

Housing and Health Advisory Committee

Responsibilities and Challenges

June 2023

People and Places

Chief Officer: Sarah Robson

Housing (Alison Simmons)

Areas of Responsibility

- Housing Strategy and Enabling
- Housing Standards
- Housing Needs
- Homelessness
- Housing Register/Allocations
- Empty Homes
- Gypsy and Traveller sites
- Disabled Facilities Grant
- Energy Efficiency
- Fuel Poverty
- HERO
- Resettlement schemes

Issues and Future Challenges

- House prices are 40% higher than the county average
- Lower than average level of private rented accommodation (approx. 13% of residents live in the PRS).
- Above average level of older people in District and set to grow significantly, particularly amongst 65+ and 85+ groups.
- 673 applications live on Sevenoaks District Housing Register waiting for social housing.
- Have to cap Affordable Rents to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) levels to ensure affordability; housing associations aren't able to maximise revenue to forward-fund developments.
- West Kent Housing Association is the main housing association operating in the District.
- Impact of inflation, cost of living, high rents, private landlords leaving the market, affordable housing provision create a high demand for social housing and increase homelessness.
- Increased service demands from resettlement schemes (e.g. Homes for Ukraine, Afghan scheme)
- Kent County Council budget savings - impact on community / cost shunt to SDC.

Health (Kelly Webb)

Areas of Responsibility

- Sevenoaks District Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan
- One You healthy lifestyle advisors service
- Mental Health Strategy (internal/partners)
- Homes for Ukraine Scheme (with Housing team)
- Partnerships:
 - Health Action Team
 - Integrated Care Partnerships and Health & Care Partnerships
 - Local Children's Partnership

Issues and Future Challenges

- Swanley St Mary's within the 10% most deprived wards in Kent and the South East - there is affluence next to poverty, issues of rural isolation and areas in need of regeneration.
- Impact of cost of living on communities.
- Long-term impact of Covid on health and wellbeing, mental health, resilience.
- Kent County Council budget savings – impact on community / cost shunt to SDC.
- One You Funding from Kent Public Health – decrease in health prevention funding – the service is wholly funded by external funding.
- New Integrated Care Partnership structures and governance taking time to bed in.