

Housing

Challenges:

- Housing survey has highlighted that the middle income group (£33,000 to £80,000) to be in particular need in our district. They don't qualify for social rented accommodation and can not afford to buy on the open market. This group is heavily dependent on the private rented sector – much more so than other districts.
- Our private rented sector is only 12% of the total (compared to the English average of 18%) and it is serving higher income groups than other districts where it is helping to provide housing for people earning less than £33,000.
- The over 65s is our largest growing age group - housing and community challenges to help them live independent lives for as long as possible. Some are asset rich and cash poor living in deteriorating homes.
- House prices remain very high (up to 17 times average wages). LHA (Local Housing Allowance) is too low for this district and needs to be brought in line with London.
- More pressures on temporary accommodation
- Benefit changes and the impact of evictions
- Keep homelessness low

Successes:

- The SDC HERO bid for the Prime Minister's trailblazer funding for innovative solutions to combat homelessness was successful – and we were granted nearly £100,000 for three years for extra HERO support and to upskill them into Super HEROs with health skills. Sevenoaks was the only successful single district nation-wide.
- The DFG team is now working in Pembury, Sevenoaks and Edenbridge hospitals preparing homes for people while they are in hospital so that they can be discharged sooner. We plan a similar scheme at the Darent Valley and Livingstone hospitals.
- The Arc4 housing survey is complete. The district-wide data is available and ward data will be made available at the next Housing & Health Advisory Committee. This will form the evidence base for the housing strategy which will also be based on last year's member workshops. The aim is to approve the new strategy in July and launch it at a second housing forum in the Autumn.

Health & Leisure

Challenges:

- To ensure provision of high quality, well-located, and accessible sport and leisure facilities, to facilitate increased participation in sport and physical activity across the district.
 - To decide the future of Whiteoak; and consistent quality of leisure facilities across all the district's centres
 - To focus sports development in areas inaccessible to the leisure centres
 - To work more closely with the CCGs on health and leisure provision across the district
 - Open up and use our green spaces more
- Complete the new leisure strategy

- To implement the King's Fund Report recommendations across the district – and to lead the country with expertise on how to do it.

Successes

- The West Kent Health deal has now been approved and will start operating in the Spring. The CCGs are keen to become the third partner in the deal – which should lead to faster and better results
- SDC is one of the leading health districts in the country – as a result I am also chairman of the District Council Network's (DCN) Healthy Towns and Villages Network
- We pulled out of the Wildernesse Sports provision on very good terms

Dementia friendly achievements

- We won the KCC most dementia-friendly organisation in Kent and are now official dementia-champions supporting others to become dementia-friendly.