

District Councillor John Feilding

November 2017 Report

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has since my last report, had a presentation from Orbit on current leases of their new properties.

South Warwickshire Foundation Trust

To receive an update from Dr Christina Ramos on end of life care process from the South Warwickshire Foundation Trust. I will report more on this matter at the next meeting.

The biggest area requiring work was in education in end of life care, particularly in Care Homes. In addition, becoming proactive in planning advance care before reaching crisis point was key, and exploring alternatives to dialling 999 and/or hospital admission. To facilitate this, 'Respect Forms' (replacing 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders with a more wide-ranging personalised form) were being promoted, and an Over 75's Project, which included GP's, were being encouraged to plant the seed of a personalised plan for end of life care before reaching crisis point.

Another large area of work was in looking to promote joined up IT systems providing a single point of access for Hubs. The Out of Hospital Programme was much broader in its systems in the need to share information. However, a lack of funding was instrumental in being able to share this more widely. A point was raised on the shortage of permanent staff in hospitals, coupled with high demand, and it was reported that data was being reviewed to see which teams were providing most of the palliative care, with the view to taking some other work away from those teams.

Citizens Advice South Warwickshire

Aiden Knox, Chief Executive of Citizens Advice South Warwickshire (CASW), supported by Helen Knight, Court Desk Worker, presented an update on threatened homelessness/repossession cases across the District, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes.

Stratford-on-Avon District Council funded a part-time post to represent people in court on repossession and eviction processes and the demand for this service had quadrupled in the last financial year. This was down to various reasons; the first tranche of five year tenancies that were coming to an end, the introduction of Universal Credit, Housing Benefit and other areas of welfare reform, such as Spare Room Subsidy and Benefit Cap. The Court Hearing process was very formulaic and extremely difficult for tenants to represent themselves. CASW also run an Outreach Help service to provide support in rural areas.

At the District Housing Forums, which Helen Knight chairs, it was apparent that some Social Landlords had invested in support workers and there were varying approaches and relationships with tenants. Ms Knight also raised issues with the current Tenancy Agreement Policies and had made the offer to assist Social Landlords with redrafting, but the offer had not been taken up to date. Severn Trent will give a presentation last Wednesday re problems in the District.