

SCHEDULE 2

Impact on Housing

Despite the potential of using the ring fenced health grants, the funding reduction is still likely to have a significant effect upon the lives of vulnerable people across Redditch, and on the organisations who work with them.

Likely impact of reductions on Supporting People providers:

- The funding above underpins various accommodation projects, so any reduction is almost certain to see a contraction in the number of units available to these client groups, locally, and across the county, together with a reduction in the amount of support provided within the units to help vulnerable people to continue to live within them.
- The funding also underpins what's known as 'floating support' – this is support provided to vulnerable people living in other types of accommodation across the county – for example, older adults in Council tenancies, or young people in the private rented sector.

Likely impact on vulnerable people, Councils and their partners:

- The reduction in units could lead to the relatively immediate loss of a home and the support that was provided to help maintain it, leading to a spike in pressure on various services across both Councils and their partners.
- The reduction in floating support could also lead to increased homelessness, albeit over a longer time period, across both areas, together with the potential to disrupt existing income, education, health, training and leisure arrangements for the households concerned. Again, these impacts could well be felt by various service areas across both Councils, and their partner agencies.
- If the proposed funding reductions are implemented, it is likely that the number of the agencies currently working with vulnerable people will reduce, or that they will reduce the number of services they provide, which could well create considerable issues across Bromsgrove and Redditch. The impact of these changes could also be felt in the Councils' strategic purposes, and accompanying measures, notably:
 - help me find somewhere to live
 - keep my place safe and looking good
 - help me be financially independent
 - help me live my life independently
 - provide good things for me to do, see and visit

Unfortunately, there is no detail available yet from the County as to how any potential financial reductions might impact on specific services across Worcestershire, or specifically, in Redditch.

It is not easy to know exactly the number of households being supported in Redditch. However, County-wide, providers estimate the number of households currently being housed or supported by the 59 services as a whole is in the region of 4600.

Of these regional services 12 focus on our geographical areas in particular with 3 across Bromsgrove and Redditch

The 12 Redditch specific services by client group

- 7 older adults
- 2 generic
- 1 teenage parents
- 2 young people

The 3 Bromsgrove and Redditch specific services by client group

- 1 young people
- 1 offenders
- 1 homeless families

The number of units of supported accommodation provided in RBC

Provider	Client group	Number in RBC
St Basils – 3 foyers and 13 supported lodgings	Young people	8 + 6
RBC YMCA	Young people	40
Redditch Night stop	Young people	Varies

Comments

- The risks are very clear around the number of accommodation units that may be jeopardised by funding issues. Currently, there are a minimum of 54 units being provided per year, excluding the ongoing work of Nightstop to provide short term options for young people.
- Across RBC, a large number of older people could be affected by reductions in funding , a number of services focus on helping them live independently.

- Young people would look to be at most risk - homeless households could also be so.

The county-wide picture and potential implications for Redditch

Although a number of the 59 services potentially affected by the funding proposals are catering for local needs, the remainder work county-wide, and they also support vulnerable residents in Redditch on a yearly basis – it would be unwise to under-estimate the impact losing these may have here.

The 34 county-wide services by client group:

- 6 domestic abuse
- 5 generic
- 4 single homelessness
- 3 older people
- 3 young people
- 3 learning disability
- 3 physical and sensory impairment
- 2 mental health
- 2 offenders
- 2 substance abuse
- 1 homeless families

Comments

- At this stage, it is difficult to predict the likely impact of reducing these services without having more data on the number of RBC residents benefiting from them.

Summary grid 1- potential impact on RBC

Service area	Number of county wide services	Number specific in RBC
Older adults	15	7
Generic	9	2
Young people	7	2
Domestic abuse	6	0
Single homelessness	5	0
Learning disability	3	0
Mental health	3	0
Offenders	3	0
Physical and sensory	3	0
Substance	2	0

abuse		
Homeless families	2	0
Teenage parents	1	1
Total	59	12

Preliminary conclusions

- Housing related support services currently play an important role in helping vulnerable people live independently in RBC
- Reductions in funding could reduce the number of accommodation units available across the area and create homelessness for those households currently occupying the units
- Reductions in funding could also lead to the loss of housing options more broadly, with households failing to maintain their existing arrangements in the absence of ongoing support
- Services could see an increase in demand as a result of these changes, and the Council's strategic purposes and measures may also come under pressure as a result
- RBC are very reliant on housing related support to enable older adults to remain in their homes – funding reductions could impact on this group particularly
- Young people are also well-served by existing support arrangements and changes could impact especially hard on this group of customers
- A relatively small group of providers currently provide a large proportion of the existing contracts, but single contract holders, especially the accommodation providers, are equally vulnerable, and the impact of them closing their services could lead to significant issues for the Council.