**KHOG Teams Call Summary Meeting Notes – 10th September 2020**

**Attending** – Stuart Clifton & John Littlemore, Maidstone BC; Marie Gerald, MHCLG; Rachel Westlake, Hazel South, Kellie Petit Steel, KCC Laura Davies, Porchlight, Meri Mayhew, Meri Mayhew Consulting; Julia Hargreaves, Porchlight; Samantha Ripley, Shaw Trust; Cynthia Allen, KSS CRC; Lin Guo, Kent PH; Angela Palmer, Riverside; Ashley Kirkpatrick, Porchlight; Claire Keeling, TMBC; Max Guest, KCC; Hayley Brooks, Sevenoaks DC; Helen Campbell Wroe, P2I; Manpreet Bhupal, Gravesham BC; Pam Millington, Dover DC; Jessica Bailey, Thanet DC; Raymond O’Shea, Ashford BC; Robin Turner, Michael Collins, Joanne Thorpe, Vicky Hodson, Kent HC; Toni Carter, Dartford BC; Becky Waller, DWP; Zoe Callaway, Swale BC; Sophie Valentine, TWBC

**Apologies** – Chris Hammond, Riverside; Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Victoria May, Thanet DC; Roxanne Sheppard, Swale BC; Mark Powell, KCC; Lora McCourt, Canterbury CC; Claire Williams, Porchlight; Mark Damiral, Folkestone & Hythe DC; Christy Holden & Rachel Britt, KCC;

**Actions & Key Points from 13th August**

All Actions completed

**Women’s Services Development Project – Laura Davis, Porchlight**

Laura provided an overview of the offer from Porchlight and research that has been undertaken and how the findings have been implemented in their service provision, as outlined in the slides.

RS to share contact details for Laura to arrange a discussion about referrals/signposting. KPS made Laura aware of the Kent Homelessness Connect Contract and happy to support the work being undertaken. HB commented that the Kenwood Trust at Yalding on take men so getting homeless women into addiction rehab locally is very difficult, they have to go to Gloucestershire then often fail as she struggle with a new location with no other support around them.

CA commented on the complexity of the needs of female rough sleepers and the links has with Probation through the CRC or NPS, to make contact after the meeting. Is the training for housing providers or for other agencies? Laura confirmed that the training is awareness and understanding for anyone working with women who are rough sleeping.

Laura confirmed that looking for a point of communication to look at how to review how consistency are services sign posting, which Porchlight is doing too, where are there communication opportunities to provide further information. KPS to put Laura in contact with the Tactical DA Group for Kent to assist with information gathering.

Looking for a representative for the working group, developing and sharing BP and learning working with complex needs and those presenting as homeless, problem solve through anonymised case studies, championing of services to share learning and tool kits, making training available to all organisations. The role is a good opportunity to make changes internally within an organisation and to have effective links between organisations. At this stage the training available is free.

**No Homeless Veterans Campaign – Meri Mayhew, Meri Mayhew Consulting**

The campaign is led by COBSEO, organisations with shared interest, coordinated by Stoll a housing organisation. Seeking funding to commission research about veterans and housing, using a proper evidence based, established a veterans housing advice line a telephone helpline. There is a void dashboard to promote accommodation available for veterans and have campaigned successfully to have the HCLIC data form updated to include homelessness veteran’s data. There is also a directory of support organisations.

Helping organisations to meet the obligations under the Armed Forces Covenant, signed by every authority in the UK, making sure those in the armed forces are treated fairly, also encourages local authorities to consider appointing champions.

The slides provide details about what a veteran is. Research commissioned has identified that in 2018 300 – 400 rough sleepers in GB were veterans. The slides provide details about what the charity sector does for Veterans, and goes through the legislation that is linked to veterans and homelessness.

No Homeless Veterans Campaign website, with key information and resources. <https://www.stoll.org.uk/no-homeless-veterans/>

The Resources page – the tool kit which contains all the legislation details, charities, support, this is all free to download and print. The Veterans Gateway is also a good resource - <https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk/>

AP asked if there is any housing support on the website to assist with a veteran who may a conviction for sexual offences. MC confirmed that there are charities that will help, in particular SSAFA or the Royal British Legion.

MC advised that the data used is the best that is the best available, as far as data shows 3% of the UK homelessness population are veterans.

**KCC Mental Health Housing Related Support Service – Porchlight & Shaw Trust**

MH Housing Related Support – an e leaflet to be shared via RS.

Part of the Live Well Kent Service from 18 months ago, pathways to support for MH and becoming independent and to access the support needed in the community. Porchlight and Shaw Trust are the two strategic partners for Kent. Work with a range of providers, approximately 18 across Kent.

The service supports 18 years plus, single in Kent, with a primary need of MH diagnosis, confirmed or waiting for with some secondary needs, as per the slides shared. Not for those in acute or crisis situations. Slides provide details about what the services offer.

Developed a central referral system, consistency and access for those who need it most. Colleagues to provide as much detail as possible on the referral form, to prevent delay on the assessment and process to access the services. The form does ask for a personal statement from the client, and also understand the local connection of the person being referred. There are two referral emails.

There is a panel that is meeting monthly but are flexible on this to be responsive to need and where there are high priority referrals. Can share anonymised good practice case study to colleagues if this is requested.

Contact details for referrals are included in the slide but additional information will be shared electronically via RS. **ACTION** – RS to share when available.

A list of location of the projects/locations can be shared via RS. This would be useful for colleagues to understand the provision locally.

**MHCLG Update**

NSAP funding is going through moderation, running through proposals to ensure viable and in line with requirements, significantly over subscribed for capital and short term ask. You may therefore not get everything submitted. They are looking at winter provision and whether this should be funded separation, no final decision made on this yet.

On the capital bid funding, there may be some questions back from Advisors, who are in panel meetings and therefore this could be in meeting or to schedule, Homes England may also make contact. On course for the timeframe to make announcements, potentially the end of September, this is subject to change. There has been a shuffle with Ministers so this could impact on the timing of announcements.

PRS Evictions – to take any questions from colleagues. Surprise announcement on the stay on housing possession proceedings, no new or existing to be heard before 21st September 2020, most landlords required to provide tenants with 6 months’ notice before commencing possessions, enforced until March 2021, unless extreme. Primary concern remains about Public Health. Expected that hearings will be carefully prioritised, those involving ASB or other crimes or not received rent for over one year for example. There will be guidance on this but is not available yet.

JL commented on the lack of guidance of those on licence or non-secure tenancies. It would be useful to have these categories of tenants to understand the expectation during this time, or are local authorities free to end these tenancies as would normally. There is a moral and political duty to keep these households in, but it will be local decision making based on the interest of public health on these tenancies.

MG advised that the Renters Reform Bill is still in progress.

Pre Action Protocol for the PRS for s21, no protocol currently due to changes coming forward. MG has made contact with the Social Housing Team at MHCLG and strategies on pre eviction work and reaching out at a national level to housing providers around eviction, unknown if any specific work going on currently.

RS to share the letter sent to Kent Chief Executives., with the notes and will also be shared with KHG main representatives, including HA partners.

RSI Year Four – MHCLG are taking the case for the spending review to understand the funding for RSI year four and are asking for a three year settlement. Going into co production in October for RS year four.

Code of Guidance, will update on any changes to this as they come forward, that the update on DA for Chapter 21 of the Code of Guidance is being worked on currently, due to the progress of the DA Bill.

Forced marriage guidance – what people should do if you think a person approaching is in a forced marriage, this is being reviewed and MG will share when ready.

Nil Recourse Rough Sleeper Services that the Home Office delivers – can tell the person working with them what the status is and how quickly it can be confirmed. There is a registration process to get the information - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rough-sleeping-support-service/rsss-user-agreement-accessible-version>

Flexible Homelessness Support Grant – MG advised that they are working with LGA and other sectors about how to deliver this, announcement usually made in October, MG will share news when available. The determination will be for the end of this financial year.

**Quick Local Authority Covid-19 Updates/Round Table**

CK advised that TMBC colleagues will continue to work from home and not available in the office until at least the end of the year. Similar position with Dover DC, three to four from a team of fourteen in the office. PM has heard that all KCC staff will remain working from home and not do any face to face meetings until at least January 2021.

TC advised that DBC Civic Centre is open but appointments only, not planning to change this until the New Year. Have about 30% of staff in the office currently.

BW advised that Jobcentres are opening till 8pm every day from November 2020, excluding Sundays and this is nationally.

Ashford BC advised that only limited numbers in the office currently. MB advised that Gravesham too are operating limited staff numbers working from the office.

**Commissioning Updates (Adults, YP and Domestic Abuse)**

Domestic Abuse – RW updated that the hospital IDFA service this is being funded to end of March, a graduate has completed an annual report on the one stop shop provision with recommendations which will be acted upon. The one stop shops are not operating due to venues, looking for alternatives if colleagues have any suggestions for hosting.

MOJ funding awarded, including the Phoenix programme to be delivered remotely, hopefully in full by November 2020.

Referrals, seen a huge surge in medium level referrals in mid and North Kent, considering the referrals and reason. Refuges still operating and have voids/capacity if colleagues require provision.

YP – leaflet for the YP protocol is being considered by YP currently. In terms of the YP Floating Support Service that still require move on, any details of shared housing schemes for YP would be welcomed by Hazel South.

Adults Homelessness – MG welcomed feedback on the presentation at the last KHOG meeting (August 2020), or to hear more details on. If colleagues did include Kent Homelessness Connect contract as part of the NSAP funding to make contact with MG. (

KSS CRC – The main part of the scheme ended on the 31st August, there are still some people in TA, this will continue over their 56 days until October 2020. There are some exceptions who require exceptional approval. CA thanked colleagues around provision of move on with special thanks to Thanet DC. The scheme is continuing in a Home Detention role and for those who are ROTL due to medical or pregnant mothers, these numbers are very small.

SC asked about any unspent funding and use for provision for other groups. CA advised that the funding was allocated and the end date of the scheme will allow for full expenditure of funding provided.

**Kent Public Health Update**

LG presented the colleagues with some questions. At the last meeting LG mentioned the vulnerability group and therefore part of the flu vaccination programme moving forward. In WK there are some nurses being employed by Housing and asking if this occurs in EK? These nurses are to administer vaccines for this group. Do the nurses have any information about underlying conditions?

JL advised that the work is ongoing and a working group is established from the Health and Social Care Recovery Cell, JL asked for a volunteer to work with JL on this project so that a housing representative is always at the meeting. JL urged colleagues to continue to provide data about health issues as asked for previously. JL can share the notes from the last meeting of this group. ACTION – to contact JL to be part of the group and to note action to share data with James Ransom, as per the update from Kent Chiefs.

Maidstone, TW, TM and SDC submitted a joint bid to MHCLG and this how the nurse is delivering the project with some mental health input, through the RSI funding. The nurse is now in place, being very supportive around accessing GP’s and attends rough sleeper meetings. Maidstone led on this bid in WK and are the lead authority. Hannah Gaston is the contact and lead for Maidstone. **ACTION** – LG to make contact with Hannah Gaston initially or each district about the numbers to establish about vaccination numbers. HB advised that the nurse has the training to undertake testing for Covid-19 and so could potentially offer the service of flu vaccination.

JB advised that Thanet DC have funding for a Community Mental Health Nurse, but having a second time recruitment so currently vacant.

**Any Urgent National Policy, Case Law Updates**

Nothing to add at the meeting.

**AOB**

ROS asked about out of borough placements when they fail (regardless of reasons why they have failed) and the impact on other areas and the joint working to work through the impact of these – **ACTION** - RS to add to a future agenda. JL advised that there is a LGA final meeting on the Out of Area Placement for a protocol due this week and could be useful to the discussion.

RS asked colleagues to feedback on the draft guidance (no place like home) by the middle to end of next week.

CK advised that at MAPPA Strategic Management Board and the former Kent Panel/Board – there has been discussions to continue but in a new format, working more effectively with housing authorities, CK has an early draft document which can be circulated for comment. **ACTION** – CK to share contact details for the MAPPA Strategic Board to attend a future KHOG meeting, to share concerns or a new approach to working together.

SC reminded colleagues that invites are reviewed and ask for reasons why there is non-attendance with regards to MAPPA meeting, this is part of their reporting process.

**NEXT MEETING – 29th October 2020, 10am Microsoft Teams Call**