CAMHS, *Children and Young People's Mental Health: Time to Deliver* (November 2016) was also taken into account to enable Members to compare local practice to services at the national level.

The group attempted to engage with local schools as part of their investigation. Recognising that it would be difficult in the time available for Members to visit every school the group sent a short survey to all the local schools in the Borough which was designed to enable Members to find out about the extent to which students are experiencing mental health problems locally and the support required by schools. Unfortunately, Members were disappointed that only four schools completed and returned a survey for the consideration of the group. Given this low response rate Members did not feel that they could draw any conclusions based on the feedback they had received in the four surveys, though Members would like to thank staff from the four schools who did respond for taking the time to submit feedback.

### National Context

The review occurred during a period of change in respect of mental health service provision and shifting attitudes towards mental health and wellbeing difficulties. At the national level there has increasingly been a significant amount of time and research dedicated to exploring the impact of mental health difficulties in the UK. Key documents considered by the group, as detailed above, revealed the following:

- Mental Health problems are estimated to have an economic and social cost to the UK economy of £105 billion per year.
- The WMCA's Mental Health Commission has estimated that the cost of mental ill health in the West Midlands is £12.6 billion per annum.
- In February 2016 it was reported that £34 billion was spent on mental health services each year.
- However, in 2012/13 it was estimated that total spend on children's mental health services was £0.70 billion.
- Half of all mental health problems are established by the time somebody is 14 years old.
- One in ten children aged 5 – 16 have a diagnosable mental health problem.

- An estimated 75 per cent of mental health problems in adult life start by the age of 18. (This figure excludes dementia and associated illnesses).
- Groups at higher risk of developing mental health problems include people living in deprived communities, black and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) people, people who have been in the care system, homeless people, unemployed people, those who have been involved in the criminal justice system and people with substance abuse problems.
- It is estimated that the costs of perinatal mental ill health are £8.1 billion per annual birth cohort, or £10,000 per birth.
- Public attitudes towards mental health problems are changing, partly due to work on the Time to Change initiative. However, there still remains stigma within wider society in respect of mental ill health and addressing this requires action over the long-term.

By 2012 there was already recognition of the need to invest in mental health services and to support people experiencing mental ill health. The *Future in Mind* report, published that year, proposed the introduction of Transformation Plans for children and young people's mental health at the local level. These Transformation Plans were designed to "...cover the whole spectrum of services for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing from health promotion and prevention work, to support and interventions for children and young people who have existing or emerging mental health problems, as well as transitions between services." Local partners, led by the local CCG, were encouraged to develop these plans for their local area, with extra funding, announced in the Autumn Statement 2014, made available to the most robust local Transformation Plans.

More recently in January 2017 the Prime Minister announced plans to transform attitudes towards mental health, with a focus on children and young people. Measures announced to improve mental health services included additional training for school staff, improving support for staff experiencing mental ill health in the workplace and an extra £15 million for community care. The impact that this announcement will have on local services was difficult for the group to assess at the time of writing though Members welcomed the enhanced focus on CAMHS.

#### Local Context – Services for Young People

At the local level partners have explored the prevalence of mental health and wellbeing problems and the demographic factors that may be impacting on this. Through their research Members discovered the following:

- Whilst Worcestershire is not particularly deprived Redditch is the most deprived district within the county.
- Redditch is the district with the highest proportion of children in the total local population at 22 per cent (Worcestershire Transformation Plan).
- There were higher rates of hospital admissions for self-harm in Worcestershire than the national average in 2010-13 (Worcestershire Transformation Plan).
- Rates of hospital stays due to self-harm for young people living in Church Hill, Woodrow and Winyates were higher than other parts of the Borough in the period 2006/07 to 2010/11. (Redditch Health and Wellbeing Profile, October 2013).
- Redditch had a higher admission rate to hospital for people of all age groups experiencing mental ill health than any other district in the county in the period 2008/09 to 2012/13. (Redditch Health and Wellbeing Profile, October 2013).



- The rate of suicides for all age groups in Redditch in 2012 -14 was higher than the national average. (Redditch Health Profile, 2016).
- In Worcestershire it is estimated that there could be 82,420 adults experiencing a common mental health problem, such as anxiety or depression. (Primary Care Mental Health Needs Assessment, June 2015).

At the local level the Worcestershire Transformation Plan was approved by the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2015. The document contains a detailed action plan outlining the various actions that partner organisations will undertake to improve support services for children and young people experiencing mental ill health in the county, in line with national aspirations. Many of these actions were scheduled to be delivered in 2016 and 2017. The Worcestershire Transformation Plan is also a live document that will be updated as lessons are learned and new opportunities arise; in November 2016 an update to the plan was presented for the consideration of the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board. As such the Task Group launched their review during a time of change and before the Worcestershire Transformation Plan had been implemented in totality, which made it difficult for Members to assess the overall impact of the plan at the local level. However, the Worcestershire Transformation Plan was considered to be robust enough for partners to be awarded some of the extra funding announced in the Autumn Statement 2014.

Whilst recognising that the Worcestershire Transformation Plan is a live document the group did wish to highlight the following as positive examples of the work arising from the plan:

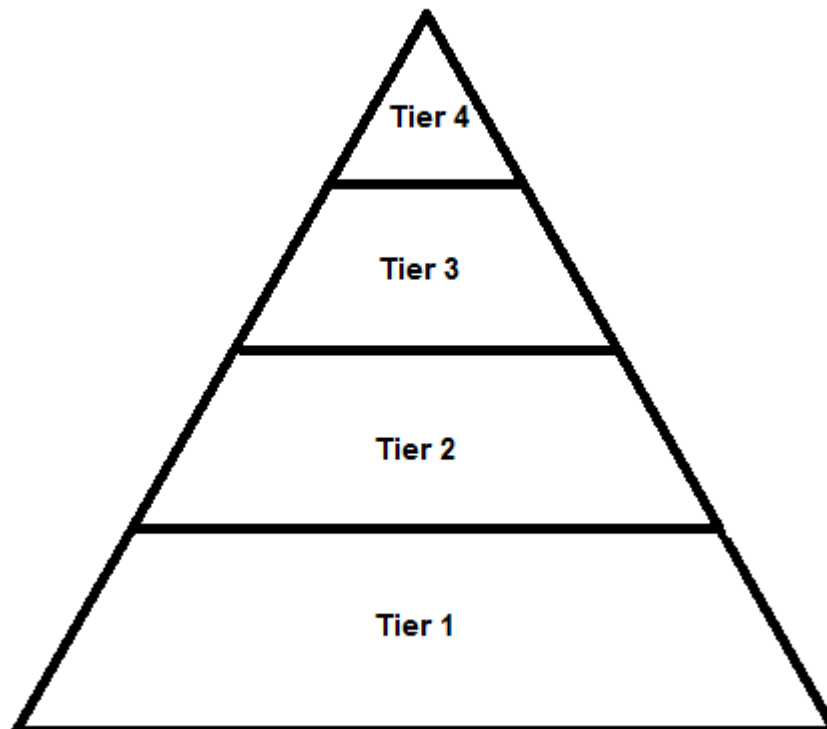
- The work of partners is co-ordinated by a multi-agency Emotional Wellbeing and CAMHS Partnership Board. Members welcomed the Board's work to monitor implementation of the actions detailed in the plan and their inclusive approach to encouraging representatives of organisations that support young people to attend meetings of the Board.
- The introduction of a toolkit for schools. Members considered a draft copy of the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health toolkit for schools developed by partners as part of their work on the Worcestershire Transformation Plan. The group welcomed the focus on signposting teachers to relevant sources of information that could support schools in particular circumstances and would encourage all schools in the Borough of Redditch to make use of this resource.
- The introduction of a single point of access (SPA), whereby any young person aged 0 – 18 can be referred by any professional for support. Members were relieved to find that this service can be accessed online as it means that young people are not required to obtain funds in order to travel to access services.
- Members welcomed the launch of a review by members of the Emotional Wellbeing and CAMHS Transformation Partnership Board to assess the needs of children and young people with autism and the support services required both prior to and after diagnosis. A number of expert witnesses consulted by the group had expressed concerns that support for young people with autism and their families was limited, particularly after diagnosis. The group hope that the current review work should address their concerns.
- The introduction of a specialist eating disorder service for children and young people with various types of eating disorder.
- Good performance in respect of waiting times for services. Members were initially concerned that the target waiting time for children and young people is 18 weeks from referral to initial appointment. However, they welcomed information that suggested in reality the majority of young people referred to CAMHS are seen

within four weeks, with emergency cases seen within 48 hours. This compares favourably with lengthier waiting times that the Education Policy Institute identified in other parts of the country in November 2016.

- The introduction of the Kooth online counselling and wellbeing service for the use of Worcestershire based children and young people. Kooth is an established online counselling service in the country which is accessible outside of working hours. Members welcomed the availability of this service to young people in the county, recognising that many children and young people are comfortable using social media to communicate and, in some cases, might feel encouraged to express themselves more openly on this forum than in person.

CAMHS are the principle services provided to support children and young people experiencing mental health and wellbeing problems. In Worcestershire young people aged 0 - 18 can access services from the CAMHS-SPA Monday – Friday from 9 -5pm. There is also an out of hours service, which has access to a specialist CAMHS worker, and is available 24 hours a day.

The CAMHS service is structured in a way that recognises that young people may be experiencing mental ill health difficulties at varying levels of severity. This structure has a tiered model, from Tier 1, at the lowest level, to Tier 4, at the most severe level, as demonstrated by the diagram below:



Assessments of children and young people referred to the SPA are carried out by trained professionals in the CAMHS team. In cases where children and young people are assessed as having mental health needs at Tiers 3 or 4 they will receive support from CAMHS workers. Young people considered to have milder mental health problems, assessed as being at Tiers 1 or 2, receive support within the community. further clarification about the tiers is detailed below:

- Tier 1: These services are provided by practitioners who are not Mental Health specialists including GPs, health visitors, school nurses, teachers, social workers Connecting Families, and staff from VCS organisations. These services are provided to children and young people experiencing the lowest level mental health and wellbeing difficulties. A key focus at this stage is on helping young people to build resilience.
- Tier 2: Specialist CAMHS Officers are building capacity amongst organisations that work directly with children and young people to provide enhanced support to those experiencing slightly more advanced mental health and wellbeing problems who do not meet the criteria for Tier 3.
- Tier 3: Multi-disciplinary teams, including CAMHS, provide support to young people with complex mental health needs including clinical depression and psychosis. There is also a Tier 3+ team working with children and young people with complex needs to help them avoid inpatient admissions to hospital.
- Tier 4: The most severe cases involve admission to hospital where services are provided through acute care, though CAMHS staff remain in contact with the child or young person. Members have been advised that currently there are no specialist psychiatric hospital beds for children and young people in Worcestershire which is not uncommon for a county CAMHS area. Young people admitted to hospital at Tier 4 are often therefore referred over the border to Birmingham or sometimes further away from home.

#### Local Context – Services for Adults

The focus of the Task Group's review was on services for children and young people. However, Members did also consider arrangements for the delivery of Adult Mental Health Services in Worcestershire (AMHS). This was considered to be important as AMHS services are provided to adults aged from 16 years or older.

The group discovered that AMHS services were also in the process of change. At a primary care level AMHS services have recently been redesigned, resulting in the introduction of the Worcestershire Healthy Minds service in April 2016. The Healthy Minds service provides support to adults experiencing low level stress, anxiety, depression or low moods; it is not used to support people with urgent mental health problems. In order to be eligible to access the service adults must be registered with a GP in Worcestershire. Adults can access the service via the Worcestershire Wellbeing Hub, online or by telephone. Depending on the outcomes of an initial assessment the individual may be signposted to other services or be placed on a waiting list for an appropriate form of intervention.

In 2016 a proposed redesign of secondary care services for AMHS was placed out to consultation. The aim of the re-design was to make services more effective, efficient and able to facilitate better outcomes for service users. Key proposals included changes to: acute inpatient wards, Home Treatment Teams, Community Mental Health Teams and the Recovery Service in south Worcestershire. The outcomes of this re-design remained to be confirmed at the time of writing.

#### Local Transition Arrangements

In terms of transition arrangements Members have been advised that there are CAMHS workers embedded in AMHS and vice versa to enable a smooth transition for young people between services. Not all young people will be referred to AMHS as their needs may be met during their childhood. However, Members have been advised that when, in

the professional opinion of CAMHS workers, it is considered that a young person will continue to need support in adulthood, handover arrangements are put in place whilst that young person is 17 years old.

#### Financial situation

The group was advised during the course of the review that in Worcestershire the budget allocated to CAMHS had been maintained rather than reduced as in some parts of the country. Indeed in the Worcestershire Transformation Plan the following was noted:

*“The current commissioning budget (2015/16) for specialist CAMHS T2/3/3.5 for the 0-18s population has not been reduced since the last needs assessment in 2011, despite local government and CCG savings being made in other service areas. Worcestershire CAMHS has been protected during and following the 2012 service redesign and has had additional investment both from the LA (local authority) and CCGs.”*

The group welcome this direct financial support for CAMHS which they have been advised contrasts favourably with the approach adopted in other parts of the country. However, Members do have some concerns about the impact of financial savings on the rest of the support system for children and young people. During this period the financial situation facing local authorities has become very challenging, with both Redditch Borough Council and Worcestershire County Council experiencing reductions to their Revenue Support Grants from the Government. Unfortunately this has led to cuts to some services utilised by children and young people, most notably the Early Help service which was the subject of budget reductions of over 50 per cent in 2016. VCS organisations have struggled, with sources of funding from the public sector having been reduced in response to Government austerity, creating greater competition in terms of applications for any remaining grant funding. Furthermore, towards the end of the group’s review nationally schools were starting to report financial difficulties which could again in their ability to support their students’ wellbeing.

These services provide much of the support available to young people with lower level mental health and wellbeing problems (at Tier 1 of the system). As further cuts are anticipated Members are concerned that this situation could continue to deteriorate to the detriment of children and young people. In particular, Members are concerned that reduced funding at these levels could impact on the availability of support at the lower level which could in turn lead to greater demand being placed on CAMHS services at Tiers 2, 3 and 3+ in future.

#### Regional Context:

On 30th January 2017 the Leader, Councillor Bill Hartnett, announced at a meeting of full Council that the local authority had in principle signed up to the WMCA’s Mental Health Concordat for action for the West Midlands. This concordat committed partner organisations from across the region to improving the mental health and wellbeing of people within the region.

Following this announcement the *Thrive West Midlands Action Plan* was published by the WMCA. This details a series of 19 actions that have been identified by partners as a way to improve support for people experiencing mental health and wellbeing difficulties. Members of the group had been advised towards the end of their review that meetings would be held in the spring to explore the Council’s role, as a non-constituent member of

the combined authority, in terms of delivering the actions detailed in the action plan. As such at this stage the group is unable to note the exact implications for Redditch residents or the impact of this plan on local services.

However, Members felt that it was important to note this development due to the potential implications for Redditch. Whilst Redditch residents continue to receive mental health services from Worcestershire CAMHS and AMHS Redditch is in a unique position as the Council is the only local authority in the county to have become a non-constituent member of the WMCA. The group have some concerns that this could potentially create complications in terms of local service delivery. However, Members have welcomed the contents of the action plan and agree that the document contains constructive proposals that could have a positive impact on support services in the region for people experiencing mental ill health.

#### Redditch Borough Council

The Council's commitment to the WMCA Mental Health Concordat is not the first action taken by the local authority in respect of mental health. Members signed up to the Time to Change pledge at a meeting of Council in December 2014. The Time to Change pledge was a public statement of aspiration that an organisation wanted to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination. Any organisation could sign the pledge and there were no restrictions around the size of that organisation or the sector from which it came. Since this time a number of events and activities have been held at Redditch Town Hall which were designed to enhance the wellbeing of staff. Awareness amongst Council employees of this subject has also been improved, helping to address the stigma associated mental ill health and to build a supportive culture within the organisation.

The Council also provides a number of services which can have a positive impact on people's mental health and wellbeing. In particular the Leisure and Cultural Services team provides and / or secures the sustainability of a range of activities that can enhance a person's sense of wellbeing, including physical activities, the work of the Palace Youth Theatre and cultural events such as Morton Stanley Festival. This has included the Sports Development and Arts and Events teams participating in the local social prescribing model of supporting people who have been referred by their GPs to take part in activities that will have a positive impact on their physical health and mental wellbeing.

**CHAPTER 1: EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND CAMHS PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

<b>Recommendations 1</b>	<b>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should not withdraw services from young people who fail to engage during their appointments.</b>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	There would potentially be financial implications, particularly in respect of staff time and administration costs, if CAMHS workers were to persist in arranging to meet with young people who fail to attend their appointments. However, Members note that by removing a young person from the CAMHS system in these circumstances that young person's mental health problems are not addressed and may even deteriorate. In the long-term the group feels that greater persistence by CAMHS would help to reduce the number of subsequent referrals from different organisations of the same young person to CAMHS as well as the overall costs to the wider public sector.
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No legal implications have been identified.

The group was generally very positive about the work that partners had been undertaking in respect of the Worcestershire Transformation Plan, as detailed in the introduction above. Members were also impressed by the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the CAMHS staff consulted during the course of the review. However, there were some areas where expert witnesses consulted by the group suggested that improvements could be made.

In particular concerns were raised by witnesses from the VCS and statutory sectors who worked directly with young people about the approach adopted by CAMHS to liaising with young people who did not attend appointments with their CAMHS worker. Members were advised anecdotally about examples where children and young people who had failed to attend appointments with CAMHS had subsequently been removed from the team's books. The Task Group appreciates that CAMHS have finite resources and need to ensure that these are used as effectively as possible. However, witnesses who work with young people directly have advised that young people are often less reliable than adults, particularly if they are vulnerable and have had negative experiences when working with representatives of statutory organisations in the past.

The evidence gathered by the group suggested that this approach to working with young people is not unique to Worcestershire. The Education Policy Institute's review, *Children and Young People's Mental Health: Time to Deliver*, reported that there were cases of this occurring across the country:

*"We saw examples of thresholds still being in place: "the level of difficulty the child or young person experiences will be significantly interfering with their ability to cope." And of services stating their policy of removing people from the waiting list if they did not attend an appointment (in spite of research indicating that this is a common problem for young people who need the most help)."*

Similar concerns were raised in the *Future in Mind* report, published in 2012, which highlighted that it was the most vulnerable young people who were likely to disengage whilst being in particular need of support:

*“Some children, young people and families find the formal setting of a clinic off-putting and are unwilling to attend. This can lead to them saying that they do not wish to be referred or not turning up – particularly for some highly vulnerable groups, such as those involved with gangs or those who have been sexually exploited. As a consequence some services experience high rates of children, young people and families not attending appointments. It is important that services monitor attendance and actively follow up families and young people who miss appointments and inform the referrer... It may be necessary to find alternative ways to engage the child, young person or family.”*

The group believes that this approach to working with young people is short-sighted. In the long-term Members believe that persevering with young people when they fail to attend appointments would benefit both that young person’s mental health and wellbeing and public sector organisations. Members are concerned that in cases where a young person is removed from the waiting lists in these circumstances they will no longer receive support, though their mental health problems will not have been addressed. In this context Members concur that there is a risk the young person will be referred back to CAMHS at a later date, potentially once they are experiencing more serious mental health problems. Maintaining contact with the young person if they do not attend appointments could also be helpful from a financial perspective. The Worcestershire Transformation Plan reported that in 2014/15 the average cost per admission of a young person to hospital due to urgent need for support with a mental health condition was £55,889.

Therefore the group would urge CAMHS to take note of this proposal and to seek to work with young people in different ways where they fail to attend appointments, rather than remove them from waiting lists. This may require CAMHS, or the members of the Emotional Wellbeing and CAMHS Partnership Board, to spend some time investigating the reasons why young people tend to disengage from the appointments process in Worcestershire. Members would contend that this would represent a good investment of time and resources.

<b>Recommendations 2</b>	<b>A representative of the new Liaison and Diversion Service for Worcestershire should work as a Change Champion in Connecting Families once the service starts to operate in the county.</b>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	No financial implications have been identified though there may be the costs of officer time in terms of arranging for this to take place.
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No legal implications have been identified.

During the course of the review Members were advised about the forthcoming launch of a Liaison and Diversion Service in Worcestershire. Liaison and Diversion services are designed to provide early intervention for vulnerable people as and when they come into

contact with the criminal justice system. This includes providing support to people who are suspected of committing an offence but have not yet been arrested or taken into Police custody. The Liaison and Diversion service is designed to assess and identify whether people have mental health issues, learning disabilities, substance abuse problems or other vulnerabilities as soon as possible once they have come into contact with the criminal justice system. Whilst the service works with all age groups there is a specific Children and Young Persons Care Pathway.

The NHS Standard Contract for the Liaison and Diversion Service highlights a need for the team to understand the local population and demand for services: “...*this is vital to ensure that the right workforce is available for delivering the service specification. Individuals who enter into an L&D (Liaison and Diversion) service are more likely to have multiple and varied health needs and vulnerabilities than the rest of the general population...*” To help develop this local knowledge Members believe it would be helpful for a representative of the service to act as a Change Champion in Connecting Families.

Connecting Families was established in January 2016 as part of a project that was trialed in Redditch though is now being extended into the rest of Worcestershire. The purpose of Connecting Families is to achieve all systems change in terms of the support provided to vulnerable families within the local community, in line with Systems Thinking principles. Representatives from a range of partner organisations, including Redditch Borough Council’s Housing Locality and Financial Inclusion Team Officers, Worcestershire County Council’s Early Help staff, representatives of West Mercia Police and other organisations work in a partnership environment within the local community. A number of organisations have already appointed representatives to act as Change Champions, who promote best practice in particular areas for service provision. This includes a Change Champion from CAMHS.

Representatives of Connecting Families were consulted by the group during the course of the review. It became clear, from the evidence provided, that many of the residents that Connecting Families works with have a range of complex needs for which they require support. In many cases this included people who were experiencing mental health and wellbeing difficulties.

By working directly in the community Connecting Families is developing local knowledge about the needs of local residents and the areas where they place demand on public services. The group believes that a member of the Liaison and Diversion Service, by acting as a Change Champion in Connecting Families, could utilise this opportunity to develop local knowledge that would benefit the service. At the same time this Change Champion could help to enhance knowledge amongst partner organisations participating in Connecting Families of the needs of vulnerable people in the criminal justice system.

The group has been advised that in many part of the country where a Liaison and Diversion service has already been established links are often created between the service and any CAMHS workers embedded in the youth justice system in order to develop local knowledge. The group would envisage that this would also occur in Worcestershire. Members interviewed representatives of the West Mercia Youth Justice System as part of the review. The group was advised that a significant proportion of young people who come into contact with the Youth Justice system have mental health and wellbeing problems and in many cases this may not have been diagnosed prior to committing their offence. Members were very impressed by the work of the team in Worcestershire, particularly with the re-offending rates for young offenders which were lower, at 28.5 per cent, than other parts of the West Mercia region, at 33.4 per cent, as



well as lower than the national average rate of 37.7 per cent. The group believes that the links between the new Liaison and Diversion service for Worcestershire and a Change Champion in Connecting Families could enhance any working relationships that are developed between the service and the West Mercia Youth Justice system by providing additional local knowledge.

There is already a Liaison and Diversion service operating in the area covered by the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust. However, at the time of writing there was no Liaison and Diversion Service in Worcestershire. NHS England, which is responsible for commissioning the service, advertised the contract in late 2016, to cover the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. At the time of writing the group was therefore uncertain how the service would be delivered in Worcestershire. However, the service is briefly referred to in the latest update to the Worcestershire Transformation Plan and was brought to the attention of the Task Group by representatives of the Emotional Wellbeing and CAMHS Partnership Board. For this reason the group is asking the Board to consider this proposal at this stage and to raise it with members of the Liaison and Diversion service for Worcestershire once the service is in place.

<b>Recommendations 3</b>	<b>Worcestershire County Council's Public Health Department should review the provision of Youth Mental Health First Aid training to determine whether a concessionary rate could be offered to enable staff from smaller Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to participate.</b>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	The group understands that currently organisations can pay a fee of £45 for members of staff to participate in Youth Mental Health First Aid training delivered by Worcestershire County Council. The introduction of a concessionary scheme would therefore have financial implications for the County Council both in terms of loss of revenue and the potential to cover the costs of delivering the training.
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No legal implications have been identified.

During the review Members came to the conclusion that it was essential for effective mental health training to be provided to staff working with children and young people if appropriate support was to be made available when needed. In particular, Members felt that this was crucial for staff working within the community who might be providing non-specialist support to young people with lower level mental health and wellbeing problems (at Tiers 1 and 2 of the CAMHS system).

A number of expert witnesses advised that they had participated in Youth Mental Health First Aid training provided by Worcestershire County Council's Public Health Directorate. The vast majority of expert witnesses praised this training, which they highlighted as providing useful practical guidance to working with young people with mental health difficulties. Participation was subject to the payment of a fee of £45. The group has been advised that the majority of organisations, including larger VCS organisations that work with children and young people, would be able to afford to pay a fee at this level.

However, Members are concerned that smaller VCS organisations that work with children and young people might struggle to pay.

Provision of training to VCS organisations was considered by Members to be an important issue to address. In Worcestershire youth services are no longer delivered directly by the County Council. Instead youth services are commissioned as positive activities for young people. In Redditch these positive activities are primarily provided by VCS groups. By providing these positive activities VCS organisations regularly come into contact with children and young people and may be in a position to identify early signs of mental health or wellbeing problems. As such VCS groups are a key partner in Worcestershire that could help to provide support to young people with low level mental health needs but in order to do so their staff need to be appropriately trained.

In this context Members are suggesting that it would be helpful for Worcestershire County Council's Public Health Department to investigate the potential to introduce a concessionary scheme for participation in Youth Mental Health First Aid training. The group would envisage that only smaller VCS organisations would be eligible, if such a scheme was adopted, which would hopefully help to limit the financial implications for the County Council. The benefits of introducing such a scheme would be to ensure that smaller VCS organisations that work with children and young people are placed in a better position to support children and young people experiencing mental health and wellbeing difficulties.

**CHAPTER 2: REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Recommendations 4</b>	<b>The Leader of the Council should write to the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, urging her to ensure that Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Lessons, to include lessons about mental health and wellbeing issues, become a statutory part of the national school curriculum.</b>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	The cost of time producing a letter.
<b>Legal Implications</b>	PSHE is a non-statutory subject, though the Government expects schools to make provision for it.

Throughout the review schools were cited by expert witnesses as a key source of influence over young people. In many cases children and young people may start to exhibit their mental health and wellbeing problems through behavior change and school was the main environment, outside the home, where this might first be identified.

Unfortunately, as detailed in the introduction to this report, the Task Group struggled to engage directly with schools during the course of the review. Whilst Members were disappointed about the limited engagement of local schools with their exercise they discovered that this is not unusual. A number of expert witnesses, from a range of organisations, reported that they also struggled to engage with local schools. There were some exceptions to this. Members welcomed information about Respect – The Community Safety Schools Programme, co-ordinated by the Council’s Community Safety Team. As part of this programme Officers engage with some, though not all schools in the local area. A variety of sessions are provided, ranging from sessions for an entire year and workshop sessions for classes to on-to-one mentoring. A number of issues are covered in these sessions, including healthy relationships, self-harm, anti-social behavior and online safety. Connecting Families had also successfully engaged with a number of schools, though again this did not include every school in the Borough.

The lack of responses from local schools to the group’s survey made it difficult for the Task Group to assess the extent to which schools prioritised their students’ wellbeing or the effectiveness of PSHE Redditch schools. However, Members believe that these lessons, which cover areas such as diversity and equality, relationships, personal financial choices, drugs education and people’s rights and responsibilities, have the potential to have a positive impact on a student’s mental health and wellbeing. Indeed the PSHE Association’s definition of these lessons would suggest that the subject of mental health and wellbeing is relevant in this context: “*The PSHE Association defines personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) as: ... a planned programme of learning through which children and young people acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and in the future.*” (House of Commons Briefing, November 2016).

According to a briefing paper produced by the House of Commons Library in respect of PSHE lessons in England (published in November 2016) PSHE is a non-statutory subject, though schools are expected to make provision for it. Attempts have been

made in recent years to make these lessons statutory. The Parliamentary Women and Equalities Committee recommended in September 2016 that PSHE lessons should become statutory and collectively a number of Chairs of Parliamentary Select Committees have called for the lessons to be made statutory. Within Local Government there have also been proposals for PSHE lessons to be placed on a statutory footing; in February 2016 Members from Bristol City Council recommended that PSHE lessons should be made statutory in their *Report of the People Scrutiny Mental Health Working Group*.

Traditionally opposition to making PSHE lessons statutory has been based on concerns about the extent to which this would conflict with parental responsibility. The House of Commons Briefing notes that “*opposition to statutory PSHE often focuses on the issue of parental responsibility and whether it is appropriate for the type of issues covered in PSHE to be taught by teachers rather than parents.*” However, Members believe that statutory PSHE lessons would help the vast majority of children and young people, including in respect of managing their mental health and wellbeing. The group would suggest that if these lessons become statutory parents should have the right to choose to remove their children from lessons.

The group was heartened by the announcement from the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, in March 2017 that Relationships and Sex Education are due to be placed on a statutory footing from September 2019, following consultation. This will require all primary schools in England to teach Relationships Education and all secondary schools to teach Relationships and Sex Education. The parental right of withdrawal from sex education will be retained under these proposals.

The subject of relationships is fairly broad and Members are anticipating that this will require schools to cover a range of subjects, including healthy relationships and domestic violence. The group is particularly keen for lessons in respect of relationships to address safe use of social media. A number of expert witnesses raised concerns that education about use of social media is needed by young people. In part this should help young people to understand acceptable forms of behavior on social media and the risks involved in sharing too much personal information. The group also recognises that unfortunately, due to the behavior of some individuals on social media, support that enables young people to build resilience to cope with negative comments from internet ‘trolls’ might also be helpful.

Members were disappointed to learn, from a House of Commons Library Briefing, *Sex and Relationships Education in Schools (England)* (March 2017) that these statutory requirements do not apply to Academies or free schools. However, Members would urge academy schools in Redditch to adopt these lessons and to comply with the Sex and Relationships Education guidance issued by the Secretary of State when this becomes a statutory part of the National Curriculum.

The announcement in respect of Relationships and Sex Education was accompanied by an announcement from the Secretary of State for Education that she intended to create a power to make PSHE statutory in future, following further work and consultation. The group believes it is urgent that this process is pursued as soon as possible as Members agree that this would have a beneficial impact on the mental health and wellbeing of young people. To demonstrate the strength of feeling locally in respect of this matter Members believe it would be helpful if the Leader of the Council could write a letter outlining the support of the local authority for making PSHE lessons a statutory part of the national curriculum.

<b>Recommendations 5</b>	<b>A new theme should be added to the Council's grants programme which is dedicated to projects which help people experiencing mental health and wellbeing problems.</b>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>The group is not proposing that more funding be allocated to the Grants Programme. They also feel that the Executive Committee, advised by the Council's Grants Panel, should determine the amount of funding from the overall grants pot that should be allocated to this theme.</p> <p>Subject to the Executive Committee agreeing to add this new theme it should be noted that this would not form part of the Council's grants process until 2018/19.</p>
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No legal implications have been identified.

Redditch Borough Council has an established grants programme. Each year opportunities for VCS groups to apply for funding are advertised in the local press and on the Council's website. Larger project grants are allocated in accordance with themes that match the Council's strategic purposes and for each theme a list of relevant subject areas is advertised to enable groups to identify whether their project would be eligible to receive funding. There are also the Stronger Communities grants provided as part of the programme, which are for grants of up to £500 for grassroots community events and projects.

In the Council's current grants programme VCS organisations theoretically can apply for funding in any theme to support residents with mental health and wellbeing problems. Furthermore, the Investing Grants theme, which provides organisations with an opportunity to apply for grants valued at up to £6,000, specifically includes reference to delivery of projects that support "*residents with low/medium level mental health/wellbeing issues*" and "*Dementia/Alzheimer's support projects.*" However, these topics are listed alongside nine other wide-ranging areas, including projects that support health and fitness, digital inclusion, local community clubs, intergenerational and cross-cultural initiatives and employment support.

The Task Group has been advised that in 2016/17 a number of projects that provided support to people with mental ill health were funded through the Council's grants programme. This included a grant to enable the Redditch Mental Health Action Group (MHAG) to provide life coaching and mentoring services, a grant to Redditch Community Amateur Boxing Club to support young people with low self-esteem and a low sense of aspiration and funding for the Men in Sheds initiative to help older people to develop new skills and improve their mental health and wellbeing. Members have also been advised that in 2016/17 50 per cent of the projects awarded funding supported young people.

Despite this the group believes that more could be done through the Council's grants programme to provide support to people of all ages who are experiencing mental health and wellbeing problems. Members had some concerns that, due to the wide range of areas encompassed within the Investing Grants theme, there was the potential that

specific projects that help people experiencing mental ill health could miss out on funding. There is also no guarantee that every year VCS groups would apply for funding for mental health and wellbeing support projects as they might instead choose to focus on other aspects of the theme.

Providing a specific mental health and wellbeing theme would help to demonstrate the Council's commitment to addressing mental health problems within the community, in line with the local authority's signing of the Time to Change pledge and WMCA Mental Health Concordat. Members would suggest that if this recommendation is approved consideration should be given to enabling VCS organisations to apply for funding within this theme to support training costs that will enable VCS staff to best meet the needs of people experiencing mental health and wellbeing problems.

The group is aware that the Executive Committee receives a report every summer outlining proposed new themes for the Council's Grants Programme in the following financial year. Subject to the Executive Committee agreeing to introduce a new theme to support projects that help people experiencing mental ill health it should be noted that this would only form part of the Council's Grants Programme from 2018/19 onwards. Members are not proposing the amount of funding that should be allocated to this theme as they feel that this should be determined by the Executive Committee, following advice from the Council's Grants Panel.

<p><b>Recommendations 6</b></p>	<p><b>Senior officers, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Corporate Management and Housing respectively, should review the implications for Council Services of the following actions detailed in the West Midlands Combined Authority Mental Health Commission's <i>Thrive West Midlands Action Plan</i>:</b></p> <p>a) <b>Action 4: the proposal to evaluate a financial incentive to encourage companies to demonstrate their commitment to mental health and wellbeing.</b></p> <p>b) <b>Action 5: the proposal to help people to gain housing and work (including potentially supported accommodation).</b></p> <p><b>The outcomes of this work should be reported for the consideration of the Executive Committee.</b></p>
<p><b>Financial Implications</b></p>	<p>There would be the cost of officer time in terms of undertaking this review. However, the group believes that this would be a useful investment of time if it enables the Council to appreciate the potential resource implications for the local authority of implementing these actions.</p>
<p><b>Legal Implications</b></p>	<p>No legal implications have been identified.</p>

Towards the end of their review Members did consider the contents of the *Thrive West Midlands Action Plan*. This document details the 19 actions that the WMCA's Mental Health Commission identified as necessary to improve support for people living and

working in the West Midlands region who experience mental ill health. Members agreed that it was important to consider the contents of this document as Redditch Borough Council is a non-constituent member of the WMCA and has signed up to the WMCA's Mental Health Concordat. The group also noted that as a signatory of the concordat the Council had a responsibility to help deliver these actions, as detailed in the *Thrive West Midlands Action Plan*:

*“To ensure that all key organisations in the WMCA play their part, we decided to seek an agreement whereby organisations commit to action – a concordat for Action for the West Midlands. This is a significant statement of commitment and common purpose that has been shared, agreed and signed by senior representatives in the partner organisations. These organisations have subsequently agreed to implement the Action Plan.”*

The group unanimously welcomed the report and noted that the actions detailed within the document are constructive. However, Members agreed that two of the actions could have particular implications for the Council which they felt merited further investigation, as to the implications for Council resources, at the local level.

The first of these is Action 4; ‘evaluating a financial incentive to encourage employers’. The focus of this action is on working with the Government to trial a ‘Wellbeing Premium’, or tax incentive that rewards employers that can demonstrate commitment to the mental health and wellbeing of their staff. According to the action plan this trial could include offering “...companies a financial incentive, which might include a discount on their business rates, in return for action to improve the wellbeing of their workforce.” The action plan notes that the Wellbeing Premium could be offered to those companies for a period of two to three years. Members recognise that there is no guarantee that Redditch Borough Council would be participating in the trial. However, the group was mindful of the challenging economic circumstances facing local government and the contribution made by business rates to the Council's finances. In this context The Task Group is contending that it would be prudent, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management, for Officers to investigate the possible implications of Action 4 for the Council's finances and any potential contingency plans that might need to be put in place if this initiative is implemented in Redditch in the future.

The second area that Members felt required further investigation was Action 5; ‘helping people to gain housing and work’. This action details further work that could be undertaken on a scheme to offer a Housing First service, involving intensive mental health support. The Action Plan describes Housing First in the following terms:

*“...a form of supported housing which works on the principle that getting someone into a secure home immediately with the right level of support, without needing to go through a series of stages to attain ‘housing readiness’ helps them address mental ill health, substance misuse and alcohol issues more effectively...the housing provided is permanent with a secure tenure, and the offer of housing is not conditional on receiving treatment although support can be offered on a long term basis if required.”*

The group recognised that this scheme could enable some of the most vulnerable people experiencing mental ill health to access accommodation. The scheme would also help to address one of the concerns raised by some expert witnesses about the need for supported accommodation to be made available to people who have experienced severe mental health problems and are recovering in the community.

The group did consult with representatives of the Council's Housing team during the course of the review and were advised that under the Housing Act 1996 the local authority must ensure housing is made available to those who are homeless or in priority need. Section 189 (1) of the Housing Act 1996 defines priority need as "*a person who is vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability or other special reasons or with whom such a person resides or might reasonably be expected to reside.*" Members have been advised that mental health is already taken into account by Officers when considering whether to prioritise an individual for housing.

The group agrees it is important to clarify whether the potential introduction of a Housing First scheme in the Borough could impact on who is prioritised for housing, the type of housing that needs to be made available and the work of the Housing Locality and Housing Options teams. In this context Members are suggesting that it would be helpful for Officers, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to investigate the potential implications to the Council of Action 5 of the *Thrive West Midlands Action Plan* further.



**CHAPTER 3: FURTHER SCRUTINY**

<b>Recommendations 7</b>	<p><b>The Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group should be reconvened in 12 months' time to receive monitoring updates from officers about progress in the Borough with the implementation of:</b></p> <p><b>a) the actions detailed in the <i>Worcestershire Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health</i>;</b></p> <p><b>b) the West Midlands Combined Authority Mental Health Commission's <i>Thrive West Midlands: An Action Plan to Drive Better Health and Wellbeing in the West Midlands</i>; and</b></p> <p><b>c) the Suicide Prevention Plan for Redditch.</b></p>
<b>Financial Implications</b>	There would be the costs of Officer and elected Members' time in terms of reconvening the group to hold an additional meeting to monitor progress with these matters.
<b>Legal Implications</b>	No legal implications have been identified.

At the end of most scrutiny reviews once Members' recommendations have been considered and a decision has been taken by the Executive Committee, or relevant partner organisations, the Task Group is disbanded. Implementation of the recommendations is then monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee until all actions have been completed. However, for this review Members are suggesting that it would be appropriate to reconvene the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group in 12 months' time.

To some extent the group found during the course of the review that because the Worcestershire Transformation Plan was still in the process of being implemented it was not always possible for Members to assess the impact that actions detailed in the plan were having in the Borough. Once 12 months have elapsed many of these actions should have become embedded in local services, which should make it easier for Members to assess their impact.

The *Thrive West Midlands* Action Plan is in an even earlier stage of implementation, as the document was only published on 31st January 2017. The group is anticipating that the Council, as a non-constituent member of the WMCA, will play a role in helping to implement the actions in this plan. Members feel that it should be possible to assess progress with this in 12 months' time. To avoid duplicating the work of the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the group is suggesting that the update in respect of this matter should only focus on action taken by Redditch Borough Council through interviews with Council Officers.

Towards the end of the review Members were informed that work would be starting on producing a Suicide Prevention Plan for Redditch. This work, which will be coordinated

by the Redditch Partnership, will focus on practical steps that can be taken to prevent people taking their own lives through an ambitious zero suicide approach. Redditch was selected as a pilot area in Worcestershire to develop a Suicide Prevention Plan due to the relatively high suicide rates in the Borough (compared to the national average). The group has been advised that the findings from work on this plan will help to inform a refresh of the existing Worcestershire Mental Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Plan. The Task Group commends partners for taking action to produce a Suicide Prevention Plan for Redditch. Due to the potential significance of this plan to the local community Members believe it would be helpful for the Task Group to be provided with an opportunity to pre-scrutinise the content of the proposed plan.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note that if the decision is taken to reconvene this group their terms of reference will need to be focused entirely on monitoring local progress in respect of these three plans. It would not be appropriate for the group to relaunch an overarching review of mental health services for young people at this stage as this would represent duplication and would not be the best use of resources. To ensure that relevant knowledge is retained it is suggested that Councillors Fry, Hopkins, Thain, Wheeler and Wood-Ford should be reappointed to the Task Group if it is reconvened.

**CHAPTER 4: ITEMS FOR NOTING**

There were a number of additional areas which, whilst not forming the basis of recommendations, Members wished to highlight in their final report. These are outlined in detail in this chapter.

**a) CAMHS Information Sessions**

The criteria for referrals from CAMHS have changed since the early 2000s. In the past organisations could refer young people to CAMHS when they were experiencing a wide range of mental health and behavioural problems. However, by 2016/17 the role of CAMHS had changed. CAMHS is not a counselling or behaviour management service, and does not assess young people for neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). These cases can be referred by CAMHS to the Umbrella Service in Worcestershire, which is the diagnostic pathway for neurodevelopmental disorders. Members have been advised that the decision had been taken to limit the referral criteria in order to enable CAMHS to concentrate on young people with mental health problems and to prioritise the most urgent cases. This has helped to reduce waiting times for CAMHS services amongst young people. However, there were some expert witnesses interviewed by the group who did not appear to be aware of the change in the eligibility criteria since the early 2000s and / or the reasons for this change.

Alongside representatives from a range of partner organisations Councillors Thain and Wheeler attended a free information session on the subject of Worcestershire CAMHS, which was delivered by members of that team, in September 2016. This was a really informative session that helped to clarify the role of the service, eligibility criteria for CAMHS and the support available to children and young people locally. To address any remaining confusion amongst partner organisations the group would encourage Worcestershire CAMHS to deliver more of these sessions in the near future and would suggest that any organisations involved in supporting children and young people arrange for representatives of their teams to attend.

**b) CAMHS Age Range**

The group was interested to learn during the review about flexible arrangements in place in other parts of the country, in terms of the age range of young people served by CAMHS, and how this facilitated a smooth transition from CAMHS to AMHS. In Birmingham, for example, young people can receive support from CAMHS up to the age of 25 years. In Worcestershire the age range of 0 – 18 year olds for CAMHS and 16 years or older for AMHS does entail some cross-over which may benefit both the young person and staff in terms of continuous care provision. However, many of the expert witnesses that the group consulted referred to young people as those aged into their early 20s. In some cases Members feel that this may have created some confusion outside of CAMHS in terms of the support available to young people. For example some representatives of VCS organisations raised anecdotal reports of young people being subject to lengthy waiting lists, even though the CAMHS team has evidence that all referrals made to the service are being met within the local 18 weeks target (though usually before this point).

Given this situation the group suspects that some of the young people that have been referred to in this manner were actually being treated by AMHS rather than CAMHS. The group is not suggesting that a long waiting list for AMHS services is acceptable and this is something that health practitioners may want to address as part of the current review of AMHS secondary care services. However, whilst no evidence can be provided to prove this without taking into account specific cases this may indicate that there is a need for further information to be provided to organisations not just about CAMHS services but also about AMHS. The group would suggest that any such information sharing should replicate the model adopted for the CAMHS Information Sessions.

c) Early Help

The Task Group's review coincided with a period of significant change to Worcestershire Early Help services. In 2016 funding for Early Help was reduced by over 50 per cent in order to focus on children and families considered to be most in need of support. This resulted in a reduction in the size of the Early Help team during the year. Members were concerned about the loss of experienced, trained staff from this team and the potential impact that this might have on the quality of services available to children and young people with low level mental health problems. The group also worried that this reduction in staff could have a negative impact on the effectiveness of early intervention work.

Members have noted that concerns about Early Help were also identified by Ofsted in January 2017 in their inspection report into services for children in care, in need of protection or who are leaving the care system in Worcestershire. This report rated Worcestershire's Children's Services as inadequate and within the report Ofsted noted the following:

*"...through the redesign of commissioned services, to ensure a focus on supporting the children and families who need it most, significant reductions are planned across Early Help services, including Children's Centres, these planned reductions have led to anxiety across the partnership and a lack of understanding regarding ownership of, and pathways to, early help."*

The group welcomes Worcestershire County Council's announcement that £3.5 million will be allocated to looking after children in the county from April 2017 and that action will be taken with partners to address the concerns raised in the inspection report. As part of this process Members urge Worcestershire County Council and relevant partner organisations to consider and address the potential impact of changes to Early Help on support for children and young people with low level mental health and wellbeing problems.

d) GP Practices

During the course of the review Members learned that in south Worcestershire there has been for some time a system of 'Gateway Workers' in every GP Practice. Gateway workers are qualified mental health practitioners, usually a mental health nurse, social worker, occupational therapist or clinical psychologist, experienced in the assessment and treatment of mental health problems. The group has been advised that this practice was extended to North Worcestershire in the autumn of 2016.

Members are keen to urge partners to ensure these specialists do work in GPs practices, particularly as a number of the witnesses they consulted suggested that GPs were often the first point of contact when a young person was initially referred for support with mental health and wellbeing problems. To obtain assurance that this is being provided in 2017/18 Members would appreciate information about the impact of this scheme as part of the update on the Worcestershire Transformation Plan, if the group's seventh recommendation is approved.

e) Knowledge Bank

One concern raised with the group by a number of expert witnesses, particularly representatives of VCS organisations, was that there was a lack of information about services available locally to support people with specific needs. This could create difficulties for some service providers in respect of identifying the most appropriate organisations to refer children and young people on to for support. Members were advised that a directory of services would help organisations to better meet young people's needs in these circumstances.

Consequently the group was impressed to learn about the work of Council Officers to develop the Knowledge Bank. The Knowledge Bank will contain information about local support services and should help to raise awareness of those services. The Knowledge Bank will be made available to the public to access on the Council's website and officers will work to ensure that the details are updated as and when necessary. Members are in agreement that once the Knowledge Bank has been launched the availability of this resource should be advertised for the consideration of partner organisations.

f) Mindfulness

The group did receive information about techniques that could be used to enhance people's mental wellbeing. In particular Mindfulness was highlighted by a number of expert witnesses as a technique that could be utilised to help build resilience amongst young people. The NHS Choices website refers to Mindfulness in the following terms:

*"Paying more attention to the present moment – to your own thoughts and feelings, and to the world around you – can improve your mental wellbeing. Some people call this awareness "mindfulness". Mindfulness can help us enjoy life more and understand ourselves better. You can take steps to develop it in your own life".*

Mindfulness is also recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) as a way to prevent depression in people who have had three or more bouts of depression.

Members noted that mindfulness techniques could be utilised in Redditch to help children and young people. Increasingly books are available in high street retailers on the subject of Mindfulness and parents could purchase these to help support their children. At school Mindfulness could be addressed as part of PSHE lessons, in assemblies and during after school club activities, though schools should use their discretion to determine the most appropriate method for their pupils.

g) Parental Guidance

During the review Members learned a lot about how CAMHS and other related services operate in Worcestershire. As part of their activities the group did find examples of guidance for parents and other carers online. However, Members were concerned about the extent to which parents (and other guardians) would know where to find this information. Members also noted that some people, particularly those on low incomes, would not have access to a computer or might lack confidence when using online resources. Under these circumstances the group urges CAMHS, the Worcestershire Health and Care Trust and other partner organisations to consider distributing paper copies of written guidance in public buildings around the county for the use of parents.

h) WMCA Mental Health Select Committee

In January 2017 the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a Select Committee to review the findings of the WMCA Mental Health Commission. Due to her experience as a member of the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group Councillor Wheeler, the Council's representative on the WMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, volunteered to be a member of the Mental Health Select Committee. At the agreement of Members Councillor Wheeler was appointed Vice Chair of this Select Committee.

The group welcomes the introduction of the Mental Health Select Committee and Councillor Wheeler's involvement in this work. By participating in the Select Committee Councillor Wheeler should also be in a position to ensure that if the group's seventh recommendation is approved work undertaken by scrutiny Members at a regional level is not duplicated when the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group is reconvened.

**CONCLUSION**

The Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group has conducted a lengthy and detailed review. The group has taken into account evidence from a wide range of sources which has helped to inform their conclusions.

Members have found this to be an illuminating time to review Mental Health services. The ongoing work of partners on the Worcestershire Transformation Plan, *Thrive West Midlands* Action Plan and Suicide Prevention Plan for Redditch demonstrate that there is a lot of work being undertaken at the local and regional levels to improve mental health services for residents.

However, the Task Group is not complacent and Members recognise that further improvements can always be made. The recommendations Members are proposing have focused on actions the group feels could make a constructive difference to the services that are provided to children and young people.

**APPENDIX 1****Scrutiny Proposal Form**

(This form should be completed by sponsoring Member(s), Officers and / or members of the public when proposing an item for Scrutiny).

**Note:** The matters detailed below have not yet received any detailed consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reserves the right to reject suggestions for scrutiny that fall outside the Borough Council's remit.

Proposer's name and designation	Councillor Nina Wood-Ford	Date of referral	05/07/16
Proposed topic title	Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group		
Link to local priorities including the strategic purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redditch Borough Council strategic purpose – help me to live my life independently (including health and activity).</li> <li>• Redditch Partnership priority to address health inequalities (including mental health).</li> </ul>		
Background to the issue	<p>On 31st May I attended Overview and Scrutiny training alongside nine other Councillors. During this training we considered potential topics for scrutiny. One topic that was considered by members was the support available to people with 'milder' mental health problems, comprising individuals whose mental health difficulties are not considered sufficient to be referred directly for support from mental health services. This topic had also recently been identified by the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) as a subject that scrutiny could helpfully investigate in further detail. There is clearly therefore concern about the support available to people in this position.</p> <p>Concerns about support for people with mental health problems have also recently received significant press coverage both locally and nationally. In Redditch a lot of work has been undertaken to try to help people with mental health problems by bodies such as the Mental Health Action Group (MHAG) and the Redditch Partnership. However, this does not mean that we should become complacent and a review of this subject could help these existing groups to further develop the support available.</p> <p>I am mindful of the need to ensure that scrutiny activities are focused in order to achieve constructive outcomes. There is a risk that a review of all mental health services for every</p>		



	<p>group in society would be overwhelming. I am therefore proposing that this review should focus on the support available to young people. Young people, if assisted effectively, may be helped to establish key areas of support that will help them to live constructive and fulfilling lives. In some cases additional support for young people may also help to prevent more serious problems from arising in their future.</p> <p>At the end of a review of this subject ideally young people and their families will be aware that support is available if they need it. I would hope that this review will help to inform both those young people at risk of developing mental health problems and people who may support them about the help that is available locally. I would also like to think that this review will help to challenge the stigma that unfortunately continues to be attached to issues surrounding mental health to the benefit of future generations.</p>
<p>Key Objectives Please keep to SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To clarify the roles of different agencies in supporting (and referring) young people with 'milder' mental health problems. This could take into account the roles of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different branches of the NHS, including GP practices.</li> <li>• Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, including the mental health action group.</li> <li>• The criminal justice system, including the police.</li> <li>• The Redditch Partnership.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) To consider current arrangements in the provision of child and adolescent mental health services, including any local strategies which shape services.</li> <li>3) To investigate current preventative action undertaken to support young people vulnerable to developing mental health problems and to identify ways in which this could be improved.</li> <li>4) To consider the impact on Council services of demand from young people with 'milder' mental health problems. This could involve consulting with Officers from frontline services.</li> <li>5) To clarify at what point a young person's mental health is considered serious enough to merit direct intervention from mental health services.</li> <li>6) To explore best practice in other parts of the country in terms of supporting young people with 'milder' mental health problems and the potential to replicate this in the Borough of Redditch.</li> </ol>

<p>How long do you think is needed to complete this exercise? (Where possible please estimate the number of weeks, months and meetings required)</p>	<p>In order to complete a thorough and constructive review of this subject I am proposing that a Task Group exercise should be undertaken over a period of six to nine months.</p>
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**Please return this form to: Jess Bayley or Amanda Scarce, Democratic Services Officers, Redditch Borough Council, Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH**

**Email: [jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk) / [a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:a.scarce@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)**

**APPENDIX 2**  
**Acknowledgements**

The group would like to thank the following people for providing evidence during the course of their review:

Catherine Aldridge (Sports Development Manager)  
 Stephanie Andrews (CAMHS Manager – North)  
 Keith Barham (West Mercia Youth Justice System)  
 Dr Gordon Bates (Psychiatrist)  
 Jayne Baylis (Housing Services Manager)  
 Helen Broughton (Redditch Partnership Manager)  
 Councillor Juliet Brunner (Chair of the Positive Activities Sub-Group)  
 Hayley Capper (Arrow Vale)  
 Philippa Coleman (Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust)  
 Michele Conway (Connecting Families)  
 Jenny Dalloway (Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group)  
 Jennifer Delorenzo (Assistant Customer Support Manager)  
 Kevin Dicks (Chief Executive)  
 Jessica Glenn (Worcestershire County Council)  
 Elaine Grant (formerly in the Early Help team and a member of the Redditch Mental Health Action Group)  
 Ray Groves (RYCE)  
 Sue Harris (Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust)  
 Maureen Hayden (What's Your Point?)  
 Alec Henderson (CAMHS Worker, West Mercia Youth Justice System)  
 Cat Illingworth (Young Solutions)  
 Shona Knight (Assistant Financial Support Services Manager)  
 Sarah McIntosh (Community Safety Project Officer)  
 Lee McKenzie (Sandycroft)  
 Claire Mitchell (Health Improvement Co-Ordinator for Redditch)  
 Huw Moseley (Arts Development and Events Officer)  
 Colin Tipton (Batchley Support Group)  
 Hayley Turner (St Basils – Redditch Branch)  
 Gomez Vincent (Sports Development Officer)  
 Richard Waterhouse (The Ditch)  
 Charlotte Williams (Connecting Families)  
 Tina Williams (Swanswell)  
 Judith Willis (Head of Community Services)  
 Claire Wilson (CAMHS Tier 2 Senior Clinician)  
 Paul Woolcock (Batchley Support Group)  
 Lauryna Zebrauskyte (CAMHS Tier 2 Senior Clinician)

Members would also like to thank the four schools in Redditch that completed their survey.

**APPENDIX 3**  
**Timeline of Activities**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Task Group Activity</b>
26/07/16	Considering the group's terms of reference and key lines of enquiry.
02/08/16	Initial analysis of <i>Worcestershire's Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health</i> and consideration of the Community Mental Health profile for Worcestershire.
15/08/16	Interview with the Redditch Partnership Manager and Health Improvement Co-ordinator for Redditch.
25/08/16	Interview with the CAMHS Manager for North Worcestershire.
12/09/16	Considering written information received from Worcestershire County Council and the content of <i>Worcestershire's Mental Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Plan 2014-2017</i> .
20/09/16	Councillor Thain attended a meeting of the Positive Activities Sub-Group to discuss mental health services with representatives of VCS organisations.
21/09/16	Councillors Thain and Wheeler attended a CAMHS Information Session at Redditch Town Hall.
26/09/16	Interview with the Community Safety Project Officer that leads the Respect Community Safety Schools Programme.
07/10/16	Interview with a former member of the Early Help team, who sits on the Redditch Mental Health Action Group.
20/10/16	Interview with the Operational Manager for Connecting Families and considering information about Youth First Aid Mental Health training.
31/10/16	Considering feedback received from schools in completed surveys, reviewing the feedback received by Worcestershire Healthwatch to a survey and considering the contents of the recently updated Worcestershire Transformation Plan.
15/11/16	Considering the contents of the <i>Future in Mind</i> and <i>The Five Year Forward View for Mental Health</i> reports.
24/11/16	Councillor Wood-Ford interviewed representatives of the Redditch and Bromsgrove Clinical Commissioning Group and Worcestershire County Council.
29/11/16	Considering scrutiny reviews conducted by other local authorities on the subject of mental health services and the Worcestershire Youth Cabinet's mental health survey.
05/12/16	Focus Group to discuss the impact of supporting young people with mental health problems on Council services.

06/12/16	Interview with representatives of Worcestershire Health and Care Trust and CAMHS to discuss local mental health services for young people.
14/12/16	Interview with the Head of Community Services about the Council's grants programme, considering further information about the Mental Health Challenge for local government and scrutinising the content of the draft schools toolkit.
09/01/17	Considering the content of the NHS Standard contract for Liaison and Diversion Services, assessing information about the Family Front Door, Worcestershire University's Suicide Safer Project and considering the Redditch Health Profiles for 2015 and 2016 as well as extracts from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Intelligence Update for Worcestershire.
18/01/17	Interview with representatives of the West Mercia Youth Justice Service and consideration of information about Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS).
26/01/17	Interview with the manager of the Redditch branch of St Basils, considering the content of the Education Policy Institute's <i>Children and Young People's Mental Health: Time to Deliver</i> report, reviewing the House of Commons Briefing Paper <i>Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education in Schools (England)</i> , considering information received from Swanswell and assessing the Council's policy in respect of prioritising people for housing.
14/02/17	Reviewing the content of the <i>Thrive West Midlands</i> Action Plan, considering information about the shared society, discussing information about action to produce a Suicide Prevention Plan for Redditch and identifying draft recommendations.
01/03/17	Reviewing feedback received from Officers and finalising the group's recommendations.
13/03/17	Agreeing the contents of the group's final report.

**APPENDIX 4:**  
**Glossary**

ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

AMHS – Adult Mental Health Services

BAME – Black and Minority Ethnic

CAMHS – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group

CMT – Corporate Management Team

HOSC – Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

LGB&T – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender.

MHAG – Mental Health Action Group (Redditch)

SPA – Single Point of Access for CAMHS services.

SRE – Sex and Relationships Education

PSHE – Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education lessons.

VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector

WAHT – Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

WMCA – West Midlands Combined Authority

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**Date 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN  
2017- 2030**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Chance
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	All wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Report is to seek Council approval for the informal response that was submitted to the consultation on Worcestershire County Councils Local Transport Plan 2017 - 2030.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 That Executive Committee RECOMMEND to Council that the informal response to the Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 2017 - 2030 (as attached at Appendix A) be approved by Council and submitted as a formal Council response.

**3. KEY ISSUES****Financial Implications**

- 3.1 No financial implications.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Worcestershire County Council, as the Local Transport Authority, is legally required to produce, deliver and maintain a Local Transport Plan under the Transport Act (2000) and the Local Transport Act (2008).

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 Worcestershire County Council consulted on the Local Transport Plan (LTP) between 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017. An informal response (attached at Appendix A) was submitted on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in order to meet

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**Date 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017

the consultation end date. The purpose of the Consultation on the LTP sets out the County Council's aspirations and priorities for investing in the transport networks, including infrastructure, technology and services to support all relevant modes of transport including walking, cycling, rail, bus and community transport as well as highways.

3.4 The County Council is required by Central Government to produce Local Transport Plans (LTP) to set out objectives for developing transport plans. The draft plan currently being consulted will cover the period from April 2017 until 2030. Although it's expected the document will be reviewed regularly, as the county is expected to see unprecedented population growth, housing development, economic diversification and technological advances.

3.5 A copy of the informal response can be seen at Appendix A however for convenience the main points have been repeated here.

**Main document**

3.6 Further information regarding the purpose and contents of the Redditch Transport Strategy are required before any further comments can be submitted.

3.7 The following specific junction schemes are suggested within the Redditch Package:

R3 - Ran Tan Major Junction Capacity Enhancement

R4 - Battens Drive/ Warwick Highway Junction

R5 - Plymouth Road/ Bromsgrove Road Junction

R6 - B4184 Windsor Road/ Birmingham Road Junction

R7 - A441 Birmingham Road/ B4101 Dagnell End Road junction

3.8 The Council request to be involved in any suggested improvement schemes. Officers have questioned whether potential funding sources being referred to identify the necessary scheme or whether they are to also implement the scheme. If the funding identified is not to pay for implementation Officers have questioned where the funding would come from to implement solutions.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment**

3.9 Page 22 says Redditch has an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). It also states this AQMA is part of the Stoke Heath AQMA. This is not the case. Redditch has never has a designated AQMA within its boundaries and the Stoke Heath AQMA is a significant distance from the Redditch boundary.

3.10 Page 23 and 26 states "*The Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 seeks to allocate 46,400 dwellings between 2011 and 2030....*". This is incorrect; the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 allocates 6,400 dwellings between 2011 to 2030.

**Other comments**



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- 3.11 There is a fundamental lack of regard for strategic growth issues related to future housing needs of the Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area. It is widely accepted that there is a need to find land to accommodate at least 37,900 dwellings. It is acknowledged that this growth will need to be accommodated within the Housing Market Area and further work is needed to identify suitable locations for this growth through the Strategic Growth Study. Redditch, as a Local Authority within the Housing Market Area, has agreed to participate within the Strategic Growth Study, therefore the Green Belt to the south west of the urban area may need to be considered for future development. A long standing issue with this area is the unknown infrastructure that would be needed to support any potential future development. Therefore it is essential for the various Transport Teams at WCC to be involved as early as possible with this work in order to provide advice and guidance on the various forms of transport and transport infrastructure that may or may not support development. Therefore it is felt there needs to be a much stronger link between LTP4 and strategic planning as the implications from new housing are an intrinsic highway matter which should help to inform the location of new development.
- 3.12 LTP4 acknowledges the need to improve Redditch Train Station however it is felt that further work may need to be done to enhance the rail service offer, in particular enhanced links from Redditch to Birmingham such as an express train at peak times. Currently there is no mention of rail service within LTP4.

**LTP4 and Redditch Town Centre Strategy**

- 3.13 There is a lack of detail regarding what is envisaged for the Town Centre. WCC Officers have previously stated that the Town Centre Strategy is included in LTP4 which it is not. Town Centre Schemes were listed within LTP3 however they have not been carried forward to LTP4. Information on why these schemes are not within the document is requested as there is still an aspiration for them to be implemented.
- 3.14 LTP4 does not mention the strategy for downgrading the Ring Road around the Town Centre. This is the primary road for access to and from the Town Centre and it is felt this important scheme should be detailed within the Document. This scheme was contained within Local Transport Plan 3 as 'Scheme R1' within the Redditch Urban Package. It is felt that this scheme should be carried forward to LTP4.
- 3.15 A Car Parking Study is detailed as an Action in Town Centre Strategy as it is within the Redditch Package of the LTP. However it is not clear from the detail in the LTP whether this is the same parking study or an additional one as the remit of the car parking study in the LTP has not been detailed.
- 3.16 The Redevelopment of Train station area is an action in the Town Centre Strategy as it is within the LTP (detailed as the 'Redditch Station Enhancement Scheme'), is essential these strategies align to ensure what was envisaged through the Town Centre Strategy is mirrored in the LTP.

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**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.17 The contents of the LTP have the potential to affect every resident in the Borough. The schemes detailed within the LTP need to be the right schemes to ensure that the transport in the Borough is sustainable up to 2030.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 As above (3.11) there may be a risk to the Borough if the LTP does not address some of the bigger issues facing the borough over the next few years. It is essential that the LTP addresses the current issues facing the Borough and looks ahead to the issues likely to be facing the Borough up to 2030.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Redditch Borough Council Response to Worcestershire County Council Local Transport Plan 2017 - 2030

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Worcestershire County Council Local Transport Plan 2017 – 2030 (December 2016)

1. The main LTP4 document
2. Habitats Regulation Assessment
3. Network Management Plan
4. Policies Document
5. Strategic Environmental Assessment

**7. KEY**

AQMA - Air Quality Management Area  
LTP – Local Transport Plan

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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**Redditch Borough Council Response to Worcestershire County Council  
Local Transport Plan 2017 – 2030**

1 Redditch Borough Council has a number of comments and concerns in relation to the Local Transport Plan (LTP), which are detailed below. Comments are made under the sub-heading of the relevant LTP document and refer back to the consultation questions where appropriate. The end of the document details general comments and concerns the Borough Council has with the LTP.

**Main Document**

2 Page 9 of the Main Document includes a map of major housing development; it is felt that the locations of the numbers on the map do not accurately reflect the actual location they are intended to represent. It is appreciated that this is difficult to achieve with a map of this scale, however in order for the document to be correct numbers 3 and 5 need relocating.

3 Page 16 states that Redditch are still preparing the Development Plan, the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 (BORLP4) was adopted on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

**Specific Comments on the Transport Packages**

North East Strategic Transport Schemes (NEST) NEST 3 – Redditch Transport Strategy

4 No detail is provided within the document as to what the Redditch Transport Strategy will be or the timescales it will be working towards. It is felt that further information about the purpose and contents of this document are needed before any further comments can be submitted. Information within the table refers to 'Local Development Plan' not BORLP4.

Redditch package

5 All of the actions listed within the table refer to 'Developers' as a source of potential funding, however Redditch do not have an Infrastructure Delivery Plan with all of these schemes listed, the IDP should be updated to reflect this. In addition, the majority of all the large development sites in Redditch are already under construction or have been granted planning permission. Therefore it is unlikely there will be much scope for collecting significant funds from Developers for these schemes.

6 R3 – R4 lists Maintenance as a potential source of funding. It is not clear what this is referring to.

7 R1 – Parking Strategy. It is not clear what the remit of this Strategy will be. It is assumed that this strategy will focus on the Town Centre, however this will need confirmation. Please see comments below in relation to 'Town Centre Strategy'.

8 R2 – Active Travel Network Investment Programme – Refers to 'town centres'. Redditch only has one town centre, clarification should be provided on which centres this specifically refers to.

9 R3 – R7 The Borough Council would wish to be involved in any suggested improvement schemes although further information on what the exact issues to be addressed are at these locations would be useful, or some rationale for why these areas have been picked over others. Are potential funding sources referring to funding to identify the necessary scheme or is this to also

implement the scheme? Where would funding come from to implement solutions? It is considered all junction names should also refer to road names for people who don't know what Ran Tan junction is for example.

10 R9 – Alexandra Hospital Bus Interchange Scheme – A potential funding source listed is 'Major Scheme (DfT)' however this scheme isn't listed as the beginning of the document under the list of major schemes. More information would be welcomed on when this scheme would go to the DfT for consideration and the likelihood of this scheme being implemented through DfT funding.

11 The Alexandra Hospital Bus Interchange Scheme is detailed within the Main Document, Officers feel that 'bus' should be removed from its title as the scheme description goes on to describe the scheme as a '*multi-modal interchange ... for taxi/ community transport/ bus users and operators and car pick-up and drip-off facilities*'. The Council also feel that more should be done through this scheme to increase links between the Alexandra Hospital and Worcester Hospital.

12 With regard to all of the schemes listed in the Packages it is not clear whether the purpose of the scheme is to provide the analysis and a solution, or whether implementation will also be part of the scheme.

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment**

13 Page 22 says Redditch has an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). It also states this AQMA is part of the Stoke Heath AQMA. This is not the case. Redditch has never has a designated AQMA within its boundaries and the Stoke Heath AQMA is a significant distance from the Redditch boundary.

14 Page 23 and 26 states "*The Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 seeks to allocate 46,400 dwellings between 2011 and 2030...*". This is incorrect; the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4 allocates 6,400 dwellings between 2011 to 2030. This incorrect figure has been added to the 7,000 dwellings Bromsgrove will deliver to state, "*In this context in addition to a potential increase in road-based travel through induced demand, the addition of 53,400 homes and over 83ha of employment in the North East Worcestershire Delivery Area in the period to 2031 will generate demand for new trips.*" This is incorrect; this figure should be 13,400.

### **Other comments**

15 There is a fundamental lack of regard for strategic growth issues related to future housing needs of the Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area. It is widely accepted that there is a need to find land to accommodate at least 37,900 dwellings. It is acknowledged that this growth will need to be accommodated within the Housing Market Area and further work is needed to identify suitable locations for this growth through the Strategic Growth Study. Redditch, as a Local Authority within the Housing Market Area, has agreed to participate within the Strategic Growth Study, therefore the Green Belt to the south west of the urban area may need to be considered for future development. A long standing issue with this area is the unknown infrastructure that would be needed to support any potential future development. Therefore it is essential for the various Transport Teams at WCC to be involved as early as possible with this work in order to provide advice and guidance on the various forms of transport and transport infrastructure that may or may not support development. Therefore it is felt there needs to be a much stronger link between LTP4 and strategic planning as the implications from new housing are an intrinsic highway matter which should help to inform the location of new development.

16 LTP4 acknowledges the need to improve Redditch Train Station however it is felt that further work may need to be done to enhance the rail service offer, in particular enhanced links from Redditch to Birmingham such as an express train at peak times. Currently there is no mention of rail service within LTP4. Whilst it is acknowledged that the scope for WCC to influence service provision is limited there is potential through the existing lines of communication that exist with the rail providers to ensure service is as effective and efficient as it can be.

17 The Eastern Gateway is mentioned as a game changer (on page 10 of the Main Document) however there is no detail or information related to the transport implications of this site. Other than being listed as a Game Changer there is no other reference to the site than this in any of the LTP documentation provided. The works needed to access the eastern gateway are in Redditch and many of the implications of the Eastern Gateway will fall within the Redditch boundary it is felt it should be included in LTP4.

18 Officers note that LTP4 identifies the Battens Drive/ Warwick Highway Junction for review and potential improvement scheme. It is felt that the junction at the other end of the Warwick Highway i.e. the Alders Drive Junction should also be considered for review as Officers have identified traffic build up at both ends of the Warwick Highway. This is important as both Winyates and Matchborough are planned to be regenerated over the lifetime of the BORLP4 and therefore traffic may increase as a result of this.

#### **LTP4 and Redditch Town Centre Strategy**

19 LTP4 lacks recognition of the importance of the actions set out in the Town Centre Strategy which will have fundamental implications on the local transport system. Overall there is a lack of detail regarding what is envisaged for the Town Centre. WCC Officers have previously stated that the Town Centre Strategy is included in LTP4 which it is not. Town Centre Schemes were listed within LTP3 however they have not been carried forward to LTP4. Information on why these schemes are not within the document is requested as there is still an aspiration for them to be implemented.

20 LTP4 does not mention the strategy for downgrading the Ring Road around the Town Centre. This is the primary road for access to and from the Town Centre and it is felt this important scheme should be detailed within the Document. This scheme was contained within Local Transport Plan 3 as 'Scheme R1' within the Redditch Urban Package. It is felt that this scheme should be carried forward to LTP4.

21 A Car Parking Study is detailed as an Action in Town Centre Strategy as it is within the Redditch Package of the LTP. However it is not clear from the detail in the LTP whether this is the same parking study or an additional one as the remit of the car parking study in the LTP has not been detailed. It is essential if this is a Town Centre only Car Parking Study then its aim and objectives link to what was envisaged for the car parking study detailed within the Town Centre Strategy.

22 As above regarding the Car Parking Study the Redevelopment of Train station area is an action in the Town Centre Strategy as it is within the LTP (detailed as the 'Redditch Station Enhancement Scheme'). Again the strategies must align to ensure what was envisaged through the Town Centre Strategy is mirrored in the LTP.

23 The Borough Council will continue to meet with WCC colleagues to try and ensure that the issues outlined above are addressed in later iterations of the Draft Local Transport Plan.



**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL****EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**Date 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SOLIHULL DRAFT LOCAL PLAN**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Chance
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

The purpose of this Report is to seek Council approval for the Officer response that was submitted to the consultation on the Solihull Draft Local Plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That members note the contents of the report
- 2.2 That Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to the Council that the Officer response to the Solihull Draft Local Plan (attached at Appendix A) be approved by Council as the formal consultation response.

**3. KEY ISSUES****Financial Implications**

- 3.1 No financial implications.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 The attached response discusses the Duty to Co-operate which is a legal requirement under Section 33A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Section 112 (2) of the Localism Act 2011.

**Service / Operational Implications****3.3 Summary of Response**

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) consulted on their Draft Local Plan between 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017. An Officer response (attached at Appendix A) was submitted on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in order to meet the consultation end date. The purpose of the Consultation on the Draft Local Plan was to seek views on the revised policies and proposed site allocations for housing and employment land, in addition to those in the existing Plan. The Council also published an updated evidence base.

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- 3.4 The Officer response to the consultation raised a number of concerns which Officers felt still needed to be addressed through the Plan. A full copy of the Officer response can be seen at Appendix A, however for convenience the main points will be detailed here.
- 3.5 It is not clear from the Draft Local Plan exactly what the Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) for Solihull is. The Solihull Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SSHMA) (November 2016) states at paragraph 7.21 that the OAHN for Solihull is either 13,094 or 14,278 dwellings. Neither the text nor the table in Policy P5 'Provision of Land for Housing' specifies which figure has been used. Furthermore, the Policy is confusing and misleading with regard to the overall housing requirement figure of 6,522 it is unclear how this number has been arrived at.
- 3.6 It is considered that the Draft Plan does not adequately respond to the shortfall of 37,900 dwellings arising from Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area (GBHMA) as indicated in the Birmingham City Development Plan. The Main Modifications to the Birmingham Plan (MM2 and MM3) indicate that the focus of the search for capacity to address this shortfall will be within the authority areas of The Black Country, Bromsgrove, Redditch, Solihull, North Warwickshire, Tamworth, Lichfield, Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire and parts of Stratford-on-Avon. The Draft Local Plan states that SMBC will test whether it could potentially accommodate 2000 dwellings (paragraph 211) that arise from the GBHMA need, but this is not a firm commitment to actually accommodate 2000 dwellings. There is no clear rationale or evidence to help determine or indicate what the relevant level of additional housing Solihull should be accommodating to address this shortfall. Furthermore, statistics released by the ONS in 2011 confirm that there are significant links between Solihull and Birmingham, including travel to work patterns. This factor amongst many others has not been used to support the 2000 dwelling figure as the correct allocation to address the shortfall of housing in the GBHMA within Solihull Borough.
- 3.7 It is encouraging that SMBC's reference the Duty to Co-operate with its neighbours to address the GBHMA housing shortfall in paragraph 211 of the Draft Local Plan. However due to the views expressed above Officers do have concerns at this stage as to whether Solihull will be able to satisfy the tests of the Duty to Cooperate as the plan progresses if these issues are not addressed. Officers from the RBC are more than willing to meet with SMBC representatives to try and ensure that the issues outlined above are addressed in later iterations of the Draft Local Plan review.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.8 It is in the wider interest of the Borough that Solihull contributes as effectively as possible to ensuring the housing need from Birmingham is met in the most suitable locations. If this is not achieved then it is possible that other less suitable



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areas such as Redditch are required to accommodate growth which is not in the most sustainable location.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 As stated above it is in the Boroughs best interest to ensure that Solihull work effectively with Birmingham and the other Authorities within the Housing Market Area to ensure that the needs from Birmingham are addressed in the most sustainable and suitable places. It will be a risk to Redditch Borough if Solihull does not do this. Work has not been completed to consider if or how Redditch could contribute towards meeting any need arising from Birmingham.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Redditch Borough Council response to Solihull Draft Local Plan (February 2017)

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Solihull Draft Local Plan (November 2016)

**7. KEY**

GBHMA - Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area  
OAHN - Objectively Assessed Housing Need  
SMBC - Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
SSHMA - Solihull Strategic Housing Market Assessment

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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**Redditch Borough Council****Grants Panel Meeting****Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017****Notes****Present**

**Councillors:** Roger Bennett (Chair), Greg Chance (Vice-Chair), Mike Chalk, Mark Shurmer and Yvonne Smith

**Officers:** Judith Willis and Helen Broughton

**Democratic Services Officer :** Jan Smyth

**Duration:** 6.35pm to 7.30pm

**1. Apologies for absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Roger Bennett. Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) chaired the meeting in Councillor Bennett's absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mike Chalk declared an interest in the 1st Matchborough Scout Group Application, under the strategic theme "Help me run a successful voluntary sector business" in that he was a member of the National Scout Association. For transparency, Councillor Chalk advised that he would take no part in discussions or scoring of the Application.

**3. Major Grants Applications**

The Panel considered nine resubmitted major grant applications that had been received from a variety of Voluntary Sector Organisations in line with the Council's five themed Strategic Purposes, for a number of unallocated sums of money that had been re-advertised in parallel with the Stronger Communities Grants applications, in relation to the following themes / budgets :

Help me to live my life independently - £16 k

Help me to live my life independently - £1 k

Help me run a successful Voluntary Sector Business - £5 k

Keep my place safe and looking good - £1 k

Each Application was scored in accordance with the Council's Grants Programme requirements with recommendations made to approve or reject each of the applications.

Further to the scoring process undertaken, the Panel agreed that recommendations be made to the Executive Committee in accordance with the results of the scoring table as attached.

The Panel were informed that the remaining budget of £1000 under the Theme “Keep my place safe and looking good” remained unallocated as there had been no new or re-submitted applications received under the theme. The Panel agreed that it be recommended to the Executive Committee that the unallocated budget be incorporated into the Stronger Communities Grants 2017/18 programme.

**Recommendations that :**

- 1) the Grants for the unallocated budgets for 2017/18, be awarded to successful Applicants in the amounts set out in Appendix 1 to these notes; and**
- 2) the unallocated sum of £1,000 relating to the Theme “Keep my place safe and looking good”, be included in the Stronger Communities Grants funding theme for 2017/18.**

**Redditch Borough Council Grants Panel**  
**Tuesday 14th March 2017**  
**6.30 p.m. Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Redditch**

**Relaunched Major Grants applications - List of applications**

No.	Group	Amount requested	Theme and relaunched amount	Project	Score	Recommended for approval Yes / No
1.	Redditch Play Council	£16,000	Help Me to be Live My Life Independently £16,000	The Redditch Play Council	43	Yes
2.	Signs of Hope Community Interest Company	£4,474	Help Me Run a Successful Voluntary Sector Business £5,000	Signs of Hope Core Costs	37	No
3.	Your Ideas Youth and Community Project	£13,000	Help Me to Live My Life Independently £16,000	Your Ideas	33	No
4.	REACH CIC	£10,000	Help Me Run a Successful Voluntary Sector Business £5,000	REACH CIC <b>(Comment: Application rejected as amount requested was more than the amount available for this relaunched theme)</b>	Not scored	No
5.	NewStarts	£5,000	Help Me Run a Successful Voluntary Sector Business £5,000	Skills for a New Start	61	Yes
6.	NewStarts	£8,550	Help Me to Live My Life Independently £1,000	Digital Inclusion <b>(Comment: Application rejected as amount requested was more than the amount available for this relaunched theme)</b>	Not scored	No
7.	The Ditch Youth Project	£1,000	Help Me To Live My Life Independently £1,000	The Ditch Youth Project	39	Yes
8.	Redditch Youth and Community Enterprise Limited	£932.61	Help Me to Live My Life Independently £1,000	Good Times Club	35	No
9.	1 <sup>st</sup> Matchborough Scout Group	£5,725.96	Help Me Run a Successful Voluntary Sector Business £5,000	1st Matchborough Scout Group Development Appeal <b>(Comment: Application rejected as amount requested was more than the amount available for this relaunched theme)</b>	Not scored	No



**Executive Committee**4<sup>th</sup> April 2017**Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Mark Shurmer
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non-Key

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 This report outlines the Memorandum of Understanding and the Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan, both of which have been developed, together with partners, by the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership and subject to a 10 week consultation ending on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.
- 1.2 The Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership was established in 2014 and is chaired by Kevin Dicks, CEO of Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils. The group comprises of a range of strategic partners including adult services & health, childrens services, quality leads from the Clinical Commissioning Groups, probation, the DWP, Homes & Communities Agency, local authority strategic housing officers and third sector representatives. The group aims to develop, lead and drive the Worcestershire strategies and strategic plans which relate to housing, housing related support needs and the growth and economic success agenda to ensure a joined up approach across the county.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Executive Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- 2.1 the Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan be endorsed;
- 2.2 the Worcestershire Memorandum of Understanding be agreed.

**3. KEY ISSUES****Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from supporting the plan or memorandum of understanding, as this work will be done within existing budgets.

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A more joined up approach should enable agencies to use their resources more efficiently in the future.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Since the Worcestershire Housing Strategy was published in 2011 the government have made major changes around health and housing, and the introduction of legislation ranging from the Care Act 2014 to the Housing and Planning Act 2016 have profoundly changed both the housing and health environments in which Local Authorities are now operating. The new Housing Partnership Plan seeks to capture this legislation in one place and identify the challenges that local authorities will face going forward as a result of the changes. It also lays the foundations for action-planning across agencies to respond to housing pressures at a local level.

**Service / Operational Implications**

In recent years there has been a concerted push by central government to join up health and care provision and to promote individuals wellbeing – examples include the Care Act 2014, the NHS 5 Year Forward Plan, and the Better Care Fund. Nationally the role housing can play in improving health and wellbeing is seen as important and housing services / providers are recognised as a partner in achieving improved health outcomes. The local MofU and Housing Partnership Plan seek to capture this role and translate it at a local level into a set of jointly agreed actions.

- 3.3 The vision for the Partnership Plan is **“the right home environment is essential to health, wealth and wellbeing throughout life”**. This vision is supported by three key priorities. We will;
- Create a partnership approach to enable people to live as independently as possible.
  - Drive the growth of the right type of homes
  - Improve homes and transform places
- 3.4 From these three priorities a number of high level actions have been outlined in the Housing Partnership Plan and project plans and/or proposals will subsequently be developed to deliver on these actions, where these are not already included in existing strategies and plans of local authorities or their partners.
- 3.5 The Partnership Plan outlines the following outcomes achieved through a good supply of the right housing;
- Helps people to live as independently as possible,
  - Helps people to live close to family and community support
  - Enables choice



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- Reduces unnecessary demands on services
  - Prevents homelessness
  - Improves peoples health and wellbeing, especially those with the poorest health outcomes
  - Supports educational attainment, access to employment and the development of a healthy workforce
- 3.6 The Partnership Plan gives some context to issues by outlining current trends in housing including around stock numbers and affordability. The plan highlights the overall housing shortage in Worcestershire that leads to many issues including homelessness and the poor condition of much of the housing stock that leads to ill health. The future challenges that the public sector face includes on going austerity measures including cuts to Local Authority budgets, welfare reform and a move away from grant funded social rented housing to low cost home ownership.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.7 The draft Partnership Plan has been developed in consultation with a number of statutory and non-statutory bodies, following an event held in June 2016 and focuses on supporting the needs of some of the most vulnerable individuals and groups across the county.
- 3.8 This Partnership Plan is was subject to a ten week consultation period ending on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and has been circulated to various organisations within each Local Authority area and available to members of the public through the Council's website. The consultation document can be found on [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JSKJWL6](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JSKJWL6)

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 Supporting the plan and memorandum of understanding presents no risks to the Council. The plan supports several of the council's strategic purposes, including finding somewhere to live, and living independently.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix One: Worcestershire Memorandum of Understanding and Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan 2016

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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7. **KEY**

N/A

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# Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan 2017

## About the Plan

The Housing Partnership Plan is the overarching document setting the strategic direction for housing across Worcestershire. It recognises that to maximise the health, wealth and wellbeing of the residents of Worcestershire and make the most effective use of existing resources, we need to work very closely with partner organisations across a range of sectors.

Creating the right home environment is not only essential for residents, but is vital to enable many other organisations to achieve their ambitions, policy objectives and duties, such as improved health and wellbeing, educational achievement of children and young people, employment, crime reduction and sustainable, resilient communities.

Under a range of legislation there is a requirement for closer cooperation of services that support the health and wellbeing of those who may be in need of care and support. As part of a drive for more integration, a pioneering national Health and Housing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between government departments was signed. This supported joint action on improving health through the home.

The Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership (Partnership) developed their own local Memorandum of Understanding (local MoU) which expanded the range of partners (see below for list of partners) who have a shared commitment to joint action. The **local MoU** sets out how the Partnership will work together to address housing need and achieve the wider benefits to partner organisations. The aims in the local MoU underpin this Partnership Plan.

## Members of the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership



## The Vision

**To create the *right* home environment for Worcestershire residents that is essential to their health, wealth and wellbeing, throughout life**

**DEFINITION:** the 'right home environment' is not the same for all. However, generally it should be:

- Affordable
- In good repair
- Well insulated and energy efficient
- Accessible, well planned and designed
- Not overcrowded
- In a safe neighbourhood with good infrastructure and access to amenities

The right home environment will:

- Meet local housing need and prevent homelessness
- Improve health and wellbeing and prevent ill-health
- Enable people to manage their health and care needs
- Enable people to remain in their own home for as long as they choose
- Delay and reduce the need for health care and social care interventions
- Enable timely discharge and reduce hospital re-admissions
- Create family stability
- Create the foundations required for all people to access education training and employment
- Create thriving communities with attractive localities which draws in investment to the local economy
- Reduce the dependency on the welfare state

## Current and Future Issues

The following are the headline issues affecting Worcestershire. Please see **Section 2 National and Local Picture** for more detailed information.

### **Welfare reform and changing legislation**

**(For more detailed information Welfare Reforms please see Section 3)**

We are in the midst of large-scale changes to the welfare system and the implementation of new legislation nationally. Many of these will have a significant impact on local people on low incomes, many of whom will be in work. We are yet to feel the full affect in Worcestershire of some these welfare reforms and legislation. The key areas are highlighted below.

- **People aged 35 and under** will only able to claim housing benefit at the single room rate in both social and private rented housing, making self contained accommodation

unaffordable. Worcestershire has 1395 people under 35 on the housing waiting list and 331 of which are homeless as of May 2016, making up 33% of the homeless households on the waiting list.

- Due to the **1% reduction in rent levels**, the implementation of **Universal Credit**, the **future funding of supported housing** and the de-regulation of their activities, Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) need to focus on the financial viability of their business plans, whether they will keep developing and whose housing needs they will be meeting.
- The **Homelessness Reduction Bill** will significantly reform England's homelessness legislation. It places a duty on local authorities to help all eligible people at risk of homelessness to secure accommodation, and at a much earlier stage (56 days before they are threatened with homelessness).

### **Inadequate supply of housing including affordable housing**

- Worcestershire housing associations are committed to current delivery and investment plans. Stock transfer housing associations delivered 1343 new homes over the past two years, and have plans to develop a further 638 in 2016/17, and a further 695 in 2017/18. They face a changing environment with a number of delivery challenges. These challenges to increasing housing stock will further be compounded by the Voluntary Right to Buy for housing association tenants which will be implemented in 2017.
- We need to ensure that there are a sufficient number of good quality homes for the population to address the housing shortage and support economic growth ambitions. **Worcestershire needs to develop between 2228 and 2408 homes a year** according to the South Worcestershire Development Plan, North Worcestershire Housing Needs Assessment and the Wyre Forest Objectively Assessed Housing Needs document.
- The Economic Strategy for Worcestershire 2010 – 2020 acknowledges that “failure to meet future housing need/demand, including affordable housing will have an impact on the county's economy” and will impact on the housing growth targets for the County.

### **Supporting vulnerable groups and preventing homelessness**

- There is **rising homelessness across Worcestershire**, with a 10% increase in people seeking homeless assistance from their local authority since 2010 and a 25% increase in homelessness acceptances.
- Local Authorities aim to prevent homelessness where possible and the numbers prevented from becoming homeless have been increasing over recent years. However, the results of the Worcestershire Homelessness Review 2016 show that **the overall increase in homelessness is between 15% and 55%** with the highest increases in Wyre Forest and Wychavon and the smallest increases in Bromsgrove and Malvern.

- However, the profile has changed and it has been reported that there is a **higher number of households with more complex needs** including mental health, physical health and other support needs. These households are typically harder to sustainably rehouse. This is compounded by the identified current gaps in services for some vulnerable groups both generally and in terms of geographical inconsistencies. It should also be highlighted that some services may be at risk due to uncertainty around future funding.
- Of huge significance is the **Government's new housing costs funding model for supported housing**. The Government is currently consulting on the design of the new model of funding for supported housing which will be critical in continuing to meet the housing and support needs of vulnerable people locally and nationally.

### **Poor condition and affordability in the private rented sector**

We have increasingly relied on the growing private rental sector to meet housing need, but it is a more insecure tenure, properties can be in poor condition and affordability is an issue. The following issues highlighted below make it a sector that needs to have the focus of our attention.

- The ending of private rented tenancies is consistently one of the top three reasons for homelessness in the County, which is comparative to the national picture.
- At 29%, national figures show that the private rented sector had the highest proportion that do not meet the standard for a decent home (ie, is in a reasonable state of repair, has reasonably modern facilities and a reasonable degree of thermal comfort) while the social rented sector had the lowest (14%)<sup>1</sup>
- Some 9% of private rented dwellings had some type of damp problem, compared with 5% of social rented dwellings and, 3% of owner occupied dwellings.
- It is the least affordable tenure (housing costs) with 35% of the Worcestershire population unable to afford the rent for one bedroom accommodation.

### **Housing and Health**

- It should be highlighted that one in five homes presents a risk to health, the majority of these are in the private sector with 15% homes nationally in poor condition with a cost to the NHS of £1.4bn pa. The cost to society is estimated to be £18.6bn including costs to education and employment<sup>2</sup>.
- Fuel poverty (where a low income household is struggling to pay heating costs - this may be due to an inefficient heating system and/or poor insulation) is significantly worse in Worcestershire than the England average affecting around 11.2% of households compared with 10.4% of households in England as a whole.

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<sup>1</sup> English Housing Survey Headline Report 2014-15

<sup>2</sup> BRE, Briefing Note: The cost of poor housing to the NHS

- Excess winter deaths (all ages) 2010-2013 are again higher in the County. There are 17.4 deaths for England compared to 18.6 for Worcestershire.<sup>3</sup>

## Priorities

These jointly identified priorities will be delivered to provide a cost effective solution which will focus on system change to meet customer need in the best way.

- Drive the growth of the *right type of homes (to promote opportunity)*
- Improve homes and, "transform places"
- Create a partnership approach to enable people to live as independently as possible (prevention/early intervention)

## Actions – what we are going to do

The following high level actions set out how we will deliver on the priorities identified above. Project plans and/or proposals will be developed by the Partnership to deliver on the actions below, adding value and targeting gaps, whilst recognising that customer needs will continue to be addressed within a range of other plans and strategies.

- **Maximise the delivery of good quality housing** *of the right type and tenure* by co-ordinating the activities of housing developers, providers and support agencies to meet existing and future housing need in a sustainable way.
  - Build new homes.
  - Investigate alternative models of affordable housing delivery to meet the housing and support needs of specific groups and sectors of the housing market.
  - Attract funding opportunities to support delivery of identified housing development priorities.
- **Improve existing homes** to tackle the personal, social, economic, mental and physical health, and community impacts of poor quality and inaccessible housing (and cold homes) across the private sector.
- **Improve collaboration, coordination and integration of healthcare and housing** in the planning, commissioning and delivery of homes and also services that focus on early intervention.

<sup>3</sup> Public Health Outcomes Framework

- **Develop an integrated approach to enable people with multiple and complex needs** to receive the services they need (not limited by existing practice or legislation) to change and support them to achieve resilience, health and well being and independence within their communities in Worcestershire.
- **Create a simpler and more accessible pathway for *all* matters relating to disability and vulnerability**, empowering people to make the right choices to enable them to live independently.
- **Promote the strategic and operational impact of the housing sector** and ensure it influences key business planning processes in Worcestershire.

Please see **Section 5** for information on what are we doing now and **Section 7** on current resources.

### From Strategy to Action

The Plan is a high level document setting out how we will work together to meet the housing and housing related support needs of households in Worcestershire. This new approach is conditional to the way we work together and the development of a truly integrated approach. Housing has to be recognised as a fundamental component of creating a whole systems approach. The high level strategic actions contained in this plan will be owned and led by the Partnership and identified organisations to create detailed action plans setting out how we will achieve the high level actions and the desired outcomes. The appropriate links will be inserted into this document taking you to each of the project plans relating to the high level actions. The Plan and delivery of the associated actions will be monitored through the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership and through other relevant strategic groups as required.



## SECTION 1 – LOCAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### WORCESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC HOUSING PARTNERSHIP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

#### BACKGROUND

The right home environment is essential for delivering outcomes which support other strategic objectives, such as improved health and wellbeing, educational attainment, economic prosperity due to increased employment, crime reduction and sustainable communities.

The aims of the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership (WSHP) is to ensure that a wide range of high quality housing and related services are available across all sectors of the house market, which is secure, affordable, of a high standard and meets varying and changing needs and aspirations.

Poor and unsuitable housing circumstances affect our physical health and mental health. Providing the right home environment protects health and wellbeing, reduces hospital admissions, aids rapid recovery from periods of ill health and enables people to live at home longer. Under the Care Act 2012 there is a requirement for closer cooperation of services that support the health and wellbeing of those who may be in need of care and support.

Housing also plays a fundamental role in contributing to the attractiveness of localities which draw in investment by business and supports the local economy. The accessibility of housing, including affordable housing, enables effective labour markets increasing and supports mobility to access employment.

Housing has an important role to play across a wide range of services and this Memorandum of Understanding sets out our shared commitment to joint action and the principles of joint working for better outcomes in a cost effective way.

#### OUR AIMS

Working together we will seek to address housing need and achieve the wider benefits to partner organisations.

- Effective partnership working to deliver housing outcomes which will in turn support other strategic objectives, such as improved health and wellbeing, educational achievement of children, employment, crime reduction and sustainable communities
- Improved collaboration, coordination and integration of healthcare and housing in the planning, commissioning and delivery of homes and services
- Promotion of the housing sector contribution towards addressing the wider determinants of health, social exclusion and re-offending.
- Maximising the delivery of housing by co-ordinating the activities of housing developers, providers and support agencies which will support economic growth

- Addressing the housing needs of specific groups and sectors of the housing market
- The provision of good quality housing to improve health and wellbeing.
- Integrated health, care and support and housing solutions to make best use of budgets across the NHS, local authorities and partners to achieve outcomes for less; for example, drawing on the Better Care Fund to support service transformation.
- A co-ordinated response to long term changes in the population
- Better use of existing housing stock
- Co-ordinated support for vulnerable people
- Increasing availability of affordable homes

#### **PARTNERSHIP APPROACH**

- To have the skills, knowledge, expertise and statutory tools necessary to make successful and complimentary interventions in the housing market.
- A shared vision and culture of cooperation and coordination working closely with public, voluntary and private sector providers to improve services
- A whole systems and outcomes-based approach to meeting the needs
- To make decisions based on a robust understanding of the needs of individuals, their carers and families now and in the future
- Solutions to meet local needs based on evidence of 'what works'.
- To have an innovative approach
- Sharing information and good practice.

#### **WHAT WE WILL DO TO ACHIEVE THESE AIMS**

- To have a shared plan setting out the priorities for housing and how they will be delivered.
- Initiate joint training opportunities.
- Exploring opportunities for pooled funding that can bring added value to partners involved.
- Develop, lead and drive the Worcestershire strategies and strategic plans which relate to housing, housing related support needs and the growth and economic success agenda to ensure a joined up approach across the county
- To work together for the mutual benefit of Worcestershire by considering and addressing strategic issues relevant to the provision of housing and related support services.

- To act as a key consultative group for the Chief Executives Panel, the Local Authority Leadership/Management Teams, the Health & Well-being Board, or any successor bodies and the Local Enterprise Partnership. .
- To enable feedback to be given from other relevant county-wide groups.
- To ensure adequate needs information is made available in relation to all client groups
- To ensure that the benefits of good quality housing are recognised by all other bodies / and that all related initiatives are co-ordinated by the group
- To develop ideas for joint working and to engage across the partnership to achieve joint objectives in a cost effective and efficient way.
- To explore new housing and related support initiatives.
- To raise awareness of the housing and support needs within Worcestershire to help support partnership working.
- To establish joint protocols where relevant.
- Develop the workforce across sectors so that they are confident and skilled in understanding the relationship between where people live and are able to identify suitable solutions to improve outcomes
- Ensure that all stakeholders understand the needs of their customers and communities; their knowledge and insight can enable housing partners to identify and target those who are most in need.

#### **ORGANISATIONS THAT ENABLE THE RIGHT HOME ENVIRONMENT**

At a local level the right home environment is enabled by a range of stakeholders (not exhaustive):

- Local housing and planning authorities' private sector, prevent homelessness, Home Improvement Agency.
- Housing providers' knowledge of their tenants and communities, and expertise in engagement, informs their plans to develop new homes and manage their existing homes to best meet needs.
- Voluntary and community sector offers a wide range of services, from rent deposit schemes for homeless people to information and advice to housing support services.
- Local Health and Wellbeing Boards have a duty to understand the health and wellbeing of their communities, the wider factors that impact on this and local assets that can help to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. The inclusion of housing and housing circumstances, e.g. homelessness in Joint Strategic Needs Assessments, should inform the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and local commissioning;

- Housing, care and support providers provide specialist housing and a wide range of services to enable people to re-establish their lives after a crisis, e.g. homelessness, or time in hospital, and to remain in their own home as their health and care needs change. Home improvement agencies and handy person services deliver adaptations and a wide range of other home improvements to enable people to remain safe and warm in their own home;

#### **OVERSIGHT AND DELIVERY OF THIS AGREEMENT**

##### **Membership**

This comprises of a range of strategic partners to include; Adult Services & Health, Children's Services, Quality Leads from the Clinical Commissioning Groups, CRC, Homes & Communities Agency, 2 reps from Registered Social Landlords, Local Authorities Strategic Housing Officers, Community Safety Partnership Lead, Chair of the Worcestershire Delivery Group, Third Sector representative, Department of Works and Pensions,

- WSHP will engage with service users via relevant Service User Groups as required.
- WSHP will engage with Provider representatives via the Provider Forum as required
- Contract / Commissioning Leads and other guests to be invited for relevant Agenda items as required.

##### **Frequency and Venue of Meetings:**

Meetings shall be held bi-monthly, usually in Bromsgrove offices.

##### **Confidentiality**

WSHP members will respect the need for confidentiality, when discussing matters that affect the group. Agreement about the release of information that may be sensitive, for broader audiences will be determined by the group.

##### **Chairmanship, Agenda setting and Minute Taking**

- The positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary will be determined on an annual basis, effective from April each year.
- The Secretary shall be responsible for producing and circulating:
  - the minutes of the WSHP meeting within 7 days of taking place
  - An update of the Forward Plan to be circulated along with the minutes
  - An agenda 7 days before the date of the next WSHP meeting

##### **Voting**

There will be no formal voting arrangements for the WSHP. The intention of the Group is to work on a consensual basis and to recognise the autonomy of the individual member organisations.

##### **Reporting arrangements**

The Secretary will ensure that agendas and associated paperwork are forwarded to the Housing Lead of the Worcestershire Chief Executives Panel

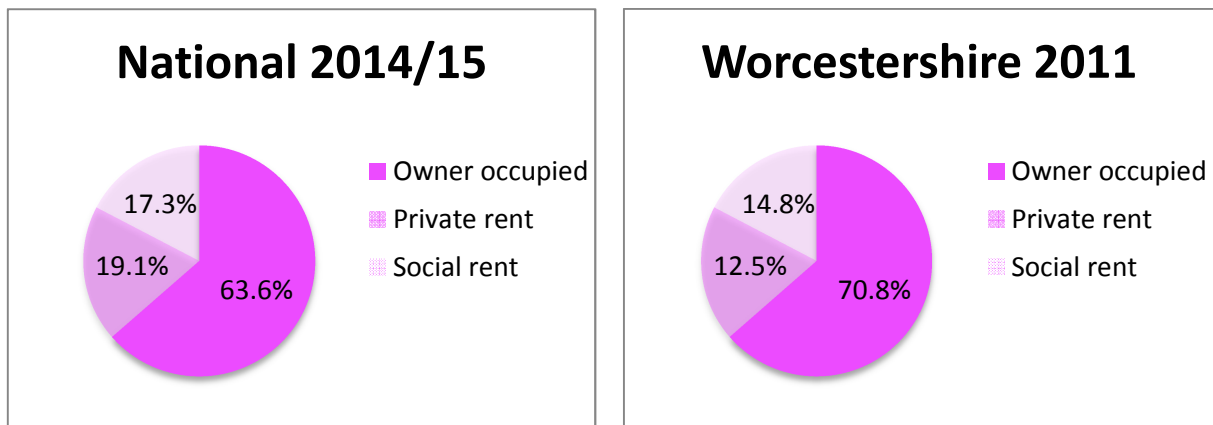
## SECTION 2 - NATIONAL AND LOCAL PICTURE

### THE POPULATION

There is a population of 575,400 in Worcestershire and this figure is expected to increase by a further 21,579 over the next 10 years with the biggest increase in the older population. The County has a higher proportion of older people than nationally which presents some on-going challenges.

### HOUSING STOCK AND AFFORDABILITY

The charts below illustrate the breakdown of property by tenure nationally and the comparison in Worcestershire. Worcestershire has a significant proportion of households within the private sector, which has the highest number of unhealthy homes.



As can be seen below, the quality and affordability of housing varies between the different tenures.

Social/Affordable Rent	Private Rent	Owner Occupation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14.8% homes in Worcestershire</li> <li>• Shrinking tenure &amp; will continue</li> <li>• Healthiest homes</li> <li>• Highest % accessible homes</li> <li>• Most overcrowded &amp; least under-occupied</li> <li>• Second most affordable tenure (housing costs)</li> <li>• Higher proportion of older households</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12.5% of homes in Worcestershire</li> <li>• Growing tenure &amp; expected to continue</li> <li>• Highest prevalence of unhealthy homes</li> <li>• Second most accessible homes</li> <li>• Second most overcrowded &amp; least under-occupied</li> <li>• Least affordable tenure (housing costs)</li> <li>• Higher proportion of working age and family households</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70.8% homes in Worcestershire</li> <li>• Shrinking tenure: future unknown?</li> <li>• Highest number of unhealthy homes</li> <li>• Least accessible homes</li> <li>• Least overcrowded &amp; most under-occupied</li> <li>• Most affordable tenure – if you are able to put down a deposit or are if you are already a home owner</li> <li>• Highest number of older households</li> </ul>

## Owner Occupation

The Government's drive is towards affordable home ownership, using the rented sector as a short term solution. However, home ownership is not an option for all. In Q4 2014, the mean house price in the county had increased by 7.6% on the previous quarter to £226,259.<sup>4</sup> The average household income in Worcestershire is £37,000 (2013) which makes average house prices more than six times the average income.

Although house prices had increased across Worcestershire there were some district variations. For example;

- The greatest increase in house prices was in Wychavon, which saw a rise of 12.0%.
- There was a decrease in house prices in Malvern Hills of -1.6%.

There were also variations across the districts in terms of property sales. The number of property sales in Q4 2014 was 3.4% higher than in Q4 2013. However Malvern Hills and Wyre Forest saw a decrease in sales of -5.6% and -7.0% respectively whilst Worcester saw the greatest increase in sales of 13.8%<sup>5</sup>.

## Private Rental Sector

We have increasingly relied on the growing private rental sector as the social sector continues to decline, but affordability is an issue and properties can be in poor condition. The ending of private rented tenancies is consistently one of the top three reasons for homelessness in the County, which is comparative to the national picture. These issues make it a sector that needs to have the focus of our attention.

The average rents per month nationally are shown below.

Private Rents monthly	Room	Studio	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed
Worcestershire	£355	£346	£452	£578	£699	£1,064
Annual Income needed <sup>6</sup>	£17,040	£16,608	£21,696	£27,744	£33,352	£51,072
England	£362	£555	£606	£677	£771	£1,348

Source – Private Rental Market Statistics 2013/14

The annual income for Worcestershire shown below highlights how at least 12% of the population would not be able to afford to rent a room at average rent in the private rental sector and, 35% of the population could not afford to rent one bedroom accommodation.

<sup>4</sup> Source: Land Registry, 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Source: LandRegistry,2015

<sup>6</sup> The annual income required to be able to afford to access this sector has been calculated so that the rent makes up no more than 25% of the annual income including benefits.

Annual Income - Worcestershire	Proportion of Population
Less than £10,000	12%
Between £10,000 and £20,000	23%
Between £20,000 and £30,000	17%
Between £30,000 and £50,000	24%
Over £50,000	24%

Source – Worcestershire Atlas (2013)

## Social Sector

Social housing is affordable housing provided by either housing associations e.g. Fortis Living and Wyre Forest Community Housing or local authorities who have retained their own housing stock – within Worcestershire this is only Redditch Borough Council. A key function of social housing is to provide accommodation that is affordable to people on low incomes.

Social Rents (housing association) monthly	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed
Worcestershire	£299	£331	£356	£393
Annual Income Needed <sup>1</sup>	£14,352	£15,888	£17,088	£18,864
England	£328	£375	£419	£504

Source – RSR Guide to Local Rents 2011 for Worcestershire and Core Data 2014/15 for England

As well as open market housing being unaffordable to many, we are finding it increasingly difficult to ensure that social housing for rent remains affordable to those on low incomes. Government wants to increase the rate of new house building and housing associations have an important role in contributing to this. Funding the delivery of more affordable homes for rent and homeownership, whilst maintaining affordable rent levels, is a continuing challenge. As can be seen in the table below, affordable rents are becoming increasingly unaffordable to those working and non working households on lower incomes.

Affordable Rents monthly	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed
Worcestershire	£364	£455	£540	£733
Annual Income Needed <sup>1</sup>	£17,472	£21,840	£25,920	£35,184
England	£508	£519	£567	£709

Source – RSR Guide to Local Rents 2011 for Worcestershire and Core Data 2014/15 for England

## Housing Shortage

In order to address the housing shortage within Worcestershire and ensure there are a sufficient number of good quality homes for the population, Worcestershire needs to develop between 2228 and 2408 homes a year according to the South Worcestershire Development Plan, North Worcestershire Housing Needs Assessment and the Wyre Forest Objectively Assessed Housing Needs document.

This mismatch in supply and demand contributes to:-

- Affordability and suitability issues nationally and locally.
- Migration from more expensive areas.
- Increasing number of working households across Worcestershire needing Housing Benefit. The number of claimants has risen from 30,837 in April 2009 to 34,139 in April 2016.
- Rising homelessness across Worcestershire, experienced by all households with a 10% increase in people seeking homeless assistance from their local authority since 2010 and a 25% increase in homelessness acceptances.
- Lack of specialist independent living e.g. people with learning and other disabilities that are placed out of county or remain living with families.

## HOMELESSNESS IN WORCESTERSHIRE

- Results from the Worcestershire Homelessness Review 2016 confirmed that levels of homelessness applications have increased over the last 5 years. However, the top three reasons for homelessness remain unchanged:-
  - Family and friends being unable to accommodate
  - End of assured short hold tenancies
  - Breakdown of relationships, both violent and non violent
- The proportion of people becoming homeless due to private rented tenancies ending has increased over the past 5 years and if trends continue it will become the biggest cause for homelessness. Previously it has been breakdown of relationships with family and friends.
- Local Authorities aim to prevent homelessness where possible and the numbers prevented from becoming homeless have been increasing over recent years. However, the profile has changed and it has been reported that there is a higher number of households with more complex needs including mental health, physical health and other support needs. These households are typically harder to sustainably rehouse.



- The Review also highlighted how choice is being limited as the private rental sector is becoming more risk averse towards clients on low income or on housing benefit. This is compounded by the data which shows that housing associations are letting a smaller proportion of their properties to households in receipt of Housing Benefit (this warrants further research), a drop of 5% of the proportion of lettings to households in receipt of Housing Benefit since 2010 throughout Worcestershire. This may force households to move or live in poor, unsuitable, unstable homes.

## HOUSING AND HEALTH

In addition to the complexities above, it should be highlighted that one in five homes presents a risk to health, the majority of these are in the private sector with 15% homes nationally in poor condition with a cost to the NHS of £1.4bn pa. The cost to society is estimated to be £18.6bn including costs to education and employment<sup>7</sup>.

A household is in fuel poverty and lack thermal comfort if they are on a low income and struggle to pay heating costs e.g. this may be due to an inefficient heating system and/or poor insulation. This consequently contributes to health and social inequalities. It has a direct effect on heart attack, stroke, respiratory disease, flu, falls and injuries and hypothermia<sup>8</sup>

- Fuel poverty is significantly worse in Worcestershire than the England average affecting around 11.2% of households compared with 10.4% of households in England as a whole.
- Excess winter deaths (all ages) 2010-2013 are again higher in the County. There are 17.4 deaths for England compared to 18.6 for Worcestershire.<sup>9</sup>

There is strong evidence for the positive social impact of better housing (Friedman 2010); for example, the Marmot Review (2010) cites housing as one of the key social determinants of health inequalities alongside education, employment and standard of living.

The highest risks to health in housing are attached to cold, damp and mouldy conditions; cold conditions are statistically associated with early winter deaths, being four times more likely in the coldest homes (Marmot, 2011).

Tackling fuel poverty and cold and damp homes is important for improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities. Local housing authorities and Health and Well-being Boards should provide partnerships which can work together to tackle these issues effectively, in line with the recommendations of the Worcestershire Fuel Poverty Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2016.

<sup>7</sup> BRE, Briefing Note: The cost of poor housing to the NHS

<sup>8</sup> JSNA: Fuel Poverty 2016

<sup>9</sup> Public Health Outcomes Framework

## DISABILITY ACCESS

Government statistics show that there are currently more than 11 million disabled people in Great Britain. Our ageing society means that there will be an increase in the number of older disabled people as time goes on, rising from 2.3 million in 2002 to 4.6 million in 2041.

The vast majority of existing housing has poor access standards: government research shows that 91.5% of homes are not even fully 'visitable' by disabled people (including wheelchair users) as they don't have four very basic features that would allow adequate access. These four basic features are level access, flush threshold, toilet at entrance level and sufficiently wide doors and circulation space.

The legacy of building properties with poor accessibility means that many people are faced with the need to adapt their home if they are disabled or become disabled. The demand for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) is increasing with more than 1 in 10 adults saying that they are either unable, or find it difficult, to move, walk or stand independently and a further 1.25 million people in England are living with significant sight loss. As the population ages the number of people with disabilities is rising. However, only 5% of the housing stock is fully accessible and few accessible homes are being built. This means that potentially demand is more than ten times greater than the funding available.

Analysis shows that on average DFG's help about 40,000 people a year with adaptations to their homes on a national basis. Within Worcestershire 408 DFG's were completed during the financial year 2015/16. This equates to a total spend on completed adaptations of just over £2 million. The value of cases diverted to another solution or decided not to proceed was £2,291,312. The majority of grants were paid to 60+ households and, with Worcestershire's growing number of ageing people this figure is predicted to increase.

Age	Number of grants
60+	257
20-60	116
Children and young people	35
Total	408

## EXTRA CARE HOUSING

The Extra Care Commissioning Strategy 2012-26 has identified a need for 4703 units of extra care accommodation of which 3450 are for sale and 1253 for rent. To date 709 units for sale and 688 units for rent are either in use or under development. There remains a gap of 2676 units. Extra Care provides a cost effective way of maintaining an individual's independence for longer and reducing isolation.

Supported living for people with learning and other disabilities is a key priority, enabling people to live independently close to families and social circle. Housing needs to be varied

and include cluster flats, shared houses and specialist ground floor accommodation for people with complex physical needs.

The Transforming Care Agenda expects local authorities to work to move people currently locked in step down accommodation into supported living.

## SECTION 3 - WELFARE REFORMS

We are in the midst of large-scale changes to the welfare system nationally, and significant reductions in welfare related spending, which is having an impact on local people on low incomes – many of whom will be in work. For example:

- **Local Housing Allowance** rates - on which housing benefit is calculated - are based on the lowest 30% of rent levels across Worcestershire and will be frozen for 4 years.
- The **spare room subsidy** was introduced in April 2013. Working age social housing tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit with one spare room had their housing benefit cut by 14% and those with two or more spare bedrooms have seen a reduction by 25%.
- An **overall benefit cap** was also introduced in July 2013, and from November 2016 this will be reduced to £20,000 outside of London in benefit nationally (£13,400 for single adults with no children). This puts particular pressure on larger families who have much higher housing and living costs. The two child limit on benefit payments will also have a huge impact on larger families.
- **People aged 35 and under** will only be able to claim housing benefit at the single room rate in both social and private rented housing.
- The introduction of **universal credit**, which is currently being rolled out across the country, will see all working age benefits, (excluding Disability Living Allowance and Carer's Allowance) made in one single monthly payment, paid directly to the tenant. Tenants will be responsible for paying their rent to their landlord themselves, with exceptions made for some vulnerable tenants on a case by case basis.

### HOUSING & PLANNING ACT 2016

Further reforms within the Housing & Planning Act 2016 such as the **-1% rent reduction** per year to social housing rents over the next four years, that housing associations are required to make, will have a positive short term affect on low income tenants. However, due to the implementation of Universal Credit and the de-regulation of their activities, housing associations need to focus on the financial viability of their business plans, whether they will keep developing and whose housing needs they will be meeting.

There has been a clear message from housing associations that single person's accommodation will continue to be delivered. However, due to Welfare Reform changes, the level of benefits for people under 35 will make self contained accommodation unaffordable for people under 35 without employment or on a low income. Housing associations will continue to support needs of the community but they will need to look at the impact of these changes as there will be risks and challenges to providing accommodation to under 35s. Worcestershire has 1395 under 35 on the housing waiting list and 331 of which are homeless as of May 2016, making up 33% of the homeless households on the waiting list.

All of the above issues will create a significant gap in provision for affordable housing in general. It is therefore essential that a new and alternative model of delivery to meet housing and support needs is created.

## SECTION 4 - NATIONAL POLICY DIRECTION

The national direction is being driven by a range of Government strategy, legislation and new requirements. The most significant to this Plan are identified below.



Care Act  
2014

The **Care Act 2014** introduced a general duty on local authorities to promote an individual's well being. Under the Act, there is an expectation that well being should be supported in a more 'joined up' way, through greater integration of health and care provision.

The suitability of living accommodation is clearly listed as part of the definition of well being.



Welfare Reform Act  
2012

The **Act** introduced major changes to the social welfare system. It has a huge impact on tenants who claim benefits, their landlords, local housing markets and a range of agencies including strategic housing authorities and those providing money and benefits advice.

Please see the Worcestershire Homelessness Review 2016 for detailed information on the impacts of these changes for Worcestershire.



Housing and Planning Act 2016

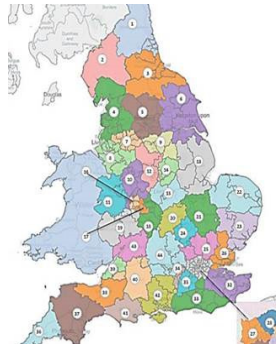
The **Housing and Planning Act 2016** has now received Royal Assent. It provides the necessary legislation for Government to implement the sale of higher value local authority homes, starter homes, pay to stay and a number of other measures, mainly intended to promote homeownership and boost levels of housebuilding in England.



On 28th October 2016 the **Homelessness Reduction Bill** was voted through to the next stage in Parliament, winning unanimous support from MP's across political parties. The private members bill is now one step closer to becoming law, likely by Spring 2017 with enactment from September 2017. It places a duty on Councils to prevent homelessness at a much earlier stage and expands the categories of people eligible for support.




The way we work together and the lack of suitable housing can influence, and impact on health. The **NHS 5 Year Forward View published in October 2014** noted that a key condition for transformation across local health economies is about providing care in people's own homes, with a focus on prevention, promoting independence and support to stay well.



The **Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP)** are a key element on the NHS Shared Planning Guidance and the local implementation of the **Five Year Forward View**. It outlines a new approach to help ensure that health and care services are built around the needs of local populations


The STP will cover better integration with local authority services, including, but not limited to, prevention and social care, reflecting local agreed health and wellbeing strategies.



The Transforming Care National Service Model (2015) provides guidance to Councils and partners on supporting people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including people with a mental health condition.


## LOCAL DIRECTION

Delivering on the national agenda, the key Worcestershire wide local documents are set out below:-



As part of a drive for more integration, a pioneering **Health and Housing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** has been signed up to between government departments. It includes agencies such NHS England, Public Health England and the Homes and Communities Agency.

A Worcestershire MoU also sets out this shared commitment, but to an extended range of agencies.



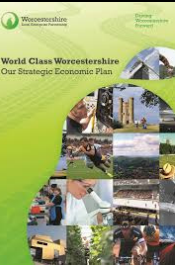
Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board have signed up to the Charter for Homeless Health which works towards tackling health inequality among people who are homeless. In summary, the Charter will:

- Provide leadership to address homelessness health
- Work with homelessness services and people to ensure the needs of homeless are included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Provide local health services meet the needs of people who are homeless



**BETTER CARE  
FUND PLAN  
2016/17**

Since 2014, all local areas are required to pool elements of health and social care funding into a **Better Care Fund Plan** which includes funding for disabled facilities grants. This is to enable local areas to work more closely based on a plan agreed between the NHS and local authorities'. Its aim is to move "away from a 'sickness service', and towards one that enables people to live independent and healthy lives in the community for as long as possible by joining up services around the person and their individual needs".



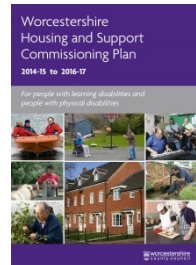
**Worcestershire Strategic Economic Plan** sets out the strategic ambitions to consolidate business growth and create jobs in Worcestershire over the next 20 years.

"To enable business growth will require good quality, reasonably priced housing to enable a thriving sustainable economy."

**Worcestershire Extra Care Housing Strategy  
2012-2026**



Worcestershire's Extra Care Strategy sets out the strategic direction for the development of a range of extra care housing across Worcestershire



Worcestershire County Council's Housing and Support Commissioning Plan sets out the range of housing required in Worcestershire for people with learning and other disabilities.

The HCA/CIH Accelerating Prosperity through Housing in the West Midland (due mid Jan 2017)

Warmer Worcestershire – Fuel Poverty Plan for Worcestershire (available soon)



## SECTION 5 - WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW

Below are some highlighted areas of current work being undertaken and challenges/plans for the future.

- **JOINT WORKING AND WORCESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC HOUSING PARTNERSHIP:** Our joint working relationships are being continually developed and improved to deliver services more effectively and efficiently. There are some excellent examples of effective partnership working in the County. For example, the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership (WSHP) brings together a wide range of organisations at a strategic level and will oversee the work on this Plan.

**Challenge:** To continue to work in an integrated way across health, social care, housing and other agencies.

- **JOINT WORKING AROUND YOUNG PEOPLE AND HOMELESSNESS:**

1. **Worcestershire Young Persons Pathway Workers.** District councils and Children's Services jointly commission a housing support model, known as the Positive Pathway, to prevent young people from becoming homeless.

Young Persons Pathway Workers, based in homeless teams across the County, provide an integrated advice, mediation, referral and assessment service in conjunction with Children's Services. The model also includes supported accommodation for 16 to 17 year olds, young families' and 18-23 year olds and a floating support service.

2. **Nightstop schemes** across the county work closely with the Young Person's Pathway Workers, Children's Services and the local housing authorities in crisis intervention: it provides homeless 16-25 year olds with emergency accommodation until more suitable accommodation can be found and also in prevention: It provides a mediation service for young people and their parent/carer to improve their relationship thus preventing homelessness.

3. **Worcestershire Joint Protocol for Young Homeless People (16 and 17 year olds and Care Leavers):** District councils and Children's Services have an extensive history of working together on a young persons protocol to prevent homelessness and secure positive outcomes for young people. The Protocol enables all partners to understand their roles and responsibilities and to engage more effectively in joint working to safeguard young people.

It ensures that young homeless people do not fall through the net of statutory agencies and do not become vulnerable to street homelessness or exploitation.

**Challenge:** To continue to align existing statutory services to provide better outcomes for young people

- **CARE AND REPAIR AGENCY:** Worcestershire has a jointly commissioned Care & Repair service to provide a range of assistance to enable independence for older and vulnerable people including benefit and energy advice, a handy man service, minor adaptations and disabled facilities grants. This type of service is essential to meeting the needs of the changing population and provides a range of assistance for older and vulnerable people across the different health, housing and social sectors focused on helping them to remain living independently in their own home.

**Challenge:** We are working to deliver this service in a more timely way and via a much simpler process to access the different services available.

- **HOMELESS SERVICES:** The Homeless Services across the county have been providing early intervention, identifying the root causes and working to prevent as many households as possible from becoming homeless for a number of years. This has also been enhanced with a new service preventing single people from spending more than a single night out on the street and ensuring that they do not become the entrenched rough sleepers of the future. Homelessness is not a situation anyone would wish to find themselves in, but for the majority of families the system is straightforward and either prevents them from becoming homeless or seamlessly takes them through the homeless system.

**Challenge:** The countywide Homelessness Review 2016 highlighted that the homeless service does not adequately meet the needs of families and single people with complex needs. The number of single people approaching as homeless with an identified vulnerability has now exceeded the number of families. A different and more integrated approach needs to be developed to address the needs of these households. We need to work together better to end homelessness and the on-going impact this has on people's lives. There is also concern around the ability to re-house single people who have housing related debt, particularly as a result of the benefit cap and shared accommodation rate.

- **MODELS OF HOUSING WITH SUPPORT:** The Worcestershire local authorities have always worked with partners who commission housing support services or, they have directly commissioned the services themselves.

**Challenge:** With no revenue funding following the demise of Supporting People, reduced levels of supported accommodation and, higher access thresholds for social care support provision this creates the "perfect storm" along with the changes imposed by Welfare Reform. This will be further impacted by the changes to the benefit system. From 2019/20 core rents and eligible service charges for supported housing will continue to be funded in the same way, but both new and existing tenants will be subject to the Local Housing Allowance cap. Supported housing will be exempt from the shared accommodation rate for single people under 35. However local authorities will be given

control of a 'top up' fund to cover the additional costs associated with providing supported housing, over and above Local Housing Allowance,

There is currently limited ability to deliver new models of housing with support or even sustain existing support for a need that will continue to exist. Therefore a cohesive and co-ordinated approach is required to maximise funding opportunities and continue to develop a range of housing with support across the County.

- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** We work with our partners including housing developers to deliver new affordable housing for rent and homeownership.

**Challenge:** It is becoming more difficult to deliver affordable rented housing in the traditional way e.g. local authority enabling. At the end of 2015/16, 454 new affordable homes had been delivered across Worcestershire. The future supply of affordable homes for rent will be impacted by the Government emphasis for affordable homeownership which is the tenure prioritised to receive Homes & Communities Agency funding. New housing for homeownership and rent needs to be more affordable, maximising Worcestershire's share of national affordable housing funding.

- **PRIVATE RENTED HOUSING:** All the Worcestershire local housing authorities are using the private rented sector to house homeless households and many have set up their own in-house local lettings agencies to provide private rented accommodation. They also support deposit bond schemes by working with the voluntary sector and work with private landlords and letting agencies.

**Challenge:** Direct to landlord payments were used as an incentives to the landlords providing their properties to the local authority. The ability to use these as an incentive will no longer be possible due to Universal Credit being paid direct to tenants and therefore the ability to meet housing need using private rented sector accommodation is going to be far more difficult.

- **CONNECTING FAMILIES:** Connecting Families is a county wide approach to build relationships to influence systems to change from the service users' point of view. Within the Connecting Families approach is the Connecting Families Family Support Team, who provides targeted family support following the same of approach of listening to the customer's needs and providing a bespoke package of support. Directly linked to the family support team are experts from outside services, called change champions, who support the family with their areas of expertise, and help the Connecting Families Support Team understand and break down blockages within their own services which are preventing the families from meeting their needs.

**Challenge:** It will require significant transformation to the way in which public services are delivered.

## SECTION 6 - EVIDENCE GATHERING/CONSULTATION

This Plan document, the priorities, and actions have been developed through consultation with partner organisations, service providers and through other forms of consultation with residents e.g. Homelessness Customer Survey and the Worcestershire View Point Survey.

### Our Evidence

The following background documents contain a detailed analysis of the issues affecting housing and health and were the key documents used to support this Plan.

- JSNA: Briefing on Homelessness 2015
- JSNA: Briefing on Fuel Poverty 2016
- JSNA: Domestic Abuse and Violence Needs Assessment 2016
- Worcestershire Homelessness Review 2016
- Worcestershire Health and Well-being Board Draft Joint Health and Well-being Strategy 2016-2019
- Housing Authority Stock Condition Surveys and Tenancy Strategy Frameworks
- South Worcestershire Development Plan 2016
- North Worcestershire Housing Need Assessment 2014
- Worcestershire Viewpoint Survey May 2015
- Stakeholder Engagement Consultation
- Housing Britain's Future - Some Home Truths: National Housing Federation – 2013 report on the consequences of not providing enough housing to meet the needs of our young people. <http://www.housing.org.uk/publications/browse/housing-britains-future-somehome-truth>
- Census Data 2011
- <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk>
- An Economic Strategy for Worcestershire 2010 – 2020
- Private Rental Market Statistics 2013/14
- CORE Data 2014/2015
- BRE, Briefing Note: The cost of poor housing to the NHS (2015)
- RSR Guide to Local Rents 2011
- Worcestershire District Profiles
- Housing Benefit Case Load Statistics
- Wyre Forest Objectively Assesses Housing Needs
- Homelessness P1Es and Rough Sleeper Data 2010 onwards
- English Housing Survey Headline Report 2014-15

## SECTION 7 - RESOURCES

Detailed below are current and future funding sources identified for the provision of housing and housing related support both nationally and locally. This funding is in addition to the core housing/homelessness function provided through the six district housing authorities.

### National Funding

- The last comprehensive spending review has promised a continued Disabled Facilities Grant funding stream through the Better Care Fund for the next 5 years, from £395m in 2015/16 right through to £500m in 19/20, providing a vote of confidence and trust in that what we are doing is preventing pressure on acute services and supporting independent living. With this investment there is a duty amongst stakeholders to administer the fund in an efficient and customer friendly way.
- Since 2010 the number of people regarded as homeless has increased by 33%, 69,000 people are living in temporary accommodation, with more than a million on local authority waiting lists. To help overcome this Government has increased central funding to tackle homelessness over the next 4 years (2016 onwards) to £139 million and protected homelessness prevention funding for local authorities at £315 million by 2019 to 2020.
- Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme 2016-2021 £4.7bn; Starter Homes: Unlocking the land fund 2016-2020 - £1.2bn.
- In October 2016, The Department of Health has announced an investment of £25m over the next two financial years (£10m in 2016/17 and £15m in 2017/18) in technology and housing for people with learning disabilities.

### Worcestershire Funding

- Single homeless and childless couples support service funding of £300,000 per annum over three years (subject to future resources).
- Fusion - a housing led Voluntary and Community Sector Consortium, was successfully awarded a £965,200 contract aimed at producing better outcomes for residents in need of help moving into secured paid employment (many of which live in social housing). This programme will commence on the ground in October 2016.
- Worcestershire Young Persons Pathways Workers are jointly funded, until 31 March 2018, by the local housing authorities and Worcestershire County Council who provide a match funding contribution of £70,000.
- With funding via the DCLG, a hospital and prison leavers' project currently operates across the county. In total the project received £242,968 in funding and is due to continue through to April 2017.

- £5M capital funding available from Worcestershire County Council to develop Supported Housing, of which £2.3M currently remains unallocated.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

4<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Finance Monitoring Report 16/17**

<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management.
<b>Relevant Head of Service</b>	Jayne Pickering
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Ward Councillor Consulted</b>	N/A
<b>Non Key Decision</b>	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report details the Council’s final financial position for General Fund Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the period April – December 2016 (Quarter 3 2016/17).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Executive Committee is asked to**

**RESOLVE that**

- 2.1 The current financial positions for the quarter April – December 2016 as detailed in the report be noted.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 This report provides details of the financial information across the Council. The aim is to ensure officers and members have relevant information to consider the overall financial position of the Council. The report reflects the finances across the Strategic Purposes to enable Members to be aware of the level of funding attributed to these areas and how this compares to budget. The summary at 3.3 shows the financial position for revenue funding for the period April – December 2016.
- 3.2 The information at Appendix 1 shows the breakdown of the Strategic Purposes to detail the services that have been included in each Purpose. The aim is to demonstrate the individual services that link to the overall strategic funding position.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

4<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Revenue Budget Summary – Overall Council  
Financial Year 2016/17**

3.3 Internal recharges have not been included in these figures to allow comparison for each service area. However Support costs have been included.

Strategic Purpose	Original Budget £'000	Latest budget £'000	Budget to date £'000	Actuals to date £'000	Variance to date £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
Keep my place safe and looking good	3,755	5,694	4,281	3,953	-329	5,428	-267
Help me run a successful business	-116	-132	-121	-135	-14	-145	-13
Help me be financially independent	558	540	864	781	-83	476	-64
Help me to live my life independently	406	406	233	250	16	438	30
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	1,202	1,202	902	795	-107	1,081	-121
Provide Good things for me to see, do and visit	2,346	1,654	1,299	1,376	76	1,756	102
Enable others to work/do what they need to do (to meet their purpose)	7,781	7,734	5,800	6,005	205	7,764	30
HRA Recharge	-3,965	-4,745	-3,559	-3,377	182	-4,501	244
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,965</b>	<b>12,353</b>	<b>9,699</b>	<b>9,648</b>	<b>-54</b>	<b>12,297</b>	<b>-59</b>
Corporate Financing	835	835	417	292	-125	710	-125

**Financial Commentary:**

There are a number of variances within the third quarter on the financial year 2016/17 which currently result in a £59k saving to budget. These include additional income received for services provided and managed vacant posts. In particular the savings within the strategic purpose 'keep my place safe and looking good' is due to development control receiving some large planning applications and Environmental Services having efficiencies on operating budgets.

It is projected that there will be a saving on Minimum Revenue provision (MRP) £125k which is due to slippage within the capital program 2015/16.

**HRA**

There is an estimated recharge of £4.745m in 2016/17 to the HRA from a number of service areas to reflect the attributable cost to the HRA.



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

4<sup>th</sup> April 2017

This recharge has been adjusted to reflect service savings of £182k year to date and £244k (end of year) for 2016/17 as a proportion of the service savings have to be allocated back to the HRA.

As shown above the original budget as agreed in February 2016 has been shown in the table above for comparison purposes. A breakdown at appendix 3 shows the movements in budget to quarter 3 to enable members to identify the changes over the last 9 months from the original budget estimates.

In addition the recharges for landscaping have been transferred to the main HRA recharge to ensure transparency of recharging and therefore the environmental and leisure recharging has been revised to reflect this change in mechanism of recharging.

**Capital Budget Summary – Overall Council  
Financial Year 2016/17**

3.4 Internal recharges have not been included in these figures to allow comparison for each service area. However Support costs have been included.

Strategic Purpose	Annual budget £'000	Budget to date £'000	Actuals to date £'000	Variance to date £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
Keep my place safe and looking good	4,311	2,897	2,377	-521	3,270	-1,041
Help me to live my life independently	987	740	610	-130	841	-146
Help me find somewhere to live in my locality	10,617	7,963	5,471	-2,492	8,964	-1,653
Provide Good things for me to see, do and visit	505	379	330	-49	503	-2
Enable others to work/do what they need to do (to meet their purpose)	100	75	49	-26	100	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16,520</b>	<b>12,054</b>	<b>8,837</b>	<b>-3,218</b>	<b>13,678</b>	<b>-2,842</b>

**Financial Commentary:**  
 There are a few underspends in the third quarter due to the timing of projects commencing. It is anticipated that the majority of capital expenditure will be on target to budget for the financial year.  
 The variance showing within 'Keep my place safe and looking good' year to date and full year is due to the Crematorium Enhancement project expected to be carried forward into 2017/18 and the Town Centre Landscape Scheme along with a proportion of the Locality Capital projects budget.  
 The variance shown within 'Help me find somewhere to live in my locality' relates to the HRA capital projects and this may be required to be carried forward into 2017/18

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

4<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**Housing Revenue Account**

3.6 Appendix 2 details the financial position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the period April – December 2016. The rental income shows a shortfall of £189k due to the increase in the number of Right to Buy sales following relaxation of the discount rules. However this is offset partially by the £17k increase in non-dwelling rent income is due to higher than expected garage lettings.

There are other significant overspends on the following departments:

Repairs and maintenance due to:

- High demand for ad hoc property repairs
- Debt write off of unpaid invoices
- A number of void properties requiring costly repair works

Supervision & Management due to:

- Redundancy costs
- JE back pay

**Treasury Management**

3.7 The Council’s Treasury Management Strategy has been developed in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance prudential indicators and is used to manage risks arising from financial instruments. Additionally treasury management practices are followed on a day to day basis.

**Credit Risk**

3.8 Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council’s customers. Credit risk is minimised by use of a specified list of investment counterparty criteria and by limiting the amount invested with each institution. The Council receives credit rating details from its Treasury Management Advisers on a daily basis and any counterparty falling below the criteria is removed from the list.

3.9 At 31st December 2016 short term investments comprised:

	<b>31st December 2016 £'000</b>
Deposits	6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,000</b>

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**4<sup>th</sup> April 2017**Income from investments**

- 3.10 An investment income target of £4k has been set for 2016/17 using a projected rate of return of 0.25 %.

**General Fund Balances**

- 3.11 The General Fund Balance as at the 31<sup>th</sup> March 2016 is £2.024m. A balanced budget was approved in February 2016 to include identified savings which have been built into individual budget allocations. This also included a planned use of balances for 2016/17 of £477k. This will be offset against any underspends realised at year end. Should the savings of £184k be realised the drawdown from balances will be £293k and therefore retain £1.731m.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.12 No Legal implications have been identified.

**Service/Operational Implications**

- 3.13 Managers meet with finance officers on a monthly basis to consider the current financial position and to ensure actions are in place to mitigate any overspends.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.14 No direct implications as a result of this report.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The financial monitoring is included in the corporate risk register for the authority.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Strategic purposes financial position April – December 2016/17  
Appendix 2 – HRA Monitoring April – December 2016/17  
Appendix 3 – Revenue Budget Reconciliation

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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Tel: (01527) 881208



**Keep my place safe and looking good.**

Department	Annual budget £'000	Budget to date £'000	Actuals to date £'000	Variance to date £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
Bereavement Services	-455	-343	-370	-28	-493	-38
Building Control	-28	-21	-11	10	-15	13
Car Parks/Civil Enforcement Parking	36	24	32	8	47	10
CCTV	348	261	261	1	331	-17
Climate Change	7	5	4	-2	5	-3
Community Services - Community Safety	560	420	395	-25	521	-39
Core Environmental Operations	547	402	352	-50	475	-73
Core waste Operations	1,192	917	918	1	1,192	-0
Development Management	206	154	33	-121	115	-90
Engineering	226	168	142	-26	195	-31
Environmental Health (WRS)	544	406	420	14	567	23
Land Drainage	186	147	146	-1	184	-2
Landscape & Grounds Maintenance	20	15	15	0	20	0
Manager supplies and Transport	393	284	288	4	399	6
Place Teams	1,282	952	871	-81	1,171	-110
Planning Policy	243	183	153	-29	205	-39
Trees & Woodland Management	387	308	295	-13	372	-15
Waste Management Policy	-0	-0	8	9	11	11
Allocation of Vacancy Management Saving					126	126
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>5,694</b>	<b>4,281</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>-329</b>	<b>5,428</b>	<b>-267</b>

**Financial commentary:**

Within CCTV there is a predicted saving within CCTV due to renegotiated contract savings and lower overtime costs.

The underspend on Community safety relates to Anti social behaviour which is a HRA saving.

There is an underspend within Core Environmental Operations due to savings on operating leases, salaries, vehicle maintenance and tipping costs.

There has been additional planning application income ( Development Management) at the beginning of 2016/17 and there has also been some salary savings within the department.

The underspend in place teams is due to some efficiencies within the fuel, operating leases and vehicle maintenance budgets. There has also been some additional income received.

Planning policy have an underspend due to staff currently on maternity leave.

### Help me run a successful business

Department	Annual budget £'000	Budget to date £'000	Actuals to date £'000	Variance to date £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
Asset & Property Management	-354	-265	-256	9	-352	2
Economic Development	146	110	104	-6	142	-4
Manager Taxi Licensing	-195	-172	-180	-8	-201	-6
Community Services - Grants to Vol bodies	271	206	196	-10	260	-11
Allocation of Vacancy Management Saving					6	6
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>-132</b>	<b>-121</b>	<b>-135</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-145</b>	<b>-13</b>

**Financial commentary:**

The saving within Grants to Voluntary bodies is due to a temporary salary saving.

### Help me to be financially independent (including education & skills)

Department	Annual budget £'000	Budget to date £'000	Actuals to date £'000	Variance to date £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
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Benefits	336	486	399	-87	234	-102
Revenues	189	367	360	-7	189	-0
Property Management - Rents grants	15	11	22	11	22	7
Allocation of Vacancy management saving					31	31
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>-83</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>-64</b>

**Financial commentary:**

The variance for Benefits is due to the costs for the Compliance team being met from within existing budgets. Savings will be made as a result.

**Help me to live my life independently (including health & activity)**

Department	Annual budget £'000	Budget to date £'000	Actuals to date £'000	Variance to date £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
Community Services (incl dial a ride & Shopmobility)	356	265	307	42	423	68
Early Help	-4	-3	0	3	0	4
Lifeline	4	-67	-56	10	14	10
Manager Care & Repair	50	38	-1	-38	0	-50
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>30</b>

**Financial commentary:**

Community services (incl dial a ride and shopmobility) variance is due to increased staffing costs and income generation being lower than anticipated. There will be a saving within 2016/17 on Care and Repair for the Management fee on Disabled facilities grants (DFG's) as there is now available funding from the capital provision

**Help me to find somewhere to live in my locality**

Department	Annual budget £'000	Budget to date £'000	Actuals to date £'000	Variance to date £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
Housing General Fund	1,018	764	698	-65	871	-147
Housing Strategy & Enabling	214	160	132	-28	190	-24
Democratic Services - Land charges	-29	-22	-36	-14	-36	-7
Allocation of Vacancy management saving					57	57
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>-107</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>-121</b>

**Financial commentary:**

The underspend on the Housing General fund is due to a number of salary vacancies within the housing options team. This will be fully reimbursed to the Housing Revenue Account.

The saving within Housing strategy and enabling relates to temporary staff vacancies and lower expenditure on Travellers and unauthorised camping.

**Provide good things for me to do, see and visit**

Department	Annual budget £'000	Budget to date £'000	Actuals to date £'000	Variance to date £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
Cultural Services	883	679	656	-23	858	-26
Leisure & Cultural Man	102	81	83	2	127	25
Parks & Green Spaces	153	110	108	-1	154	1
Sports Services	516	430	511	81	597	81
Business Development - Cultural	0	0	16	16	21	21
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>102</b>

**Financial commentary :**

Within Sports Services the Sports Centres and Golf course are not achieving the budgeted income target which is placing the budget under serious pressure. This is partially due to the closure of the Astro Turf Pitch at Arrow Vale Sorts Centre for safety reasons, the ongoing issues with income generation at the Abbey stadium associated with the health and fitness/group exercise provision and the overall decline in golf nationally that is impacting upon the number of rounds sold. However the Dance & Group Cycling Studios at the Abbey Stadium has had a very positive impact on encouraging new members to join with over 250 joining in January and retaining existing members for longer which will increase the number of members in line with the original business case projections.

Business Development have predicted an overspend which is due to continued income generation issues around the sponsorship of roundabouts and the hire of the Civic suite.

~~Officers are currently reviewing this position and will be addressing these issues in the upcoming budget round and by reviewing options in these areas to increase sales~~



**Enable others to work/do what they need to do (to meet purpose)**

Department	Annual budget £'000	Budget to date £'000	Actuals to date £'000	Variance to date £'000	Projected Outturn £'000	Projected Variance £'000
Asset & Property Management - Town Hall	1,020	765	764	-1	1,020	-1
Asset Maintenance	354	238	248	10	354	0
Business Development	133	99	88	-11	125	-7
Business Transformation	1,072	804	829	25	1,101	29
Communications & Print	255	192	182	-10	245	-10
Corporate Management & Audit	-38	22	236	214	235	273
Corporate Services	1,824	1,366	1,341	-26	1,795	-30
Corporate Strategy	86	65	65	0	86	0
Customer Support Services	523	392	384	-8	515	-7
Democratic Services	328	246	247	1	327	-1
Depot	97	72	73	1	98	1
Elections	200	98	98	0	200	-0
Financial Services & Procurement	538	433	470	37	579	41
Human Resources	526	395	376	-19	499	-28
It Licences Direct Services	154	116	120	4	162	8
Legal Services	281	211	219	8	287	6
Partnerships	56	43	43	0	56	0
Post, Admin & Civic	231	173	165	-7	224	-7
Property Management	22	16	6	-10	9	-13
Sports Services - Management	77	58	55	-3	73	-4
Transport	-5	-4	-4	0	-5	0
Allocation of Vacancy management saving					-220	-220
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>7,734</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>6,005</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>7,764</b>	<b>30</b>

**Financial commentary:**

The overspend within business transformation is due to income received being less than expected.

Corporate Management & Audit -£220k of the shortfall will be reallocated to other services at the end of the year to reflect the expected vacancy management saving of £220k

Corporate Services have predicted saving due to superannuation costs being lower than the budget estimation.

Electoral Registration accounts are not yet finalised although predicting a saving of circa £10k

Financial Services & Procurement have a predicted overspend of £40k is due to a number of factors, to include additional system costs for Payroll and Procurement to ensure the council can deliver efficient processes in the future. In addition there are associated staff costs within Payroll above that estimated in the budget due to capacity issues and retention of staff.



# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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## MINUTES

### Present:

Councillor Jane Potter (Chair), and Councillors Joe Baker, Tom Baker-Price, Andrew Fry, Paul Swansborough, David Thain (substituting for Councillor Gay Hopkins), Jennifer Wheeler and Nina Wood-Ford

### Officers:

D Allen, M Bough, S Hanley and J Pickering

### Democratic Services Officers:

J Bayley and A Scarce

### 67. APOLOGIES AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Gay Hopkins with Councillor David Thain attending as her substitute.

### 68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

Councillor Jane Potter declared an other disclosable interest in respect of the areas with in the Medium Term Finance Plan which referred to the surrender of the Council's interest in the Kingsley Sports Centre site, Minute No. 71. She left the room and took no part in the discussions in respect of this element of the item.

### 69. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED that

**the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

### 70. COUNCIL HOUSING GROWTH PROGRAMME REPORT

Officers presented the Council Housing Growth Programme Report which set out the available options for growth, taking into account requirements for expenditure of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Those options were in addition to the Council's Mortgage Rescue and Buy Back schemes. The aim of these options was to

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 Chair

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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mitigate against the impact of the changes to the HRA and meet the affordable housing need in the Borough. This included a number of elements:

- purchasing stock from the open market, whilst ensuring that this did not impact on the housing market;
- construction of new stock with a developer;
- purchasing units on Section 106 sites, which was often done for housing associations;
- purchasing properties 'off plan' on developments,
- regenerating existing stock; and
- purchasing stock from other registered providers.

Officers were recommending that all options should be undertaken to increase the HRA stock to ensure proposed numbers were achieved. Officers confirmed that it was anticipated that 109 properties would be required by the end of 2018/19 and then a programme of 13 units per year from 2019/20.

Following presentation of the report Members discussed a number of areas in more detail:

- Concerns as to whether the Council would be able to meet the timescale in order for the Council not to have to return any of the funds. Officers confirmed that they were on track for this financial year.
- The impact on the housing market and the potential for property prices to increase due to the Council's interest in purchasing a particular type of property. Officers confirmed that this was being regularly monitored and the properties would be valued in accordance with standard procedures to ensure that an appropriate price was paid.
- Members were supportive of the building of properties to increase the Council's housing stock.
- The type of property that was most needed and the estimated value of such properties.
- Concerns around the buy back scheme taking houses off the market and thereby restricting those available for first time buyers.

**RESOLVED that**

**the Council Housing Growth Programme be noted.**

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## 71. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Officers presented the Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21 and in so doing highlighted the following:

- Updated information which had been provided in the additional papers pack, following revisions made by the Executive Committee.
- The inclusion of a fourth year in the plan – this had not been included within the Efficiency Plan.
- Quarterly updates would be provided in order to monitor the areas which had been included within the Efficiency Plan.
- A significant reduction in the Revenue Support Grant and how this would be addressed.
- The report contained information about how the Council would maintain funding in order to meet its strategic purposes and ensure residents received quality services that met their needs.
- The provision settlement and a number of issues which were included within the information received; projections on Council Tax income; additional flexibility on Social Care, a new approach to the New Homes Bonus Scheme and the ability to increase Council Tax by two per cent or £5.
- The Capital Programme had been extended to four years and Heads of Services needed to be reminded that this should be accurately recorded for future years.
- The key themes identified in the Efficiency Plan needed to be mapped out, also over a four year period, to ensure that savings were achieved.
- More detailed reports would need to be prepared over the following years and these would be brought before both the Overview and Scrutiny function and the Executive Committee at regular intervals. The first of these was expected in June.

Officers provided Members with detailed information showing the projected shortfall should no further savings be made, which included unavoidable pressures and capital bids. Additional savings had been identified and these were also included within the report, together with the staff suggestions which were designed to secure either savings or additional income. Particular reference was made to unavoidable pressures, including the Microsoft License Cost increase, and it was confirmed that these could not be shared across Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils.

The proposals for savings put forward from the Administration were considered in detail, in particularly those in respect of Leisure

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Services and the surrendering of interest in sites at Kingsley Sports Centre and Arrow Vale Sports Centre.

At this stage of the meeting, in the absence of the Chair of the Committee, as detailed in Minute No. 68, Councillor Tom Baker-Price chaired the meeting whilst the Committee considered the surrender of interest in the Kingsley Sports Centre Site.

Members discussed the cost of the services provided at Kingsley Sports Centre and it was confirmed that discussions would be held with the school in respect of the withdrawal of those funds and the savings which could be made.

Further clarification was requested in respect of the costs for both Kingsley and Arrow Vale Sports Centres, in particular the cost of credit card payments and why these costs were not being passed on to the customer. Officers confirmed that this had been a decision made by Members, but was something which had been highlighted in the staff suggestions and would be investigated further in the future. Charging for cash payments was something which would not be considered, although it was noted that a number of other authorities did not accept cash.

Consideration was given to how the sites could be made more efficient rather than surrendering the Council's interest and concerns were raised about the potential level of interest from other parties in running them. It was confirmed that once the Council had withdrawn its funding it would be the responsibility of the schools, as the owners of the properties, and the Council would have no further interest. Members discussed how the Council needed to ensure it had a balanced budget with minimal disruption to services.

Officers went on to explain a number of other savings which had been put forward by the Administration including sourcing external funding for the Christmas Light Display and charging for the Shopmobility service. In this respect a survey of users had been carried out and from the results there was general consensus that customers would be happy to be charged. Charging for pre application services with developers and a review of the pre 9.30 am concessionary bus travel would also contribute significant savings.

A number of other savings and income streams were highlighted including the reduced cost of landscaping on the highways, the introduction of a Garden Waste Service, a review of charging for pest control, review of fleet costings and revenue opportunities including car parking. Savings still needed to be made in respect of

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the management structure, which had been included within the Efficiency Plan.

Following presentation of the report Members discussed a number of areas in more detail:

- Members thanked officers for the hard work which had been needed in order to achieve a balance budget and for the clear and comprehensive report.
- The areas to be included within the Leisure Services model and the options available. Some Members expressed concerns about the amount of savings proposed and how these would be achieved.
- A formal business case to be brought forward with the options available for Leisure Services. It was confirmed that Members would receive a report updating the information received by the Committee in 2015. The next stage would be a more detailed high level report providing the options available and how the savings would be achieved.
- The cost of the work by the consultants in respect of Leisure and Cultural Services with questions being raised about the potential for officers to carry out that work.
- What services would be included within the business case for Leisure and Cultural Services.
- The option for the National Trust to be invited to manage the Bordsley Abbey site.
- The cost of Microsoft Licenses and the procurement process in order to achieve best value for the Council.
- Savings and the benefits and pitfalls of the introduction of a four year election system as opposed to the current elections by thirds system and whether this provided the Council with stability.
- Members were impressed with the variety of staff suggestions put forward.

**RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

## **72. CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY - JOINT SCRUTINY PROPOSAL**

Officers presented a proposal which had been put forward by Bromsgrove District Council in respect of the potential joint scrutiny of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Members were reminded that originally there were three separate partnerships in the north of the county which more recently had been combined into

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one partnership for North Worcestershire. This was similar to South Worcestershire and it was confirmed that joint scrutiny arrangements had been successfully established there.

There was a legal requirement for the Council to allocate the scrutiny of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to a specific committee and to hold at least one meeting each year covering this role. Redditch had chosen to set up the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel to carry out this work. Officers highlighted that the Panel was only able to scrutinise the work of the Partnership as a whole and not individual partners. This had proved to be challenging and had led to only a minimal number of recommendations being made in the last six years.

Officers confirmed that Bromsgrove District Council had also written to the Chairman of Wyre Forest District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and she would be attending the Bromsgrove Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting due to be held on 27th March, when this would be discussed further.

Following presentation of the report Members discussed a number of areas in more detail:

- The differing needs of each Council and whether these would be addressed with the introduction of joint scrutiny.
- The benefits of joint scrutiny.
- The previous work of the Panel and the outcomes of that work.
- How officers envisaged the joint scrutiny panel working.

## **RESOLVED that**

**no further action be taken and that the Council continues with the current arrangements for scrutinising the local Community Safety Partnership, subject to two meetings a year of the Crime and Disorder Panel being held in the coming year.**

## **73. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND SCRUTINY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME**

Officers highlighted to Members that during the Executive Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2012 the Budget Scrutiny Working Group's recommendation in respect of the recharge process had been approved. The Executive Committee had also endorsed the proposals from the Committee in relation to the HRA.

During consideration of the latest edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme Members discussed a number of



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items including the Housing Business Case. Members identified the Engagement Strategy, scheduled for a decision in April 2017, as a suitable item for further scrutiny.

## **RESOLVED that**

- 1) the Engagement Strategy be added to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme for pre-scrutiny at the 28<sup>th</sup> March meeting of the Committee; and**
- 2) the Executive Committee Minutes of 17th January and 7th February 2017, together with the Executive Committee's Work Programme, be noted.**

## **74. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

Officers highlighted that there were a number of items which needed to be allocated to future meetings of the Committee and confirmed that an update on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan would be received from the Worcestershire Health Care Trust and Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust at the July meeting.

The Chair requested for a future meeting a presentation on Economic Development within the Borough to ensure that appropriate action was being taken.

Officers also highlighted that there had been an error in the date of the next meeting of the Committee circulated in the calendar sheets for Members' consideration. It was confirmed that this meeting would take place on the 28th March 2017.

## **75. WORKING GROUPS - UPDATE REPORTS**

### Budget Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Jane Potter

Councillor Potter confirmed that at the latest meeting of the Working Group Members had concentrated on the Medium Term Financial Plan and had asked for further information in respect of the Council's contracts in order to gain a better understanding of the process.

### Performance Scrutiny Working Group – Chair, Councillor Tom Baker-Price

Councillor Baker-Price explained that the Working Group had looked at usage of the Civic Suite and were pleased to see that the

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staff had a level of discretion over negotiating charges and that block bookings were being made more regularly.

The group had also met with the Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development who had provided information in respect of staff appraisals. A new process was being rolled out and this would be monitored by Human Resources. At the Group's next meeting Members would be reviewing the gas safety inspection process.

## 76. TASK GROUPS - PROGRESS REPORTS

### Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group – Chair, Councillor Nina Wood-Ford

Councillor Wood-Ford confirmed that the Group was coming to the end of its investigations and had that morning, held a lengthy meeting when draft recommendations had been formulated. She had also recently attended an initial meeting to discuss the development of a Suicide Prevention Plan for Redditch which had proved most interesting.

### Staff Survey Joint Scrutiny Task Group – Vice Chair, Councillor Jane Potter

Councillor Potter advised that at the previous week's meeting the Group had interviewed the Chief Executive as Chairman of the Performance Board and the lead officers for the three main work streams, which covered Organisational Culture, People Management and Meeting Customers' Needs. The introduction of an appraisal scheme and regular one-to-one meetings and team meetings should be in place within 12 months.

The group had a meeting planned for 22nd February when they would review the work carried out to date and decide on the next stage of the investigation.

## 77. HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Nina Wood-Ford, the Council's representative on the Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC), advised that she had attended two meetings of the Committee since her last update.

At the first meeting, the main topic was a presentation from the West Midlands Ambulance Service. Members had been advised that this was the only ambulance service to achieve each of the

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national emergency access targets for 2015/16 and remained the top performing service in the country. Information had also been provided within the presentation in respect of the waiting time at A&E departments, with Worcester Royal Hospital being the poorest performer. The Ambulance Service had placed members of staff within the A&E Department in order to try and reduce the waiting times.

The agenda for the second meeting, which had taken place on 7<sup>th</sup> February, had concentrated on the response which had been received from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in respect of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. This included details of both the announced and unannounced visits which had been made and the areas of improvement which needed to be completed by the end of March 2017, in order for the Section 29A notice to be lifted.

Following Councillor Wood-Ford's update, Members discussed the role of HOSC and the lack of task and finish work carried out as part of the health scrutiny process.

## **78. WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Jenny Wheeler, the Council's representative on the West Midlands Combine Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, confirmed that she had attended the most recent meeting of the Committee. Members had discussed the draft order for how Overview and Scrutiny was going to work following the election of a Mayor for the combined authority area and the Committee's work programme.

Three select committees had been set up and Councillor Wheeler had been appointed as Vice Chair of the Mental Health Select Committee due to her experience working on the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group. The meeting had been held in the morning and during the afternoon a training event had been held which covered a number of financial areas including audit and risk.



REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**4<sup>th</sup> April, 2017**ADVISORY PANELS, WORKING GROUPS, ETC - UPDATE REPORT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Management
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

To provide, for monitoring / management purposes, an update on the work of the Executive Committee's Advisory Panels, and similar bodies which report via the Executive Committee.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that

**subject to Members' comments, the report be noted.**

**3. UPDATES****A. ADVISORY PANELS**

	<b><u>Meeting :</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Members / Officers :</u></b> (Executive Members shown <u>underlined</u> )	<b><u>Position :</u></b> (Oral updates to be provided at the meeting by Lead Members or Officers, if no written update is available.)
1.	Planning Advisory Panel	Chair: <u>Cllr Greg Chance</u> / Vice-Chair: Cllr Bill Hartnett Ruth Bamford	Meeting date: Next meeting 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2017

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**4<sup>th</sup> April, 2017B. OTHER MEETINGS

2.	Constitutional Review Working Party	Chair: <u>Cllr Bill Hartnett</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr John Fisher</u> Sheena Jones	Last meeting – 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
3.	Member Support Steering Group	Chair: <u>Cllr John Fisher</u> / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Bill Hartnett</u> Sheena Jones	Next meeting tbc, planned for 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2017.
4.	Grants Assessment Panel	Chair: Cllr Roger Bennett / Vice-Chair: <u>Cllr Greg Chance</u>	Last meeting 14 <sup>th</sup> March December, 2017.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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