

**OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
2024**

25th November

**Review of Health Inequalities – Revisiting previous discussions by
Redditch Councillors**

Relevant Assistant Director		Judith Willis – Assistant Director Environmental and Housing Property Services
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Wards Affected		All wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)		Improving health and wellbeing
Non-Key Decision		
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to:

- 1) Consider options with regard to the Committee considering the subject of Health Inequalities as outlined in the report.**
- 2) Note this update regarding previous discussions concerning Health Inequalities Task Group at Overview and Scrutiny meetings.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had commissioned a number of task group reviews into health-related topics over the last decade. The reviews that had been undertaken included Tackling Obesity Task Group review in 2015, Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group concluded in 2017, and Suicide Prevention Task Group in 2020 (not concluded). However, there has not been a specific review into health inequalities carried out by Redditch Members.
- 2.2 Health inequalities has been highlighted as an area of concern previously, both at Redditch Borough Council and also at Worcestershire County Council. The last time Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Members considered the subject of health inequalities implications was as part of the update delivered to the Committee on

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Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership on 24th October 2019. However, no specific item on health inequalities in Redditch had been considered by the Committee in the last decade.

- 2.3 Members should be aware that health and social care are responsibilities of Worcestershire County Council, which has a dedicated Health and Well-being Board that brings together the organisations responsible for improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities across Worcestershire. In addition, the Worcestershire County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising services relating to NHS bodies and health services in Worcestershire.
- 2.4 At a meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th September 2022, a draft terms of reference / topic proposal in respect of the Task Group called 'Health Inequalities within the BME Community' was submitted. A copy of the proposal form submitted at that meeting is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.5 At that meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the task group titled 'Health Inequalities within the BME Community in Redditch' should be launched. However, it was not specified at that meeting what the membership of the Task Group should be or when it should be launched. The minutes extract from the 5th September meeting, recording the discussion with respect of this item is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.6 The topic of task group reviews was next discussed at the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1st December 2022. It was decided at that meeting that a review of fly tipping and bulky waste collections should be prioritised because the matter followed a referral from a full Council meeting on 14th November 2022.
- 2.7 Subsequent to the 1st of December 2022 meeting, the Overview and Scrutiny has not further considered the subject of Health Inequalities in Redditch Task Group.
- 2.8 The Health Inequalities in Redditch Task Group is not currently listed as a 'reserve' task group on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme. Due to officer capacity, should Members wish to add

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this to the work programme, the review could only proceed after the current task groups, into Fly Tipping and Bulky Waste, and into Post-16 Education, have been finalised.

- 2.9 Members can therefore consider several options in relation to the subject of Health Inequalities.
- 2.10 No further action be taken by Overview and Scrutiny Members in respect of this matter.
- 2.11 Overview and Scrutiny Committee can ask for a presentation or a briefing note to be provided on the subject of Health Inequalities in Redditch. This would be at one of the Committee meetings later in the municipal year. This would necessitate writing to relevant officers from the Worcestershire County Council and the NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICS).
- 2.12 A decision on the Health Inequalities Task Group can be taken by the Committee once the reviews listed at 2.6 have been finalised. Please note that at this point membership and terms of reference for the Task Group would need to be agreed by the Committee before meetings could commence.
- 2.13 It should also be noted that the Speeding and Road Safety Task Group is already listed on the Committee's Work Programme as a 'reserve' task group that is due to be launched once the current task group investigations into fly tipping and bulky waste and post-16 education have been finalised. Members are asked to consider if they wish to keep this task group as a 'reserve' on the Work Programme, and/.
- 2.14 Alternative action, to be identified and clearly specified during the meeting, can also be taken in relation to this matter.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council contained within this report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications for the Council contained within this report.

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5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 There are no specific priorities within the Council as it is not a health authority. However, the topic supports the wider purpose of living independent, active and healthy lives and improving health and wellbeing.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no direct climate change implications for the Council contained within this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Should the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider establishing a Task Group be established, a key stakeholder for the group to consult would be the Council's Policy team, which takes a lead in respect of equalities matters at the authority.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 At present there are already two ongoing Task Group reviews. There is therefore no capacity amongst Officers and the Democratic Services team to support any Health Inequalities review.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 No specific risks have been identified.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Health Inequalities within the BME Communities in Redditch Task Group – Scoping Document Approved by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th September 2022.

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Appendix 2 – Minute Extract – Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny
Committee 5th September 2022

Background Papers

Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 1st December 2022.
[Minute No. 74 2022 Revisiting Items Identified at the Overview and
Scrutiny Training](#)

Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 24th October 2019
(Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainability and Transformation
Update) [Minute No. 38 2019 - Herts and Worcs Sustainability and
Transformation Partnership - Update](#)