

## **Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy – Overview and Scrutiny Monitoring Report – July 2018**

### **Redditch Community Sustainable Strategy (SCS)**

The Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy is the strategy produced by Redditch Partnership which sets out the strategic direction for Redditch and how partners can contribute to achieving a shared vision for the Borough. The current Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) was pre-scrutinised in March 2011 with the final Strategy gaining approval by full Council on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Originally the Strategy was in place for 3 years. A mini refresh of the SCS priorities was undertaken during 2015 with the outcome that a few minor changes were made to the priorities.

#### **The current vision of the Strategy is:**

*‘Redditch will be successful and vibrant with communities that have access to good job opportunities, good education, good health and are communities that people will be proud to live and work in’.*

#### **The four current priorities of the SCS are:**

<b>Priority One</b>	Health Inequalities	Focus is on following issues: smoking, alcohol, drugs; obesity / healthy lifestyles and mental health and wellbeing.
<b>Priority Two</b>	Education attainment, school readiness and raising aspirations of young people.	Focus is on three issues: improving literacy and numeracy; raising aspirations; and improve statistical levels of attainment particularly for Early Years and Key Stage 2.
<b>Priority Three</b>	The economy of Redditch with a focus on providing a larger and more diverse job offer.	Focus is on three broad issues: promotion of Redditch as a business location; jobs and worklessness; and fostering economic ambition in young people.
<b>Priority Four</b>	Lead on transformational change of services for citizens in Redditch	Focus is on leading and implementing the Connecting Families programme which is being piloted in Redditch.

### **Redditch Partnership**

The SCS is overseen by a group of strategic partners working in Redditch (see structure diagram appended to this report). This group used to be known as the Redditch Partnership Board but since April 2014, the group has been slightly reconfigured and is now known as Redditch Partnership Executive Group (RPEG). The Group is chaired by Duncan Berry from the YMCA.

Sitting underneath this group are several other groups including the Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust (RCWT). This is a Thematic Group looking at issues regarding children and young people and also health issues. This group oversees the Redditch Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Other groups include the Redditch Economic Development Theme Group, and the Positive Activities Sub Group. Please see the appended structure chart which shows the groups linked into Redditch Partnership.

### **Redditch Partnership Executive Group (RPEG)**

The role of RPEG is to provide strategic direction in Redditch on the priorities and also provide guidance and influence on key commissioned services, projects and initiatives rolled out across Worcestershire which have an impact on the residents of Redditch.

In March 2017 RPEG held an away day with the purpose of refocussing its work. The key message to come out of this away day was that RPEG should focus on one issue for a time limited period to make as big an impact on that issue as possible.

Connecting Families, a county wide approach to system redesign, has been running in Redditch over the last couple of years with a focus on family support. A new focus for this approach in Redditch had recently been considered. It has been decided that there should be a joint focus from RPEG and Connecting Families on mental health. Looking at this jointly will enable resources to be pooled which will hopefully have a bigger impact on final outcomes for any work which is undertaken.

RPEG and the Connecting Families Team are currently undergoing an exercise to look at what the specific focus should be of the mental health work. Data and information has been compiled and officers are currently conducting interviews with key stakeholders that contribute and work in the mental health system. A decision should be made on 25<sup>th</sup> July about the specific focus with further work taking place in September.

### **Redditch Economic Development Theme Group (REDTG)**

This Group is chaired by Elected Members and includes business reps, and officers from North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration.

There is an Action Plan with four emerging priorities.

- Enterprising - nurturing existing businesses. Encouraging future entrepreneurs to start up their own business.
- Vibrant - enhancing the retail, leisure and residential offer within Redditch town centre. Improving the environment and urban fabric of the area.
- Confident - Positively promoting Redditch as a place to live, work, invest and visit and help to change perceptions of the area, encourage new inward investment into Redditch and positioning Redditch on the regional and national stage.
- Skilled - Improving the aspirations of our younger population, re-skilling and up-skilling our workforce to meet the future demands of employers, and creating a higher wage economy.

### **Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust (RCWT)**

The RCWT holds meetings every two months. Meetings consist of items for information around health inequalities, children and young people and older people

and also an element of identifying needs and actions to help with their action planning.

During the latter part of 2017, a large piece of work was undertaken between the RCWT and Public Health. This resulted in the refresh of the Redditch Health Profile but also the addition of a further piece of work looking at assets in Redditch which contribute to good mental wellbeing.

A stakeholder event took place in October 2017 where a number of partners met and mapped assets in Redditch and looked at how these might be better utilised. It is envisaged this work will feed into the mental health work being undertaken by RPEG and Connecting Families mentioned in the paragraph above. The profile can be access following this link [http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9633/redditch\\_district\\_needs\\_and\\_assets\\_profile\\_2018.pdf](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9633/redditch_district_needs_and_assets_profile_2018.pdf)

### **Positive Activities Sub Group**

This group is made up of organisations which provide activities for children and young people in the town. They meet to co-ordinate their activities to make sure that they are collaborating effectively, making best use of resources and avoiding duplication.

### **Wellbeing in Partnership Newsletter**

The “Wellbeing in Partnership” Newsletter continues to be published on a monthly basis with the aim of providing information about strategic issues and local projects/initiatives being undertaken across both Redditch and Bromsgrove. It was envisaged the newsletter would act as one way of ensuring partners and locally elected Members were better informed about activity in their local area. Both Bromsgrove and Redditch Members should be receiving this newsletter but the current and previous copies can be accessed on the Redditch Partnership website.

### **Redditch and Bromsgrove Directory of Services (Knowledge Bank)**

A directory of services building on current directories produced by the Council's Customer Service Team and the Parenting and Family Support Service has been created. The Council's IT development team assist on the technical side of this while officers including Customer Services, Parenting and Family Support, Redditch and Bromsgrove Partnership Managers are working to populate this with all services from the statutory, voluntary and community sector available in Redditch and Bromsgrove. The fully searchable directory is available on the Council's webpages for the public and local partners to use. Local organisations can contact the administrating team and add their organisations details to the directory if not already on there. The administrating team will also work to keep the directory as up to date as possible. The link for the Knowledge Bank is <http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/knowledgebank>

**Further information:** - please contact Helen Broughton, [Helen.broughton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.broughton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk), ext.3237 or look at the Redditch Partnership webpages at [www.redditchpartnership.org.uk](http://www.redditchpartnership.org.uk)