

Housing & Health Advisory Committee

4 October 2016

Portfolio Holders Report

Housing

The Housing Needs survey has now been commissioned by arc4 and they are now researching our housing needs. We have decided to conduct the mobile park homes survey in house. We will have the results by Christmas and then we can merge the HNS with our housing direction of travel and write our housing strategy. We are hoping to launch the housing strategy together with highlights from the survey in the Spring.

On 24 June Lesley Bowles and I met with the CAB to ensure that their services are not overlapping with HERO. It was a very positive meeting and we have found ways that we can complement rather than duplicate the work of both services.

On 7 July I attended the Localis Round Table discussion about housing and planning in Andover.

On 18 July Gavin Missons and I had a very productive meeting with Moat Housing Association. They are very flexible and innovative and share much of our direction of travel.

The council supported 'Starts at Home' day on 1 September - a national campaign that celebrates supported housing. The Leader, Officers, Rockdale Housing Association staff, Sevenoaks Chronicle reporter, BBC Radio Kent journalist and me dressed in an ageing suit to experience what it is like to be frail and elderly the need for supported housing. Rockdale Housing Association kindly hosted that for us.

We also supported national Housing Day on 19 September. Throughout the day West Kent Housing Association and our health team celebrated housing in the community with falls prevention and dementia advice in Swanley. Later on our housing advice team (including HERO), West Kent Housing Association and Moat Housing Association held an open surgery for households with incomes under £35,000 - advising on their housing options.

The Communities and Local Government (CLG) select committee of the House of Commons is looking at homelessness and sponsoring the Homelessness Reduction Bill. We are not convinced that their proposed solutions to tackling homelessness would be beneficial to Sevenoaks and therefore we have fed in our views.

On 14 September, together with Peter Fleming, Robert Piper, Robin Cooper, Gavin Missons and Hayley Brooks we met with Darren Carter from Cheyne Capital Management to discuss different ways of funding affordable housing in the district.

Health and Leisure

I attended my first meeting of the District Council's Network (DCN) task force which will be exploring how district councils can implement the King's Fund report on 29 July. The morning session which was also attended by Hayley Brooks and Gavin Missons focussed on the Kings Fund Report. The afternoon session was the Task Force and its main aim is to promote the role that district councils play in the public health agenda and to support district councils as they try to do it.

The Public Sector Executive has published articles I have written about Housing and Health:

- **District Councils are the missing piece of the STP jigsaw**

<http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/The-ravens-daily-blog/district-councils-are-the-missing-piece-of-the-stp-jigsaw>

- **The Government misses a trick in forgetting the role of councils in tackling childhood obesity**

<http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/The-ravens-daily-blog/government-misses-a-trick-in-forgetting-council-role-to-tackle-childhood-obesity->

- **Local government must be set free to tackle homelessness**

<http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/The-ravens-daily-blog/local-government-must-be-set-free-to-tackle-homelessness>

- **District councils seriously underestimated when it comes to mental wellbeing**

<http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/The-ravens-daily-blog/district-councils-seriously-underestimated-when-it-comes-to-mental-wellbeing>

I attended the SLC Think Tank - Leisure Facility workshop with Robin Cooper on 14 June in Tottenham. I presented the Health & Wellbeing award at the SDC Community Awards on 15 June. I also attended the launch of the Valence School's Workout @ Work scheme that promotes staff walking around the school grounds as many times a week that they can. There are huge benefits to this and is something that I would like to promote more widely amongst employers.

On 21 June Lesley Bowles, Hayley Brook and I met with Porchlight who have been commissioned to provide mental health services in the DGS CCG area (North of our

District). We met with the Shaw Trust on 12 July who deliver mental health services in West Kent (south of our district).

The Health Integration West Kent deal is the most advanced of all the integration deals and special thanks to Pav Ramewal , Lesley Bowles and Hayley Brooks for their hard work in driving it through.

We have managed to strike a deal with our two cottage hospitals (Sevenoaks and Edenbridge) as well as Pembury to provide a referral system allowing patients to begin the Disabled Facility Grants (DFGs) process while in hospital so that they can be discharged sooner. This referral system also allows other SDC services including Private Sector Housing, HERO and the Healthy living team to be involved in providing preventive measures avoiding further hospital admissions. We hope to begin discussions with Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley so we can roll out a similar service in the Darent Valley and Livingstone hospitals.

To continue to help with the independent living agenda we hope to have Handy HERO (handy man service with HERO values) launched before the winter to help reduce slips and trips, taking the pressure off A&E.

On 28 June I met with Paul Carter (Leader of KCC) to discuss the West Kent Health Integration Deal. On 14 July I presented certificates to the Breastfeeding Peer Support mothers at Spring House. On 15 July I attended the Dementia friendly standards workshop at County Hall.

On 29 June I attended the Sevenoaks Local Children's Partnership Group and their Children's Workshop on 20 July.

On 30 June I deputised for the Leader at the South East England Council AGM.

On Monday 1 August the Chairman and I helped promote bike riding at Brands Hatch.