

# Sevenoaks District Community Plan Annual Report April 2022

This Annual Report is produced by Sevenoaks District Council on behalf of the Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) using data and information provided by partners



Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership

**making it happen**

*- together*



## Table of Contents

Introduction, Page 2

Our Performance, Page 3

The Local Strategic Partnership: who are we? Page 3

Safe Communities, Pages 4-6

Caring Communities, Pages 7-12

Green Environment, Pages 13-15

Healthy Environment, Pages 16-18

Dynamic Economy, Pages 19-20

Sustainable Economy, Pages 21-22

How to get in contact, Page 23

## Introduction

Making it happen- *together* is the Community Plan for the Sevenoaks District. It sets out a 15-year vision that reflects what local people have told us is important to them in the District.

The vision is supported by a three-year plan, which sets out our priorities for action. The current three-year action plan covers the period 2019-22 and ends in March 2022.

This report summarises the work of the Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) over the last financial year (2021/22).

### **Our 10-year vision:**

- **Safe Communities:** A safer place to live, work and travel
- **Caring Communities:** Children are enabled to have the best start and people can be supported to live independent lives
- **Green Environment:** People can enjoy high quality urban and rural environments
- **Healthy Environment:** People have health lifestyles, access to quality healthcare and health inequalities are reduced
- **Dynamic Economy:** A thriving local economy where businesses flourish, where people have skills for employment and tourism is supported
- **Sustainable Economy:** People can live, work and travel more easily and are empowered to share

## **Our performance**

In order to measure success, we have set out a number of key success measures for each of the priorities set out in this plan.

At the end of the third year (April 2021–March 2022) of the 2019–2022 Action Plan, **96%** of key success measures in the plan were achieved. The 4% is missing information and relates to one action that partners have not sent us the data.

## **The Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)**

The Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership co-ordinates the monitoring and delivery of the Action Plan. It is made up of representatives from the following organisations:

Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council, Sencio Community Leisure, Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, West Kent Housing, West Kent Extra, Moat Housing, Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Age Concern Sevenoaks and Tonbridge, West Kent MIND, Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District, Imago, Kent Police, Compaid, Go Coach.

## Safe Communities



### **We want Sevenoaks to be a safer place to live, work and travel**

**Priority 1, 85% of actions in the Community Safety Partnership action plan achieved each year: Achieved**

**Priority 2, Keep overall crime amongst the lowest in the county and aim for an improvement in that position. Achieved**

**Priority 3, Maintain the low number of ASB incidents (no higher than 3<sup>rd</sup> in the county). Achieved**

**Priority 4, Road safety measures undertaken to prevent people from being killed or seriously injured on local roads.: Information not received**

**Priority 5, Enforcement action taken against dangerously or illegally parked cars.: Achieved.**

## **Key Success Measures: Safe Communities**

### **Safe 1. 85% of actions in the Community Safety Partnership action plan achieved each year:**

The Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership achieved 97% of actions set out in the Community Safety Strategy Action Plan during 2020/21.

The 2021/22 Action Plan focused on Domestic Abuse, Serious and Acquisitive Crime (including Organised Crime Groups, Emerging Trends and County Lines, which is a type of criminal exploitation where gangs and organised crime networks groom and exploit children to sell drugs), Anti-Social Behaviour including Environmental Crime, Safeguarding, Substance Misuse, Doorstep Crime and Scams including Cyber Crime.

This year the Sevenoaks Community Safety Unit (CSU) carried out 626 daily tasking's to address reports over the previous 24-hours, and made follow-up visits and calls to residents who reported issues and concerns.

The Community Safety Partnership continued to target repeat locations of concern to local people during 2021/22. The Partnership has over 35 projects in their action plan and schemes to address specific local community safety issues.

### **Safe 2, Keep overall crime amongst the lowest in the county and aim for an improvement in that position.**

During 2021/22, there were 7056 reports of victim based crime between 1 April 2021 & 31 March 2022. This is an increase of 265 crimes compared to same period last year. At the end of the financial year, Sevenoaks District had the **second lowest number** of reported victim based crimes in the County.

### **Safe 3, Maintain the low number of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents (no higher than 3<sup>rd</sup> in the county)**

During 2021/22, Sevenoaks District had the third lowest level of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the county, with 1513 recorded incidents to Kent Police. Compared to previous year there has been a 44% decrease (1177 reports). During the last three years, Sevenoaks District has maintained the low number of ASB incidents at no higher than the second lowest in the county.

Coronavirus has played a big impact on crime and ASB and has contributed to the decreases and increases.

**Safe 4, Road safety measures undertaken to prevent people from being killed or seriously injured (KSI) on local roads.**

KCC have not given us any data since the last annual report.

Speedwatch continued to operate in eight locations in the District. Speedwatch enables groups of volunteer residents to contribute to their community's safety and quality of life by helping reduce excessive vehicle speed.

**Safe 5, Enforcement action taken against dangerously or illegally parked cars.**

During 2021/22, there have been over 5000 enforcement actions taken against vehicles parked in contravention of parking restrictions/regulations.

## Caring Communities

We want Sevenoaks to be a place where people can be supported to lead independent, fulfilling lives and where children and young people have the best start



### Your priorities for action

**Priority 1**, Increased number of people supported to live independently: Achieved

**Priority 2**, Reduced loneliness and social isolation through social prescribing schemes: Achieved

**Priority 3**, Sevenoaks Local Children's Partnership Group (LCPG) to produce a set of indicators focused on LCPG priorities, with at least 75% of core indicators on target: Achieved

**Priority 4**, The number of positive outcomes where homelessness has been prevented: Achieved

## APPENDIX A

**Priority 5**, Deliver the actions in the Sevenoaks District Housing Strategy, “Wellbeing Starts at Home” to meet the needs of vulnerable and low-income households and improve the condition of existing stock: Achieved

**Priority 6**, Improve opportunities for vulnerable people through the Community Grant Scheme; Achieved

## Key Success Measures: Caring Communities

### Caring 1, Increased number of people supported to live independently.

Sevenoaks District Council's Private Sector Housing team work to support Sevenoaks residents to live independently by supporting them with grants. The Disabled Facility Grants are used for major adaptations to people's homes such as stair lifts and flush floor showers. During 2021/22 there were 52 of these grants given out. This has enabled more residents across the District to live more independently.

Safe and Secure Grants are also given out by our Private Sector Housing Team. There have been 31 of these grants given out for 2021/22. There have also been over £5000 worth of Peabody Handyperson Service work for the year that includes 43 keysafes, 10 beds and mattresses, 2 grab rails, 2 rubbish clearance and a property deep clean.

**The West Kent Hospital Discharge Programme** supported by the Better Care Fund is a partnership project between Sevenoaks District Council, Peabody Home Improvement Agency and the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. During 2021/22, 15 Hospital Discharge Grants were given out.

## **Caring 2, Reduced loneliness and social isolation through social prescribing schemes.**

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is one of the most ambitious programmes across the NHS and local government to date. It creates a local budget to encourage the NHS and local government to work more closely together, placing people's wellbeing as the focus of health and care services.

During 2020/21 Better Care continued to provide around £100,000 of funding for an exciting partnership project aimed at supporting older people in Edenbridge and Swanley. The "**One You - Your Home**" project is a partnership project between Sevenoaks District Council and Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge. It provides a service for older people who are referred by GPs as needing more general support. The project employs two One You Advisers, who aim to remedy health and housing related issues, reduce demand on GPs, promote independence for customers and provide financial assistance in overcoming obstacles within the home environment.

**Your Home Service** continue to support clients across the Sevenoaks District in combating social isolation. For most of 2021/22 the Coronavirus had a major impact on the delivery of the Your Home Advisers held appointments with 180 clients, of these 15 were referred for Community Activity and 7 set goals connected with socialisation. However.

Over the last year Your Home Advisers have held appointments with **over 300 clients**. Most of these clients set goals centred on adaptations within the home to ensure personal safety.

### **Caring 3, Outcomes achieved on Sevenoaks District Local Children's Partnership Action Plan**

The Sevenoaks Local Children's Partnership Group continued to focus on the following priorities during 2021/22, including, secondary school attendance, emotional resilience, domestic abuse and supporting families to make healthy lifestyle choices.

During 2021/22, Kent County Council's **Early Help Service** continued to support families who struggle with multiple and complex problems. The Service brings partners together to help families overcome these problems by working intensively with them to provide the stability and practical support they need to improve their lives.

During 2021/22, on entry to the programme, the four most frequent problems for these families were as follows:

- Children with mental health or emotional health and well-being concerns
- A child with 10% absences or more across the last three consecutive terms
- An adult who requires parenting support
- An adult with mental health or emotional health and well-being concerns

The Local Strategic Partnership continue to support Mental Health throughout the District and especially through COVID-19 and the pandemic a lot of services were held on line. West Kent & North Kent Mind delivered a number of 1:1 and group sessions over Zoom. They also released a lot of information and a tool kit on how to address mental health over Social Media. Face to Face sessions have also been reinstated.

Mental Health reports have seen an increase across the County through the pandemic. Release the pressure has been widely advertised. In January and February 2022 Sevenoaks District Council held Mental Health Awareness Training have promoted Mental Health services through the Council and to partner agencies.

### **Caring 4, The number of positive outcomes where homelessness has been prevented.**

Our Housing Advice Team have continued to provide positive outcomes to prevent homelessness. For the past year, the team have supported 245 people with a positive outcome whereby homelessness was prevented or secured alternative accommodation.

**Caring 5, Deliver actions in the Sevenoaks District Housing Strategy, “Wellbeing starts at Home” to meet the needs of vulnerable and low-income households and improve the condition of existing stock**

“Wellbeing Starts at Home” reflects Sevenoaks District Council’s belief that people’s home environment can have a significant impact on health. If our homes are overcrowded, isolated and under-occupied, badly maintained and full of hazards, cold and damp or unaffordable and causing debt - our health will suffer.

S106 housing pots funding from developers have been awarded to WKHA to refurbish a property in Sevenoaks Town to provide accommodation for those with mental health needs and this will provide 7 bed spaces to those most in need. We are currently awaiting funding for 2022/23 to help on Housing

**Caring 6, Improve the opportunities for vulnerable people through the Community Grant Scheme**

The Community Grant Scheme funded by Sevenoaks District Council enables charities, community groups and organisations to apply for grants from £500-£5,000 for a specific project that helps the health and wellbeing of our residents. From those that applied for funding in 2021/22 **over 85% of targets** were met or exceeded and some funding was returned and carried forward for use in funding Community Grants for 2022/23.

## Green Environment

We want Sevenoaks District to be a place where people can enjoy clean and high quality urban and rural environments



**Priority 1**, Planning policies used effectively as monitored through the Local Plan to protect our high quality natural environment, including Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and biodiversity: Achieved

**Priority 2**, Use and enforce Planning Policies set out in the Local Plan to ensure new development is designed to a high quality and takes into account distinctive local character and impact on the environment: Achieved

**Priority 3**, Ensure new development is designed to a high quality and takes into account local character and the impact on the environment: Achieved

Priority 4, Recycling campaigns delivered: Achieved

## **Key Success Measures: Green Environment**

### **Green 1, planning policies used effectively as monitored through the Local Plan to protect our high quality natural environment, including Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and biodiversity**

During 2021/22, Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan policies **successfully protected open and green spaces** in the District, ensuring that key developments in the District contributed to future open space provision.

Developments across the District have continued to be built in accordance with the adopted policy in the Core Strategy and Allocations and Development Management Plan. The emerging Local Plan also includes policies to conserve and enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity net gain and new developments. Relevant Evidence Base documents also provide development guidance, and include the Green Belt Assessment, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans and Kent Biodiversity Strategy.

### **Green 2, Use and enforce Planning Policies set out in the Local Plan to ensure new development is designed to a high quality and takes into account local character and impact on the environment**

The Local Plan sets out the vision for future development across the Sevenoaks District and used to help decide on planning applications and other planning related decisions.

Sevenoaks District Council's emerging Local Plan also includes policies which encourage development to reflect the distinctive local character of the area and exhibit high quality design.

The Council's Urban Design Officer has delivered training to officers and members on the implementation of adopted local and national policy including the National Design Guide and the High Weald AONB Colour Assessment.

### **Green 3, Weekly refuse service collection maintained**

During 2021/22, Sevenoaks District Council successfully maintained its weekly refuse and dry recycling collection service. Sevenoaks District Council is unique in being the only Council within Kent to maintain a weekly service. It is also one of the few in Kent to retain an in house collection service.

The target for missed collections of waste per 100,000 populations 10.0 and the actual for this is **6.8**, which is a great achievement given the huge increase of waste weights being presented.

### **Green 4, Recycling campaigns delivered**

During 2021/22, 98% of the District's waste was recycled or reused, which is the same as last year. This has been helped by some successful recycling campaigns and initiatives, including:

- In partnership with the Kent Resource Partnership campaigns for recycling happened County-wide.
- The Green and garden waste services were advertised in this quarter via social media, website and Insite magazine.

West Kent Communities manages the Abacus furniture store in Sevenoaks and two others elsewhere in Kent. In addition to providing low cost furniture to those that most need it, the stores recycled **110 tonnes** of goods that would otherwise have gone to landfill

## Healthy Environment

We want Sevenoaks District to be a place where people have healthy lifestyles and where health inequalities are reduced



**Priority 1**, Produce new Health Inequalities Action Plan - Achieved

**Priority 2**, 85% of success measured in the District Deal to be on target - Achieved

**Priority 3**, Service improvements delivered through a health in all policies approach - Achieved

**Priority 4**, Actions delivered in Sevenoaks District Council's Housing Strategy, Wellbeing Starts at Home, focused on supporting the Council's health outcomes and supporting people to remain independent - Achieved

## **Key Success Measures: Healthy Environment**

### **Healthy 1: Produce new Health Inequalities Action Plan that supports the delivery of the Community Plan**

Sevenoaks District Council's and Kent County Council's "Health Deal - the future of health at a local level" is a ten-point plan which involves:

- Training staff on Making Every Contact Count and how to make appropriate referrals
- Working to establish a health in all policies approach; ensuring everything we do supports a health and wellbeing approach;
- Tackling the housing causes of ill-health through the work of HERO and SuperHERO service;
- Accessing new external funding to support delivery of the deal, including two successful Sport England funding bids;
- Improving health in workplaces in the District;
- Working in partnership with GPs;
- Making best use of open space and active travel, including promotion of led cycle rides in the district, and new quarterly health walk leader training;
- One You Advisers continuing to carry out mapping of the key health assets at the local level;
- One You Your Home Advisers now accessing GP data on GP systems;

The Health Inequalities Action plan has been changed to the Health and Wellbeing Plan and a new plan has been implemented and is monitored by a multi-agency Partnership

### **Healthy 2, 85% of success measured in the District Deal to be on target**

**95% on target**, This has now been exceeded through the new Health & Wellbeing Action Plan.

### **Healthy 3, Service improvements delivered through a health in all policies approach**

A significant portion of our time is being invested in reinstating previous One You services back to face to face. We received funding for Our Parks and this has been delivered throughout the District and working with Involve on delivery health services.

**Healthy 4, Actions delivered in Sevenoaks District Council's Housing Strategy, Wellbeing Starts at Home, focused on supporting the Council's health outcomes and supporting people to remain independent.**

“Wellbeing Starts at Home” reflects Sevenoaks District Council’s belief that people’s home environment can have a significant impact on health. If our homes are over-crowded, isolated and under-occupied, badly maintained and full of hazards, cold and damp or unaffordable and causing debt - our health will suffer.

A number of planning permissions have been determined during the quarter which will provide new accessible affordable homes: These higher accessibility standards ensure homes will meet the needs of a wider range of applicants and therefore support independence.

## Dynamic Economy

We want Sevenoaks District to be a place with a thriving local economy, where businesses flourish, and people have skills for employment



**Priority 1**, Deliver actions against the key themes set out in the Economic Development Strategy (2018-21) for Growth and Investment, Infrastructure, Visitor Economy, Skill and Enterprise - Achieved

**Priority 2**, Develop a digital inclusion strategy - Achieved

**Priority 3**, Funding secured for business support programmes and rural businesses - Achieved

## **Dynamic Economy: Key Success Measures**

### **Dynamic 1, Deliver actions against the key themes set out in the Economic Development Strategy (2018-21) for Growth and Investment, Infrastructure, Visitor Economy, Skill and Enterprise**

Sevenoaks District Council's Economic Development Strategy 2018-21 was agreed last year. This includes a key theme area relating of growth and investment in the district with an ambition to regenerate key market towns.

The Economic Development team continue to deliver actions in the current Economic Development Strategy, as well as the West Kent Priorities for growth strategy. All actions remain on track to be delivered by the end of the Strategy period. A new Strategy is being drafted for the next financial year.

Community Development officers have also worked closely with a partner IMAGO, to deliver an Employability project to enhance the skills of Young Carers and with West Kent Extra on their Job Skills Fayres

### **Dynamic 2, Develop a Digital inclusion strategy with positive outcomes achieved**

Due to our partners Compaid, Age UK, West Kent Housing and other agencies offering support to digitally excluded individuals it has been determined that there is already good provision in the District. However, we are working with KCC on Community Wi-Fi and they have conducted a survey in 2 areas of the District. There is a dedicated Digital Inclusion Hub by KCC and we are working with them on delivering services.

### **Dynamic 3, Funding secured for business support programmes and rural businesses**

SDC is the Gateway for Kickstart West Kent which provides employers with grant funding to employ a young person for 25 hours a week for 6 months. At the end of March over 100 placements had been approved. This scheme has now ended.

## Sustainable Economy

We want Sevenoaks District to be a place where people can live, work and travel more easily and are empowered to shape their communities



**Priority 1,** Projects delivered through the CIL infrastructure plan; Achieved

**Priority 2,** Deliver actions in the Sevenoaks District Housing Strategy, “Wellbeing Starts at Home” to provide a good mix of decent and affordable housing: Achieved

**Priority 3,** A new Transport Strategy for the District produced, which facilitates improvements to transport in the district: Achieved

**Priority 4,** Increase number of people who are helped to shape their local community: Achieved

## **Sustainable Economy: Key Success Measures**

### **Sustainable 1, Projects delivered and/or supported by CIL (Community Infrastructure Plan)**

There have been no recent CIL Boards due to the fact of lack of developments, but these will happen in due course. CIL Training has been delivered to Town & Parish Councils

### **Sustainable 2, Deliver actions in the Sevenoaks District Housing Strategy, “Wellbeing Starts at Home” to provide a good mix of decent and affordable housing.**

The number of affordable homes delivered in 2021/22 was 20 homes. Broom Hill, Swanley and the Tesco's site, Sevenoaks. These will deliver 39 new affordable homes, including 25 "genuinely affordable" homes, in future years. The affordable housing Provider has yet to be selected for either site.

### **Sustainable 3, A new Transport Strategy for the District produced, which facilitates improvements to transport in the district.**

The Council produced a Sevenoaks District Transport Assessment (Dec 2018) and the Swanley Transport Study (May 2018) evidence base documents, to support the preparation of the emerging Local Plan. Developments continue to be in accordance with adopted policy.

### **Sustainable 4, Increase number of people who have helped to shape their local community:**

Until August 2021 we continued our ‘Care for our Community’ Scheme. In March 2022 this was set up for the Ukraine Scheme. A host event has been organised for April 2022 and a volunteer group set up to help families coming to the District.



**For more information or to get in contact**

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