



Redditch Partnership & Redditch District Collaborative

Overview and Scrutiny Briefing Report

8th June 2026

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 in different forms. The primary purpose of the Redditch Partnership is to bring together representatives from a wide variety of agencies, primarily from the public 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, including changes around health with the introduction of Integrated Care Systems (ICS), which were formalised in 2022. 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 from the start that the Partnership and Collaborative needed to be interweaved in some way, 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)

6. RCWG is a long-standing Redditch Partnership Group that has continued to meet regularly for a number of years. As with any of the partnership groups, there is no funding attached and it is non-statutory, however, the group provides a platform for different representatives to come together and make connections. The strong attendance of longer term representatives continuing to meet and new partners keen to join shows the value of this Group by partners.

7. Relevant portfolio holder(s) have been members of this group. Typically you would expect one elected member but for the past 12 months in Redditch there have been two: the former Portfolio Holder for Community Services and Safeguarding (covering health and wellbeing) and the former Portfolio Holder for Community Spaces and the Voluntary Sector.
8. 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. With changes to services and roles, representatives new to their role and sometimes new to Redditch, look to join the group. The partnership group is open to any organisation that is supporting our residents. The primary aim is to provide an easy way for partners to connect and engage with a variety of different agencies at one time on an ongoing basis, helping to maintain existing relationships between partner agencies, as well as help build new ones.
9. 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.
10. To give an example of a recent partnership opportunity, at a Redditch Community Wellbeing Group last year, it became apparent that there was some confusion between partners working in Redditch that provide financial advice and support. Following separate one-to-one conversations the Partnership Manager had with a handful of partners, it was agreed that a small and informal one-off network meeting might be useful. Hosted by Acts of Kindness, who run the Redditch Foodbank, it brought together Citizens Advice Bromsgrove and Redditch, CAP (Christians Against Poverty) and The Project (which provides advice and guidance, funded via the Trussell Trust to work with people accessing Redditch Foodbank). The purpose was simply to gain a better understanding of what each did and between them, decide the best way to refer to each other, being mindful of each other's capacity. This led to those partners joining 'Refernet' (a tool paid for by Worcestershire County Council) as a way to refer between themselves so, no matter which route a person came in, they were directed easily to the most appropriate support. The partners found it so useful that they continue to meet on an informal basis, with no set agenda, and more recently additional representatives have been invited to join from Age UK North Worcestershire and RBC Financial Inclusion Team.
11. Another example is when the Kingfisher and Nightingales PCNs wanted to deliver a couple of drop-ins at one of the surgeries but open to all. They were able to use the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group to link in partners to join them, such as Act on Energy who were able to provide energy-related advice and the Fire Service, who offered their Home Fire Safety Checks. The social prescribers from both PCNs use the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group to help keep themselves up to date with changes in local provision and support too, which helps enable them to focus their time on the patient rather than researching support or relevant / up to date contacts.

Cost of Living Partnership Group

12. A joint Redditch and Bromsgrove Cost of Living Partnership Group was established by the former Chief Executive of the Borough Council approximately 5 years ago and is continuing. It is chaired by Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services.
13. 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.
14. 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, CAP, Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, Act on Energy 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. 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.
16. Most recently, the 'useful contacts' business-size card were printed and distributed via Council teams and partners. It is small enough for people to pick up without embarrassment and slip in their pockets. We have topped up the cards so that they remain available at our Customer Service Centre for partners (and councillors) to pick up and distribute. The aim is to help ensure people know where to turn should they need information, advice and/or support.

Redditch Mental Health and Housing Group

17. 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 was funded for 3 years and hosted by the Acute NHS Trust.
18. 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).
19. 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.

20. Although there is no longer a Head of Housing and Health Partnerships for Worcestershire post, the good work is continuing, with Redditch Housing taking the lead in ensuring those meetings continued. 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. This Group, although a separate group in its own right focusing on particular cases, links to both the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group and the RDC Steering Group, via Housing colleagues to help ensure work is joined up.

Redditch District Collaborative (RDC)

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. The District Collaborative in Redditch was the first one in the County to be established, with a small programme team to support it initially. Its structure and support have changed over time but its three main priorities have remained unchanged: mental health and wellbeing; frailty; and obesity.
24. 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.
25. Due to resource changes, there is no longer a programme lead or connector posts for RDC, however the PCNs remain committed to work collaboratively with a focus on health and wellbeing.
26. The resource reduction did trigger a mini review of the large RDC structure to ensure RDC was more sustainable and streamlined going forward. The outcome was the formation of one group only - the RDC Steering Group. The terms of reference, including the membership, have been refreshed and it has resulted in a far better balance of representation with a mix of statutory and voluntary sector representatives. Whilst ensuring the Steering Group remains a manageable size, additional key officer representatives have recently been invited, including from Health and Care NHS Trust and Acute NHS Trust, as well as our Redditch Housing Manager.
27. There is a tighter membership for RDC Steering Group which is complemented by the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group that directly feeds in and has deliberately less restrictions around its membership.

28. RDC is very keen to support and engage in the Priority Neighbourhood Development (PND) areas in Redditch. The Public Health PND programme is a targeted, place-based initiative designed to address health inequalities and unmet needs in communities. Work has commenced in Woodrow and also Winyates. For instance, via the RDC Steering Group, the PCNs have set up monthly drop ins at the new Woodrow Hub, with access to health professionals and support from other partners. 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.
29. Neighbourhood Health sits at the heart of the 10 Year Health Plan, but it cannot be achieved by Health partners alone. In addition to the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, RDC and the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group are well placed to support at a local level as local partners can collaborate ensuring a shared understanding, improved outcomes and the best use of collective resources, all with the aim of empowering people to lead healthier and independent lives.

Other Redditch Groups and Countywide Groups

30. 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 operating in isolation. For instance: Redditch Community Workers Meetings; the Bromsgrove and Redditch Network (BARN) Meetings; Safer Redditch Meetings, Redditch Youth Providers Group and Family Hub District 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 / is most relevant for them.
31. 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.
32. At the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board level, Redditch Borough Council is represented by an elected member (appointed at the RBC Annual Council Meetings). As the same elected member is invited to join the Redditch Community Wellbeing Group, it helps ensure a connection between our local Redditch Partnership Group and the Worcestershire Board.
33. The Worcestershire Being Well Strategic Group is 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, ensuring a connection via the County sub group at officer level too.
34. 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 voluntary sector 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

35. 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)

36. 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.
37. The Knowledge Bank was given a facelift approximately 18 months ago 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.
38. 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.
39. Knowledge Bank business-sized 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 supply has recently been topped up partners (and members) are welcome to collect a supply from our Customer Service Centre to help raise awareness of the 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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