

## COMMUNITIES AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO STATEMENT 2016-17 - Councillor Lynne Weatherly

### 1. Portfolio Holder Responsibilities

My portfolio covers communities and wellbeing. I am responsible for the Council's priorities in relation to housing, health, community safety and rural communities. A key area of my portfolio is partnership working across a number of services.

### 2. Functions and services

As Portfolio Holder for Communities & Wellbeing, I am responsible for all services covering a 2015/16 revenue budget of £950,510 that relates to:

- Housing
- Health
- Community development
- Community safety
- Rural communities

I am also the Lead Cabinet Member on a range of partnerships, namely:

- West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group Health and Wellbeing Board
- Sherwood Forum
- Community Safety Partnership
- TWBC Armed Forces Champion (Chair of Civilian Military Partnership Board)
- Rough Sleeper Meetings

### 3. Our achievements in 2015/16

- Homelessness and the number of families in B&B accommodation were managed.
- The Housing Register was managed effectively, ensuring equality of access across the borough
- The Housing Team continued working to prevent and remove Category 1 hazards and improve housing stock.
- The Council worked with parish and town councils and community groups to continue the development of the Southborough and Cranbrook Hubs, and to look at the potential for improvements in infrastructure in Paddock Wood.
- The Council continued enabling parish and town councils, and community groups to retain existing services and to take on new ones.
- We worked with our partners (including GPs, voluntary and community sector, planning and KCC public health) to agree a budget and deliver a programme of public health improvement initiatives.
- An action plan to reduce the health inequalities for residents of the borough was implemented. This will be delivered, developed and monitored through the health action team.
- Use of the newly installed outdoor gym in Colebrook Recreation Ground was promoted throughout the community.
- The Council delivered its annual Community Safety Partnership Plan.
- The Sherwood Partnership and borough-wide Troubled Families Programmes were delivered.
- The Health Action Team engaged with local businesses in accreditation to workplace health.

### 4. Key Plans and Strategies - Specific plans for which I have responsibility:

- Community safety partnership plan
- Housing allocation policy
- Housing strategy
- Housing renewal assistance
- Homelessness strategy
- Empty property strategy
- Health inequalities action plan

### 5. Our Priorities for 2016/17

- To continue working with town and parish councils and community groups in the development of community hubs.
- To produce the West Kent Joint Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2016 – 2021 for consultation.
- To purchase Dowding House, an ex Sheltered housing scheme, so it can be used to provide a cheaper and more suitable alternative to B&B for homeless families
- To assist five Syrian Refugee families to settle in the Borough
- To work with partners to provide arrangements for integrated health care across the borough
- To make best use of the Better Care Fund to help reduce delayed hospital discharge of elderly or vulnerable people
- To present the Community Safety Partnership Plan for approval
- To review the Council's CCTV service and consider options for the future.
- Continue to work closely with our partners and the Health Action Team on health improvement and reducing health inequalities
- Expand the engagement of local businesses in the workplace health awards

### 6. Contact:

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