



Redditch Partnership & Redditch District Collaborative

Overview and Scrutiny Information Report

February 2024

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide background information and an update on the Redditch Partnership and Redditch District Collaborative.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the contents of this report be noted.

Partnership Team

3. A review and restructure of Partnerships within Chief Execs was carried out in 2022, triggered by the departure of the Redditch Partnership Manager (Helen Broughton). The outcome was the Partnership Team is now made up of a joint Redditch and Bromsgrove Partnership Manager (Della McCarthy) and Partnership Officer (Alison Wakeman).

Redditch Partnership

4. The Redditch Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) which has existed for a number of years with different groups as part of its structure. The very basic aim of the Redditch Partnership is to bring together representatives from a wide variety of agencies across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to enable partnership working on what matters locally. The vision of the Redditch Partnership has been periodically reviewed but has remained unchanged for some time. It 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.”

Redditch Partnership Executive Group (RPEG)

5. For several years, the Partnership has been primarily made up of the Redditch Partnership Executive Group (RPEG) and two thematic groups (Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust and Redditch Business Leaders). However, starting with the work of the former Redditch Partnership Manager, the makeup of the Redditch Partnership has evolved recently. There have been a number of reasons for this, but most notably it has been due to the changes nationally around health with the introduction of Integrated Care Systems (ICS) as this prompted the formation of the Redditch District Collaborative (RDC). The Borough Council, namely the Chief Executive and the Redditch Partnership Manger, were directly involved in the setup of RDC and RPEG were given oversight of the arrangements.

6. Further information regarding RDC is covered later in this report, however, the plan has always been to ensure the Redditch Partnership flexibly wraps around and supports the work of the Collaborative. In September 2022, following a staff review and restructure of the Partnerships service, key people involved in the Partnership and the Collaborative were called together. The session was led by the former Chief Executive, Kevin Dicks, where it was collectively agreed that work should continue to ensure a strong connection between the Partnership and the Collaborative, building on the strengths of the Partnership, whilst making the most of the energies and resources of the newly formed Collaborative. The importance of avoiding duplication was recognised so it was agreed the RPEG would be held in abeyance until further notice, whilst other groups would continue and connect into the Collaborative.

Redditch Business Leaders (RBL) and Youth Group

7. This group, previously known as the Economic Development Theme Group, morphed into the Redditch Business Leaders (RBL) in recent years. The group is chaired by a local businessman (the CEO of FaunZoeller) and has representatives from a number of local businesses including Heller and Mettis. The Leader and Chief Executive of the Borough Council are also members. To ensure the voice of young people is heard, the RBL Youth Group has also been established, with the Chair of it being on RBL.
8. The aim of the group is to focus on skills especially in young people and one notable success has been the Power Up mentor scheme which facilitates business mentors to work with children in Redditch schools to inspire the next generation and assist our local businesses find local rising stars. The group has developed a website to help reach out to other businesses and promote the work of the group - [Redditch Business Leaders \(redditchleaders.co.uk\)](http://redditchleaders.co.uk)

Redditch Community Wellbeing Trust (RCWT) and Youth Providers Forum

9. This is a long-standing Redditch Partnership Group that, even throughout Covid, continued to meet virtually. As with any of the partnership groups, there is no funding attached and they are not statutory, however, the desire from different partner agencies to continue to come together and new partners keen to join shows the value that is given to the Group.
10. The RCWT meets approximately every two months and it covers a wide remit, in particular, health inequalities, children and young people and older people. There have been a number of new representatives join the group in recent months, so it is helping not only to maintain existing relationships between partner agencies but build on new ones too. Chaired by the CEO of Young Solutions (a VCS organisation that works in Redditch and countywide), it is predominately used by partner organisations to share information about the work they are doing in Redditch and to highlight challenges they and/or those they are supporting are facing. This in turn helps identify partnership opportunities so that collectively we can make the best use of resources available in Redditch to support our local residents.
11. In addition to RCWT, a Redditch Youth Providers Forum was set up, which replaced a Positive Activities Group. Supported by the leisure and community safety teams, it connects into the wider partnership via RCWT through the Chair.

That Forum has been used to support the Youth Offer commissioning locally in Redditch, funds that came from Worcestershire County Council.

Cost of Living Partnership Group

12. In 2021, a joint Redditch and Bromsgrove Cost of Living Partnership Group was established by the Chief Executive of the Borough Council and has continued to date. It is now chaired by Judith Willis, Head of Community and Housing Services.
13. It is currently reviewing its terms of reference to ensure it remains fit for purpose. This is likely to be agreed later this month, however, in short, it's about bringing together agencies to create a unified and comprehensive approach to tackling the cost of living crisis and minimising its impact, with the aim of improving the well-being of residents and communities.
14. It meets monthly, where possible, to help ensure collectively we are doing all we can together to minimise the impact of the cost of living crisis. In addition to officers from the Borough Council from different teams (including the Council's Financial Inclusion Team and Housing Team) partner agencies engaged include: Citizens Advice Bromsgrove and Redditch, Worcestershire County Council, Department for Work and Pensions, Redditch Foodbank, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, Act on Energy, Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and more.
15. Redditch (and Bromsgrove) were the first in the County to recognise the need to get messages out there to ensure people know where to go for support as early as possible. In addition to website and social media messages, there have been different editions of a printed cost of living leaflet, to help reach those digitally excluded. The communication need was further backed up from local mini surveys undertaken. Although having unified communications has been led by the Borough Council, all partners have worked closely with us, whether that is through the Primary Care Networks (PCNs) promoting through the GP surgeries to schools sharing with parents.

Asset Based Community Development Shared Learning Network

16. Work continues with regards to Asset Based Community Development. As members will be aware, back in 2020/21, funding was awarded by Public Health at Worcestershire County Council to appoint Community Builders and progress ABCD. In Redditch, funds enabled three community builders to come into post, hosted by the voluntary and community sector: one in Woodrow (where work originally began); one in Abbeydale; and one working with BME communities across Redditch.
17. Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is an approach built on tried and tested methods from sustainable community development practice. The aim of ABCD approaches is to create the conditions that will enable both place and people to flourish, reduce inequalities, improve quality of life that supports communities to thrive and to reduce or delay the need for long term care and support.
18. In order to support the work and encourage good practice, a Learning Network was set up jointly across both Redditch and Bromsgrove. This continues to meet

and includes relevant officers from both the Borough and County Council, voluntary and community sector hosts as well as the Community Builders.

19. The Community Builders have been involved in a number of projects including a Community Growing Group in Abbeydale; youth groups in Woodrow and engaging various Redditch communities in a Community Stories project. The project showcases community stories and how an asset based approach positively impacts on the residents in terms of their mental health and well-being and feeling part of a community.
20. Last year, the Community Services Manager, Tara Day, took over the responsibility of looking after the community builder contracts. These are currently fixed term but the longer-term aim remains for the voluntary sector services to source other funding by evidencing impact through community stories and Ripple Effect Mapping.
21. Through the Partnership and Collaborative, the intention is to embed the understanding of asset based approaches. To assist with this, Public Health, with the support of District/Borough Officers who have been undertaken ABCD Guides Training (including three officers from Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils across different teams), hold ABCD workshops for anyone wishing to find out more. A number of officers across different agencies have attended and it is open to all elected members too. In fact, the free workshops are open to anyone living or working in Worcestershire. Further details and the date of the next workshop can be found at:
[Exploring Asset Based Community Development \(ABCD\) Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

Redditch Mental Health and Housing Group

22. A Head of Housing and Health Partnerships for Worcestershire post was created in 2022 in recognition of the importance of housing in relation to health and wellbeing. The post is hosted by the Acute NHS Trust.
23. Since that countywide post was filled, a Redditch specific group focussing on bringing together Redditch Borough Council Housing and NHS Mental Health Teams, along with colleagues from other relevant agencies, such as Cranstoun (a service that provides support to those addicted to drugs or alcohol) has been set up. It has met twice to date with a third date in diaries.
24. Although early days, it is so far proving successful in terms of helping to bring together colleagues from Housing and Mental Health in particular, so that they can obtain a better understanding of each other's roles and the challenges they face. This in turn is expected to assist the different teams from different agencies work more effectively together and overcome local barriers together, where possible, for the benefit of service users who are coming into contact with both housing and health (and often many other services). At the moment, it is through the Partnership Manager, that this is connected to other Partnership Groups and it is forming connections with Redditch District Collaborative.

Redditch District Collaborative (RDC)

25. District Collaboratives (sometimes called different names in other areas) have been formed due to changes nationally in health and the development of

Integrated Care Systems (ICS). A District Collaborative brings together organisations across sectors on a place basis to meet the needs of the local community. The Redditch District Collaborative (RDC) is part of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS.

26. There are two Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in Redditch – Kingfisher and Nightingale PCNs. PCNs formed as part of a five year national NHS contract in 2019. Prior to this GP Practices were working together informally through Neighbourhood Teams and other local contracts. It was the two PCNs, working closely with Redditch Borough Council and Public Health, that took the lead in setting up RDC.
27. The District Collaborative in Redditch was the first one in the County to be established. The RDC has three main priorities (set in 2021/22) - mental health and wellbeing; frailty; and obesity. RDC was set up during the midst of Covid and given the pressures on the health system in particular, then and now it is still evolving (as is the rest of the wider ICS).
28. In 2022, a part time programme lead was appointed by the PCNs from the voluntary and community sector. Asset mapping was undertaken and one outcome from that has been it has further enriched the content of our local community services directory, the Knowledge Bank, as well as the more recently established County Council's community services directory.
29. In 2023 there was a mini review of the RDC structure and membership and it has since been agreed there would be: a RDC Strategic Group (which the Leader, Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Health and Chief Executive at the Borough Council sit on); a RDC Core Group (which the Partnership Manager is part of); and Priority Groups, all of which have been established.
30. Connections have and continue to be made to ensure Redditch Partnership and RDC are fully aligned and the Partnership Manager and RDC Programme Lead meet regularly to ensure this happens. Ultimately the aim of RDC is to ensure better health outcomes for Redditch residents by services working collaboratively.

Other Redditch Groups and Countywide Group

31. There are other groups involving partners in Redditch, often with a specific focus, however, there is a still a need to ensure links are made. For instance, Redditch Towns Board has always linked into RDC Strategic Group via the Chief Executive of the Borough Council with an item on each agenda. This is continuing but updates are now provided at RDC by the Chief Executive of Young Solutions.
32. It is important to ensure Redditch is represented appropriately at countywide groups so that there is a 2-way communication between County and District level, both from a Borough Council perspective and from a Redditch Partnership/Collaborative perspective. For instance, there is the Being Well Strategic Group, a sub group of the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Partnership Manager and the Head of Community and Housing Services represent Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils and Collaboratives.

33. As part of the change to ICS, VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Alliances have been formed nationally and there is one covering Worcestershire. Through the Redditch Partnership, we were able to make sure that Redditch had good representation on that Alliance, and in turn on countywide groups such as the County's Health and Wellbeing Board. By working closely with the RDC Programme Lead and PCNs, again using the Redditch Partnership, VCS representation on the RDC at both Strategic and Core Group has also been improved recently.

Wellbeing in Partnership E-Bulletin

34. There has been a Partnership E-Bulletin across Redditch and Bromsgrove for a number of years in slightly different forms. The Partnership E-Bulletin continues monthly and contains a wide range of information that comes into the Partnership Team from a wide variety of sources. Anyone involved in the Redditch Partnership and RDC automatically receive the bulletins, as do all local Councillors (Redditch Borough and County Councillors covering the Borough). The aim is to arm as many representatives as possible who work or volunteer in Redditch, from the statutory or voluntary and community sectors, with local information which in turn they can use and pass on to local residents.

Redditch & Bromsgrove Directory of Community Services (Knowledge Bank)

35. A directory of community services, called the Knowledge Bank, which built on previous internal directories used by the Council's Customer Service Team and the Parenting and Family Support Service, was created a number of years ago. The Council's IT development team assisted on the technical side of this while officers including Customer Services, Parenting and Family Support, Redditch and Bromsgrove Partnership Managers at the time worked to populate it with all services from the statutory and voluntary and community sectors available in Redditch and Bromsgrove. Originally created for internal teams, it was suggested and agreed that it should be made publicly available to allow anyone to use it.
36. More recently, at the suggestion of RDC, the Knowledge Bank has been given a facelift and made more user friendly. With support from BARN (Bromsgrove and Redditch Network) and using the results of the RDC Asset Mapping, the content has been updated and increased further.
37. The fully searchable directory is available on the Council's webpages for the public and local partners to use. Local organisations can contact the partnership team and add or update their organisation's details at any time. The direct link for the Knowledge Bank is knowledgebank.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

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