



Redditch Partnership & Redditch District Collaborative

Overview and Scrutiny Briefing Report

10th March 2025

Purpose

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

Recommendation

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

Redditch Partnership

3. The Redditch Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the Borough which has existed for a number of years with different groups as part of its structure. The primary purpose 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.
4. The makeup of the Redditch Partnership has changed in recent years for a number of reasons but most notably due to the changes nationally around health with the introduction of Integrated Care Systems (ICS). As part of those changes District Collaboratives were formed, including Redditch District Collaborative.
5. The former Redditch Partnership Executive Group oversaw the early set up arrangements of the Redditch District Collaborative (RDC). There was a collective agreement there needed to be a strong connection between the Partnership and Collaborative, building on the strengths of the Partnership and avoiding duplication, whilst making the most of the energies and resources available at the time for a newly formed Collaborative. Further information regarding RDC is covered later in this report.

Redditch Community Wellbeing Group (RCWG) and Youth Providers Forum

6. RCWG is a long-standing Redditch Partnership Group that, even throughout Covid, continued to meet virtually regularly. As with any of the partnership groups, there is no funding attached and they are non 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.
7. The RCWG meets approximately every two months and it covers a wide remit, in particular, health and wellbeing, 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.

8. To give an example of a recent partnership opportunity, at a Redditch Community Wellbeing Group meeting in September 2024, whilst partners were sharing information, it became apparent there was a willingness for some of the different agencies and teams to create a regular multi-agency drop-in for residents. Following further discussions with all those interested outside of the meeting, it was agreed at the end of last year that a monthly multi-agency drop-in for residents would start in January 2025 at Redditch Library. It involves a range of agencies such as Starting Well Team, Housing Team, Citizens Advice, BARN (who run the local volunteer centre), Act on Energy, Your Health Van, Seetec Pluss etc. Often people need access to more than one agency so this provides residents the option of being able to access in-person support on a range of issues in one place. It has an added benefit for partners of providing an in-person opportunity to strengthen their working relationships too. The partnership discussions at the end of last year ensured that how this was set up did not inadvertently duplicate or clash with anything existing (e.g. drop ins at the Old Needleworks) and ensured it was organised in a way that was workable for partners and provided consistency for our local residents. Wider partners not directly involved in the drop-ins also found it useful as it is something they can signpost their service users to where appropriate. This is a good example of what can happen when partners are enabled to come together and connect.
9. In addition to RCWG, there is a Redditch Youth Providers Forum. Supported by the leisure team, it connects into the wider partnership via RCWG through the Chair. That Forum has been used to support the Youth Offer commissioning locally in Redditch, funded via Worcestershire County Council.

Cost of Living Partnership Group

10. In 2021, a joint Redditch and Bromsgrove Cost of Living Partnership Group was established by the former Chief Executive of the Borough Council and has continued to date. It is chaired by Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services.
11. It brings 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.
12. It meets bi-monthly to help ensure collectively we are doing all we can together to alleviate 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.

13. 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. 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.
14. Most recently, a 'useful contacts' business card has been printed and distributed via Council teams and partners. It is small enough for people to pick up without embarrassment and slip in their pockets. There are still cards left for partners (and councillors) to pick up and help distribute. The aim is to help ensure people know where to turn should they need information, advice and/or support. They have been made available to collect from our Customer Service Centre.

Redditch Business Leaders (RBL) and RBL Youth Group

15. This group, previously known as the Economic Development Theme Group, originated from the Redditch Partnership but a number of years ago, morphed into the Redditch Business Leaders (RBL) and became an independent self-sustained group. The aim of the group has been to focus on skills, in particular the skills of young people. To ensure the voice of young people was heard, the RBL Youth Group was established. Both the Leader and Chief Executive of the Borough Council were members of RBL previously but it has not met for some time. However, it is anticipated RBL and its Youth Group will continue.

Redditch Mental Health and Housing Group

16. 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 and came about due to partnership working. The post is hosted by the Acute NHS Trust.
17. One of the tasks for the post holder was to set up 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).
18. Initially it was primarily about helping to bring together colleagues from Housing and Mental Health in particular, so that they could obtain a better understanding of each other's roles and the challenges they face. This proved very successful in enabling the different teams from different agencies to work more effectively together. Ultimately, it is our tenants, who are also known to mental health services (and often many other services) who are benefiting from the different teams working together.

Redditch District Collaborative (RDC)

19. District Collaboratives (sometimes called different names in other areas) were formed following 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.

20. There are two Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in Redditch – Kingfisher PCN and Nightingale PCN. PCNs were formed as part of a national NHS contract back in 2019, although prior to this our local 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, which took the lead in setting up RDC.
21. The District Collaborative in Redditch was the first one in the County to be established, with a small programme team to support it. Its structure has changed over time but its three main priorities have remained unchanged: mental health and wellbeing; frailty; and obesity.
22. Asset mapping was undertaken at the start 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.
23. Due to resource changes, there is no longer a programme lead for RDC but both PCNs have committed to continue to fund a post which works to engage and connect our partners and support collaborative working opportunities for the health-focussed benefit of the Redditch community. This post is hosted by WAC (Worcestershire Association of Carers) and sits within the social prescribing team for Redditch and works closely with the Partnership Team. However, the resource change did trigger a mini review of the large RDC structure.
24. The aim of reviewing the structure was to ensure RDC was more sustainable and streamlined going forward. This led to a reduction of RDC groups and instead the focus has been to enhance connections with established local networks, including the Redditch Partnership's Community Wellbeing Group as well as others (see next paragraph), ensuring there are ample opportunities for collaborative working in Redditch in a co-ordinated way.

Other Redditch Groups and Countywide Group

25. There are other groups involving partners in Redditch, often with a specific focus, however, there is still a need to ensure links are made, wherever possible, between groups rather than them all operating in isolation. For instance: Redditch Community Workers Meetings; the Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN) Meetings; and the Redditch Social Prescribers and Voluntary Sector Network Meetings. These are all separate meetings with different purposes, however, there are links made between them which means partners can engage with whichever one works for them.
26. Connections are also being made with anything new on the horizon. For instance, the Family Hub District Network Meetings are due to commence as part of the Starting Well / Best Start in Life changes and the Partnership Manager and Community Services Manager are working together to ensure links and make certain all relevant partners have the option of being part of it.

27. As well as looking at local groups, it is important to ensure Redditch is represented appropriately in countywide groups so that there is 2-way communication between County and District level, both from a Borough Council perspective and from a wider 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 Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services represent Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils and Collaboratives.
28. As part of the change to ICS, VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) Alliances were formed nationally and there is currently one covering Worcestershire. Through the Redditch Partnership, we were able to make sure that Redditch had good representation on that countywide Alliance, and in turn on countywide groups such as the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board. This all helps ensure Redditch has a strong voice at those countywide meetings.

Wellbeing in Partnership E-Bulletin

29. 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 their service users / local residents as appropriate.

Redditch and Bromsgrove Knowledge Bank (Community Services Directory)

30. A local 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.
31. At the suggestion of RDC, the Knowledge Bank was 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 and continues to be maintained.
32. The fully searchable directory is available on the Council's webpages for the public and local partners to use. The content of the Knowledge Bank is regularly reviewed but local organisations can contact the partnership team and add or update their organisation's details at any time.

33. At the end of 2024, Knowledge Bank business cards and posters were created and made available publicly to help raise awareness of this resource which is freely available to all – our teams, partner agencies and local residents too. The direct link for the Knowledge Bank is below – please feel free to use and share: knowledgebank.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

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