

Kent Community Warden Service: Annual Report 2020

The **Kent Community Warden Service** (KCWS) provides a public facing, frontline service for the residents of Kent. Our over-riding objective is '*to create safer and stronger communities*'.



A Warden's uniformed presence helps build community confidence and reassurance by reducing crime, the fear of crime, deterring anti-social behaviour, improving access to local authorities and fostering social inclusion.

The role of the Community Warden is ever evolving, prompted by the changing needs of our communities and other strategic requirements placed upon our Service. We work closely with / on behalf of other operational units within KCC, to address a wide range of issues, for instance: Conducting welfare visits on behalf of Adult Social Care; and, undertaking advisory visits to those identified as potential scam victims by KCC's Public Protection Team.

Common strands of work across the Kent Community Warden Service include:

- Identifying vulnerable persons and helping to arrange support in their home environments;
- Developing community amenities to help counter social isolation;
- Supporting special events e.g., Safeguarding Adults Awareness Week;
- Exploring mechanisms to build community cohesion.

Hopefully this has proved to be a useful insight into our work. Please feel free to contact me if you have any matters you wish to discuss.

Jackie West | Kent Community Warden Service | Sevenoaks - Tunbridge Wells Team | Mobile: 07811 271259 | jackie.west@kent.gov.uk | www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens

Questions Posed by Fawkham Parish Council:

What has been your biggest achievement in the last 12 months?

Receiving the Emma Kent Award for Outstanding Contribution to Dementia at the Kent Dementia Alliance Awards (11.10.19).



What have been your major concerns / issues in the last 12 months?

Identifying those who are 'hard to reach' or most at risk of social isolation within the community. Recognising this, I have worked hard to set up community-based initiatives which bring people together and support families, all the while being supported by volunteers. For example, launch of Little Legs (16.04.19) and a Chair-based Postural Support group, in conjunction with Age UK (12.11.19). Plus, the Community Hub in New Ash Green.

What are you most looking forward to in the next 12 months?

I am looking forward to starting a carer support group, in conjunction with Crossroads Care, in West Kingsdown. All the while staying embedded in the communities I currently work within.

What issues / concerns should we be aware of in the next 12 months?

In light of the current pandemic situation, possibly further examples of unscrupulous people targeting the most vulnerable, be it by a 'traditional' scam or Covid-19 profiteering practices.