**KEEP**

The contract for funding towards the cost of first time central heating in off gas properties within 23 meters of a gas connection is still with SGN legal department. GBC in the capacity as Chair of KEEP is the lead contact for all Kent Councils and at present will be the fund holder. A meeting has been held to look at the referrals routes for off gas properties once a property has been identified. SGN also have a mapping tool which can be used to identify suitable properties. The funding offered by SGN means that suitable residents may be eligible for a free gas connection plus up to 50% toward a first time central heating system

More districts now have LA Flex Statement of Intent in place and a few have second versions in line with BEIS guidance. Following the introduction of the ECO3 legislation the LA Flex percentage has increased from 10% to 25% of Energy Company Obligation. The LA Flex ECO funding can be used against properties requiring cavity wall, loft insulation and heating. Some Districts are also using BCF as a top up of LA Flex funding for heating measures and off gas connections if the resident fits the criteria

The EWI mini tender from the Kent Warm Homes Framework has been completed and Aran Services have been appointed which enables any district to work on EWI projects until the initial contract period of October 2019 – this contract can be extended if required.

Some Kent Authorities continue to deliver 3 collective switching campaigns a year. Any resident from across Kent can sign up and register online. Auctions are held in February, May and October. Kent Local Authorities signed up to the campaign are currently involved in pilot with IChoosr to use the Council Advertising Network to promote the scheme in Kent using various digital methods including Facebook and websites. This has only been running a couple of weeks but figures showing click through to registering are looking positive.

KEEP has continued to deliver energy measures through the Warm Homes Scheme and some Local Authorities have trialled letter drops etc., to increase awareness of the LA Flex option. KEEP has offered assistance to look in to the future of the KMSEP Framework.

Partners continue to deliver actions outlined in the Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy, and continue to progress partnership working across organisations. Some local authorities are starting to identify Health partners and are attending CCG meetings at GP level to input increasing awareness about BCF grants and other grants. Attending these meeting has identified a number of disability issues for residents who the LA are able to help.

KEEP are also working with KCC on the Energy and Low Emission Strategy and inputted in to the Kent Housing Strategy Workshops

HECA guidance has just been received and HECA reporting needs to be made to BEIS by 31 May 2019. The process for reporting is via Survey Monkey, however any LA not able to use this system can use a Word Document template provided by BEIS which BEIS will insert the necessary information in to the Survey Monkey template.

**KMSEP:**

A draft version of the Kent-wide energy and low emissions strategy has been circulated to specific groups for comment including the KMSEP Project Board. PSHG and the whole KMSEP will be invited to comment on this draft after the initial phase of targeted consultation is complete in February.

KMSEP partners will be looking to future options for providing an energy efficiency home offer for residents, following on from the KMSEP Retrofitting Framework which officially ended in October 2014. The next meeting of the Project Board will be taking place in early March to discuss this.

**KHG:**

Kent Housing Group hosted four half day workshop sessions to help develop the emerging Kent and Medway Housing Strategy, these were focuses around the four key priorities, Accelerating Delivery, Investment and Infrastructure, Health and Wellbeing and Affordability. The draft action plans that were developed from the workshop sessions are now out for wider consultation and feedback will be reviewed to update and inform for a final draft. Kent Leaders and Chief Executive Colleagues have recommended delaying final endorsement of the strategy until post local elections in May 2019.

With regards to membership, KHG are continuing to work on new membership opportunities, along with Kent Public Health the Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Service (Probation) are now a paying member of KHG. All members will be asked to confirm membership renewal for 2019/20 and invoiced accordingly.

Training and Events are continually reviewed through the Events Sub Group with a view to offer discounted training rates for hosting sessions in Kent and to run a series of themed workshops as opposed to the annual seminar. Any ideas or suggestions for training of events for across the county or membership to be shared with KHG Partnership Manager. Details about another KHG Awards event for 2019 will be shared in due course.

A new Health and Housing Sub Group of KHG is being explored with a scoping meeting held in early January and discussed at the KHG Executive Board. A draft TOR, membership and action plan will be shared when available.