

**27 November 2018**

**Portfolio Holders Report**

**Housing**

On 26 October, Peter Fleming, Andrew Stirling, Hayley Brooks and I visited the Romford YMCA as they have recently won the KCC's youth contract for the district. They combine Housing, Health and Leisure for communities and it was interesting to see how they do this for particular hard to reach groups. We want to explore more ways in which we can work with them to build up communities across our district.

In the New Year the Council plans to launch our new Local Ladder Scheme at Enterprise Way in Edenbridge where West Kent Housing Association is building 120 affordable units. Local Ladder will help people to leave the social and private rented sectors and step up onto the housing ladder in the district.

Our new Landlord Liaison Officer, Ainsley Drummer, is making huge progress finding more private sector landlord partners for the council – helping us to manage the new requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act. I plan to invite Ainsley to the next Housing & Health Advisory Committee in the New Year to update members on progress.

The Council's insulation project of Hedge Barton Mobile Home Park has been nominated for the Kent Environment Champions award 2018.

On 31<sup>st</sup> September the Council celebrated Starts at Home Day with the Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon at West Kent Housing Association's Woodlands Court – which sits at the centre of a new older peoples' hub in Swanley. The new West Kent hub together with the opening of retirement village: Emerson Park shows the Council's older people's housing strategy progressing as more purpose built homes for older people with community and support services, across tenures, are being built across the district.

**Health & Leisure**

From 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October Lesley Bowles and I attended the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities Conference in Belfast, where I spoke in a plenary session about the council's health in all policies approach. The conference provided us both with an opportunity to network with local government representatives from all around the world – and it was comforting to see that we are all grappling with the same issues. It was also good to see that Sevenoaks District Council is a world leader in some of our health work.

I attended the official opening of the new gym at the Sevenoaks Leisure Centre on 26 September.

The week commencing 12 November the Council is celebrating the centenary of Parliamentary women's suffrage by showing a film about how the role of women has changed in the last century and exhibiting some work by Orchards Academy. Encouraging participation in political life has been

identified by the World Health Organisation as one of the 6 P's to health and wellbeing along with People, Place, Peace, Prosperity and Planet.

On 3 November two plays highlighting the impact of dementia were performed at the Stag Theatre that was supported by a market place of support services available across the district. The council now has a brochure of all support services available.

On 13 November the council supported Purple Tuesday, a day supported by the government dedicated to accessible shopping. The aim is to enable and encourage retailers across the country, and online to introduce new measures to make the shopping experience more inclusive and accessible for disabled customers. The Council was able to promote a number of our initiatives that support disabled people including our Shop Safe Stay Safe Scheme and our Better Care Grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau to provide more holistic advice.