

## Housing & Health Advisory Committee

20 June 2017

### Portfolio Holders Report

#### Housing

The results from the **housing needs survey** have now been merged with the members direction of travel into the first draft of the new housing strategy that will be put in front of members tonight for discussion.

The **West Kent homelessness strategy** has been put together and will be brought tonight before the Housing & Health Advisory Committee for comments. The homelessness strategy sits underneath our main housing strategy as a sub strategy.

**Trailblazer Homelessness Funding.** We have used this funding to employ a 3<sup>rd</sup> HERO officer who will be starting in July. She is an experienced worker. We helped 42 families in the first quarter. These are people who fit the Trailblazer criteria including vulnerable families on low income, many identified through Children Centres.

**Update on Syrian refugees.** The family will arrive this month. Volunteers have been raising money and helping with decorating and gardening, collecting furniture and retail vouchers. A Steering Group has been set up and is working very well.

On 24 March I attended the opening of **Cedar Court in Edenbridge** – a West Kent extra care home for adults with learning disabilities.

On 2 May I spoke at a **LGIU seminar on homelessness prevention** and the Sevenoaks solutions to the problem.

On 19 May the Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon and Claire Pearsall opened **St Andrew's Court in Swanley** – a new sheltered housing facility with 29 x 1- and 2-bed apartments.

On 13 June I was interviewed by **New Start magazine** about the pressures local authorities face in providing affordable housing in rural areas.

On Thursday 15 June, Robert Piper and I visited **Abbeyfield Kent Society's residential retirement** complex in Gravesham to see how Abbeyfields find solutions to retirement accommodation and extra care as residents need it.

#### Health & Leisure

The **Sustainability and Transformation Plan** is an important national strategic initiative which is looking at sustainable models for delivering primary healthcare in local areas. There will be some public events. If anyone would like to know more about this there is a public event in Sevenoaks on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 9.30am to 12.30pm, venue to be confirmed. The STP will could impact on local delivery and it is intended that improvements to local services are made. We have invited a speaker to our next Housing and Health Advisory Committee to look at what this might mean for our residents.

**The West Kent Integration Deal has started to be delivered across the District.** The new One You telephone number is being developed and will be managed by our Contact Centre. Enquiries coming through the One You network are being dealt with by the Healthy Lifestyles team. On 13 June I was interviewed by the CCG about the West Kent Integration deal for a promotional video they are making.

We found some difficulty in getting the GPs engaged during the **St Johns pilot**. However, we have now moved on to Amhurst surgery and are dealing with the practice nurses and this is working well.

The **Dementia run** was hugely successful raising in excess of £4,500 for the dementia forum to continue to promote dementia-friendly initiatives.

**The Community awards on 14 June** had a family friendly category that recognised businesses and organisations that promote and make welcome the whole family from breastfeeding mothers to people living with dementia. The awards are an excellent opportunity to recognise and reward best practice across the district.

I chaired and spoke at the **District Council Network's Healthy Towns and Villages** conference on dementia on Friday 16 June.