

Talk Community
APSE Seminar
3rd June 2024

Building Strong Connected Communities

Herefordshire

- has the 4th lowest population density in England
- 95% of the county is rural - 53% of the population live in rural areas
- we are home to a higher than average population of over 65
- almost two thirds of all Herefordshire LSOAs (72 of the 116) are among the 25% most deprived in England with respect to IMD2019's 'geographical barriers to services' domain
- 53 being in the most deprived 10% across England, of these three quarters are in rural areas, with living costs estimated as 10-20% higher for rural households and deprivation related to housing and physical access to services
- is home to over 2,300 VCSE organisations reaching almost 109,000 residents and making an annual and social and economic contribution of £355m to the county's economy

TALK COMMUNITY

Strategic context and drivers

- dispersed nature of Herefordshire's population and limited infrastructure present challenges to local people in accessing the support they need close to where they live or work
- the need to address health inequalities
- Herefordshire has an ageing population with numbers in older age groups growing at a disproportionately high rate.
- increasing demand for health and social care and reducing finances
- increase in complexity of need
- integration across health and social care
- impact of cost of living pressures on residents

Talk Community

Formed in 2019 to 2020 in response to floods and the pandemic
Talk Community is

- a team of 5 development officers working based in each Primary Care Network
- 77 hubs, with the majority run by volunteers, all offering information, advice and signposting with 50 supporting events and activities in response to expressed community need and 18 offering space for statutory providers to deliver services at very local level
- Talk Community website and directory – source of information and advice (Care Act 2014)
- Community Brokers



Strengths

Talk Community

- is highly trusted by significant element of VCSE and community leaders
- has grown considerable community capital
- Development Officers respond to community need and have a good understanding of their 'patch'
- acts as the 'glue' in building local networks
- facilitates VCSE organisations working together and with statutory agencies
- hubs offer spaces/places for statutory agencies to deliver services as local level reducing barriers to access



Our future strategy

Vision

Working to build a sense of place and wellbeing through fostering strong and connected communities where people can thrive.

Aim

Stronger communities across Herefordshire, that are resilient and are empowered to input into decisions that affect their community.

Objectives

Support community organisation and community hubs to enhance wellbeing and work in collaboration with other agencies to meet the changing needs of communities and improve access to services

Work with communities to strengthen the ability of local leaders to influence decision making and co-design solutions to local issues and increase community connections with public sector agencies

Provide leadership on the delivery of national and local strategies that support the development of resilient communities and community engagement

Contribute to early help and prevention work to reduce demand for health and social care through harnessing the skills, knowledge and networks of our communities

Support communities to access a broad range of funding opportunities and benefit from central government funds allocated to the council to distribute

We will

- invest £2m capital funding to improve our community infrastructure to improve TC hubs and in areas of need to enable delivery of integrated services
- continue to invest in Talk Community in empowering communities to design solutions to meet local needs
- develop and implement an Information and Advice Strategy
- agree a set of outcome and impact measures in partnership with communities and health partners
- focus more systematically on addressing health inequalities and improve our understanding of how we can address the wider determinants of health alongside clinical responses
- embrace co-design approaches and build the capacity of our staff and communities
- continue to “shift the power” through embracing Community Paradigm principles