

Constantly looking at ways to provide high quality services as cost effectively as possible.

 **Housing**

Successes

- The agreement to secure the affordable homes at Ryewood (West Kent Cold Store) for phases 1 and 2 against the odds.
- Very low (often 0) numbers of people staying in bed and breakfast
- DIYSO 2 and the national recognition SDC has received for the scheme including it being used as a model for some London Boroughs and mentioned in the Lyons Housing report.
- Looking to submit DIYSO and HERO for National awards this year. HERO was mentioned in an Ofsted report for KCC Children centres as excellent practice and will be rolled to more.

Challenges

- The changes to national planning guidance on affordable housing will cost the District £2.5 million a year in affordable housing contributions seriously limiting what we can do. House prices are seventeen times higher than the average salary in the District.
- Find new funding streams for HERO and move into HERO plus by working with Landlords in the private sector
- Enable sufficient affordable housing and Housing benefit - welfare reform

 **Community Safety**

Successes

- Consistently low crime rates, good working relationships with our partners.
- Internet safety poster campaign for primary (KS2) children to keep raising awareness.

Challenges

- Implementing and getting used to the new Anti Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014.
- New issues such as safe guarding and slavery that need a response from SDC.

 **Environmental Health/Licensing**

Successes

- Licensing Partnership with Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells is very resilient, has saved the council a lot of money, and is about to celebrate its fifth birthday.
- SDC manages low cost, high quality environmental health and licensing service
- Environmental Health now in its 3rd year of a shared service with Dartford B.C

Challenges

- To increase the number of partners into the Licensing partnership (Swale & Tandridge).
- Look to share the CCTV control room with Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling to enhance the service, increase resilience while saving costs