

## 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 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</p>		

	<p>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>

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)