

10 October 2017

Portfolio Holders Report

Housing

The Council supported the National Housing Federation's Starts at Home day again on Friday 1 September at Wellfield Community Centre in Hartley with West Kent Housing Association and Gary Johnson MP. The Council's Chairman was in attendance which was extra special as he is also the local member.

There was a turnout of more than 50 residents to celebrate how supported housing enables people to live independent lives and helps to reduce hospital admissions and homelessness. Most supported housing schemes are for older people but some are for young people leaving the care system, people with learning difficulties or armed forces adjusting to civilian life.

The week commencing 18 September was national housing week and the council took part in this by promoting shared ownership re-sales which have proven to be a little known, but very affordable option for people in this district.

On 6 October I visited the Abbeyfield Extra Care Scheme in Tonbridge and presented the new housing strategy to Tom Tugendhat MP.

The Council will be promoting the new housing strategy: 'Wellbeing starts at Home' on Friday 3 November. All councillors have been invited as well as parish councillors, Housing Associations, developers, neighbouring councils, CCGs and others with an interest in housing and health. The event is being sponsored by Paramount, a private company that provides temporary housing.

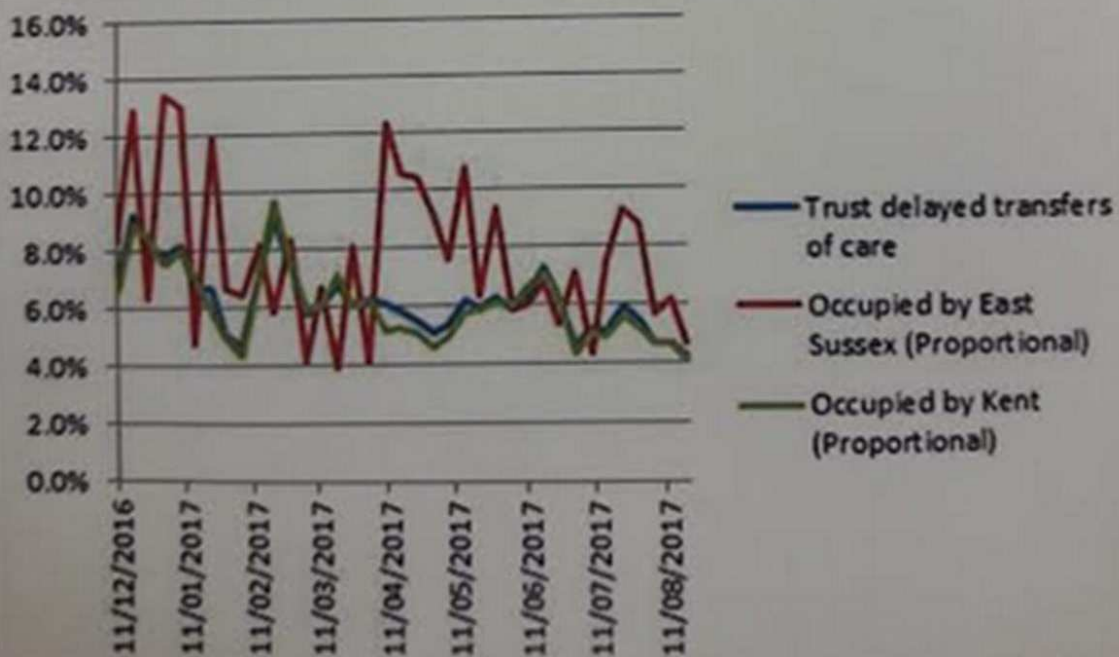
The Tunbridge Wells Hospital based Health and Housing Co-ordinator, whose principle role is to reduce delayed hospital discharge has been nominated for a Kent Housing group excellence award which it won. The scheme was also nominated for a national HIA award for collaboration with the outcome being the partnership was commended. Two new Maintenance Operatives are now employed by the council and are an integral part of the Health and Housing Co-ordinators role as they undertake works to facilitate patients to return home. Work undertaken to facilitate a hospital discharge is funded via the Disabled Facility Grant.

A Housing a Health Co-Ordinator is now in place at Darenth Valley Hospital, this in collaboration with Dartford Borough Council and Family Mosaic.

The graphs overleaf show some of the impact that the reduced delayed hospital discharge scheme is having on patients and the hospital, comparing Kent with East Sussex where such a scheme does not exist.

The West Kent Housing Association Board have agreed to introduce fixed term tenancies from April 2018 for all tenancies; except some supported housing schemes where residents are already on fixed term tenancies and Emerald residents who are over 55.

Trust weekly delayed transfers of care



Health & Leisure

Met with Phil Veasey, Public Health and sports professional, to discuss public health and hard to reach groups on 1 August. Looking forward to working with members and officers on how some of his community ideas can be taken forward.

On 8 August I attended the West Kent STP Meeting in Sevenoaks, who have been invited to this advisory meeting on 10 October to update members on their plans.

Working with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development to ensure housing and health are fed into the new Economic Development Plan.

On 21st September I attended the LGA's Housing & Health Conference. On 28 September I attended the STP Board meeting.

To mark mental health week on the week commencing 9 October, Sevenoaks District Council will be working with the Orchards Academy Secondary School and music with SupaJam and Swanley Youth Centre – both in Swanley. To build on this work SDC is considering working with partners to open a mental health café in the district along the lines of the one in Dartford, as suggested in a previous advisory committee brainstorming session. It would work like a Dementia Café and be open for people to visit if they need moral support and some professional advice.

Sevenoaks District Council is signing up to the 'Time for Change: Employer Pledge Action Plan' to help end mental health discrimination starting at home with own employees. The pledge is funded by the Department of Health, Comic Relief and the Lottery Fund and is supported by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness.