

Public Health & Well being and Housing Lead Member Update December 2023

Housing

There are currently 68 households in temporary accommodation that has been provided by the Council. This figure includes one household that is currently in refuge accommodation, four households that are in contractual lets with registered providers (2 based in Watford and 2 in Three Rivers). This also included 11 households that are in nightly let accommodation outside of the District. These households will be brought back to District as soon as suitable accommodation becomes available.

The role of Housing Advisor has been filled by Richard Douglas who started with us on 30 October 2023. The role of Housing Options Officer has been filled by Caroline Lohan who started with us on 6 November 2023. The role of Domestic Abuse Caseworker has been filled by Faythe Carey who will start with us on 4 December 2023.

We currently have three vacancies (Housing Advisor, Housing Options Officer, and Community Liaison Officer) and these are in recruitment stages.

As of 27 November 2023, Three Rivers have had 190 Homes for Ukraine guests arrive in the District (149 Adults and 41 Children). Since my last report to Full Council in the start of October 2023, the Service has had two homeless applications from households who have moved to the UK via this scheme, and they are currently in temporary accommodation.

Following approval at Policy and Resources Committee on 13 November 2023, the formal consultation of the Council's draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 is now currently underway. Housing Services would be very grateful for any feedback on this draft strategy that members, partners, and our residents would be willing to provide via this consultation.

Health & Wellbeing

32% of people successfully contacted through the Lung Cancer Prevention Project, registered as Smokers on their GP records, have requested a referral to the Healthy Hub Smoking Cessation Service. Locations of the Healthy Hubs are currently being reviewed to ensure pop ups can be held in new locations across the district.

162 people engaged with the Healthy Hub during quarter 2.

Over 3000 people have signed up to the health and wellbeing e-newsletter which is published on a monthly basis.

Delivery of the "Man On" football and conversation café project taking place weekly at William Penn has been extended by Watford FC CSE Trust. The project had initially been funded for 20 sessions. 75% of participants reported an improvement in their mental wellbeing, and 50% reported improvement in their physical activity outside of the session.

District Councils in Hertfordshire and West Essex created a task group to develop a proposal for the Integrated Care Board on the District/Borough role within the ICB. This proposal was developed over a series of months and an event will be held in the new year to determine next steps.