**KHOG Teams Call Summary Meeting Notes – 24th June 2021**

**Attending** – Stuart Clifton, Chair & Maidstone BC; Lora McCourt, Vice Chair & Canterbury City Council; Manpreet Bhupal, Gravesham BC; John Littlemore, Maidstone BC; Rav Kensrey, Sevenoaks DC; Zoe Callaway, Swale BC; Elly Toye & Pam Millington, Dover DC; Marie Gerald, MHCLG; Toni Carter, Dartford BC; Claire Keeling, TMBC; Sam Spiller, Max Guest, Troy Jones, Kellie – Pettet-Steele & Rachel Westlake, KCC; Rebecca Smith & Helen Miller, KHG; Brian Horton, KHG; William Campbell-Wroe, RBLI Industries; Mark Powell, KCC; Chris Burgess, Thanet DC; Chris Bishop, Norbert Marjolin & Hannah Skerritt, Riverside; Joanne Thorpe, Medway; Claire Williams, Sarah Porter & Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Hannah Gaston, Maidstone BC; Cynthia Allen, KSS CRC; Mark Cummings, One You Kent.

**Apologies** – Stephen Barker, NPS; Sarah Huntley, DWP; Sarah Martin, NHS (One You); Ray Easdown, Medway Council

**Actions & Key Points from April 2021**

Page 2 – RS to liaise with Kent Police Contact re Gangs.

Page 4 – Data sharing completed, on the agenda today

Data request for IH protocol, project moved on and on the agenda today.

Page 6 – information from MG to SC shared, protocol reviewed and updated.

**MHCLG Update**

HAST events held recently, very well attended and interaction from local authorities, what the future looks like and customer satisfaction. Reminder for themes and key issues – new Homeless Prevention Grant and priorities for this funding, single homelessness and end to rough sleeping, fully enforce the HRA and ways to link funding to outcomes. Funding does include cost for TA and for specific targets around family in TA and those in B&B for more than 6 weeks. Provide an action plan about how to reduce this stay in B&B if you have any families in B&B over this time.

RSAP will come back to LA’s and doing usual work and priorities and how to be delivered, some LA’s being offered ‘deep dives’ and feedback, if required please contact your HAST advisor asap.

SAR for Care Leavers – extended until they are 25 so can access 1 bed LHA rate, the homelessness exemption around leaving hostels, also been extended. Been in a hostel at any point for up to 12 weeks can claim the one bed LHA rate too.

Ex offender funding announcement due in the next week. There was a lot of demand for this fund, tried to ensure that some if not all allocations made as per the bids submitted.

In cycle 2 of the RSAP programme, looking for revenue only schemes within the RSAP parameters, to assist with move on, what can your revenue do? MHCGL are a bit more flexible in the additionality test. Colleagues urged to submit if they have a revenue scheme, which is suitable. For those allocated funding on cycle one, you cannot do press releases currently but can do Cabinet updates.

PRS – end of the stay on evictions – happy to hear feedback on the impact via your HAST advisor. A reminder about the MOJ possession data, this will be broken down by area.

Mediation pilot is still on going and details from the HAST event on this can be shared via MG.

NATFED Pledge – on behalf of RP’s, what their commitments are. Keeping people at home and not evicted from a HA home where there is commitment. Others are available using the following link <https://www.housing.org.uk/news-and-blogs/news/housing-associations-evictions-statement/>. Speak to your RP’s about this pledge and reinforce the commitment, encourage early contact and working in partnership to sustain tenancies. Invite RP’s to forums to share best practice.

JL – possession cases and data held by MOJ, the county courts do not break down the figures by district so hard to establish a local analysis, can this be discussed with MOJ through MHCLG. MBC have tried to apply for funding for DA recently with their CSP, MG to pick up with DA policy team about the routes for accessing funding around DA burdens and work. ACTION – JL to draft and share an email to MG on this. MG to also feedback on how another area have drilled down on their court data.

MG advised that as part of the spending review they will try to go for supported housing through revenue.

There is a cycle 3 for RSAP in September but not aware yet if there will be a capital pot as part of that cycle.

**Move on Accommodation for Veterans**

WCW spoke to the group about challenges faced by the RBLI regarding move on accommodation for veterans. BH in attendance in his capacity as the veterans Champion for KHG and is co-opted on the KHG Executive Board.

RBLI based in Aylesford, supporting veterans and their families. The village is not like a barracks, it is an open village.

They also provide supported accommodation to vulnerable veterans, some come to RBLI straight from service and need immediate support or if they have been out of the service for a more significant time and unable to cope for a number of reasons. Can be in the supported accommodation for up to 2 years, including accommodation and support to move on to independent living, 5 years would be the max time on the village. At the end of the 5 years, it is difficult to find suitable move on accommodation. Rents are at 80% of the market rent on the village.

JL asked about whether any research on the difficulty with move on accommodation? Are they falling foul of local connection policy due to the length of time spent at the village? Another issue is the lack of 1 bed accommodation?

It is typically 1 or 2 bed needs, often 35 – 50 years old with some custody arrangements in place for children. Once they move from supported accommodation to the independent living on the village and taking on an AST they are considered as adequately housed.

All LA’s are signed up the Kent Civilian Military Covenant with some more active members than others. Looking to explore a protocol or nominations arrangement between RBLI Industries to have a planned approach for move on, on the basis that those using the village are in need of the support. The numbers of veterans is not high, a max of up to 10 per year. JL shared an approach used by MBC and suggested that those in supported accommodation and ready to move on, the provider supports the application and not serve a notice, could this be an approach to adopt by all LA’s? CK advised that do not have many applications come from the village and have the approach suggested by JL in the TMBC policy for allocations. **ACTION** – CK and WCW to catch up after the meeting. TC – echoed the feedback and approach from Dartford BC and the clause in their allocation policy.

SC suggested that WCW provide details/examples of unsuccessful applications regarding move on from the village, this could then be used to raise awareness on behalf of both RBLI and LA’s. Recommended that all LA’s review their allocation policy and reference to this clause.

**One You -**

MC spoke about the One You Service and working together on the Health agenda and homelessness. Raise awareness of the One You Service, have good relationships with some providers of housing across Kent and how to further develop these links and pathways. Details about the service shared via the slides, commissioned via KCC, supporting people to make better lifestyle choices, through small steps. Services are weight loss, smoke free and lifestyle. One phone number, one email and one website to access the One You service. In East Kent, including Swale, One You are the sole provider, in North and West Kent the commissioning arrangement is different as some LA’s provide lifestyle and weight loss services, but there are links between these LA’s and One You.

MC advised colleagues about the three key elements of the One You service, as per the slides. There are particular areas of service in relation to East Kent and these are identified on the slide deck.

JL reinforced the information shard by MC and the work in Maidstone, reminding colleagues about the captive audience of those in temporary accommodation and using the services available to improve their lives. Worth adding to Personal Housing Plans where appropriate with clients.

**ACTION** – RS to share slides with meeting notes.

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

**Adults Homelessness** – MG thanked colleagues who attended the first KHC working group recently, next meeting due soon. The COMF bids submitted have been approved £550,000, recruitment is underway and further details about the bid can be requested from MG. Meet the Market event for 13th July between 10am and 12.30pm for the KHC commissioning of the contract. All contacts have been notified and invited to the event, if you have a provider operating in your area who should be invited please share details with MG. JL asked MG to share the invite to the Local District Council colleagues too.

**YP Services** – SS advised that Matt Dunkley has reached out to the Home Office and the number of UASC’s has reached capacity, the HO are using other local authorities. YPSAS – recommissioning and have market engagement set up with districts/boroughs as well as providers and young people. This recommissioning will take place over the next 12 months. JL queried the Afghan resettlement scheme and if county will lead? JL to contact SS by email about this for feedback.

**DA Update** –referrals for refugees have dipped recently but expect to see a rise over the summer holidays, usual trend. The PCC have granted additional funding for the IDVA services for the next two years, responding to the increased demand due to Covid. Kent PH have been awarded COMF to be delivered through KIDAS. Providers working with Certain Curtain about raising awareness of DA, invites to be shared. DA Act, the draft guidance released and formal guidance is under consultations. KPH Observatory working on the needs assessment and the strategy team are working on the review, if you want to be involved in this work to let RW know, the deadline is the end of October, will go to public consultation in September. New Burdens funding going through governance group and will hopefully meet gaps in service. KCC are working PCC to bid for funding to support a Perpetrator Programme. SC questioned the provision of male refuge spaces? Is this being explored? KCC have done a focused report for support for male, interviewing and using social media to target males, this will be used for future work in 2022. KPS advised that there is a presentation that can be shared but to be shard in the confines of Kent (not to be shared outside of the group). **ACTION** – KPS to share slides via RS

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fconsultations%2Fdomestic-abuse-support-within-safe-accommodation-statutory-guidance-and-regulations-consultation%2Fnew-duties-on-local-authorities-to-provide-domestic-abuse-support-in-safe-accommodation-in-england-consultation&data=04%7C01%7Crachel.westlake%40kent.gov.uk%7C3ebf5438bde34609b99d08d92fe2421d%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637593471505340407%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=f0hODCnIHySj%2BsdLRdokFWyb58khsOD1WMUsNiaoFrE%3D&reserved=0>

**Rough Sleepers & Covid /Health Response**

JL advised that contacted by the person at the CCG to carry on the work by James Ransom, to be taken through the Housing Health and Social Care sub group with updates back to KHOG as appropriate.

**KCC Hardship Funding Update**

Agreed for KHOG to submit to the fund. SC, ROS and RS have drafted and shared a bid to KCC, since the initial submission there was a call with KCC about how to tweak the content of the bid, with positive feedback as part of the call. Should hear the outcome of the bid in due course. A reminder of the bid – support primarily clients in the PRS who have suffered financial hardship due to Covid but with provision for those in social housing and homeowners. Funding to be shared across the county with a campaign for PRS and website to myth bust around housing options and how landlords can work with LA’s. The bid was for just under £2.5m. There will be the opportunity for a pot to reallocate underspend of the funding, the KHG PM will monitor spend and manage the feedback about the expenditure, monies will be have to be spent in the current financial year.

**KHG/KHOG Protocol Updates**

MAPPA Housing Panels – to be reintroduced with a call a week ago to look at how to develop the MHP as a pilot, T&M and DBC to pilot this to support MAPPA level 2 and 3 cases. A protocol and flow chart has been circulated and colleagues encouraged to share feedback, as per an email sent by SC on 23rd June.

**IH Protocol**

This protocol is under review with a T&FG and revisions underway, an emphasis on supporting complex and vulnerable families than those intentionally homeless families and decision-making, providing earlier support and intervention. RS advised that colleagues meeting to add content from LA and KCC perspective over the next few weeks and will likely take a few months to get to a point of final draft to share with colleagues. **ACTION** - CB to check about a Thanet Protocol for this area of work and feedback.

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

DA Act and changes to priority need effective from Monday 5th July 2021.

SC mentioned an article on the BBC about an extension to the EU Settlement scheme, a 28-day notification issued to those nationals who have not yet applied, unclear if just for those identified who need extra time. **ACTION** – RS to contact MG for clarity.

**AOB**

Update from NPS - A summary of organisational changes for probation services then:

• We are currently going through a process of transition; merging the two Probation Service providers – NPS Kent and KSS CRC

• The new service will not be called the NPS but will be called The Probation Service (original huh!)

• Locally Kent is being split between two Probation Delivery Units – (PDU’s)

• The head of West Kent PDU will be Tracey Kadir and the head of East Kent PDU: Siamack Danesteh-Pour

• Both heads will have Deputies as well as Business Managers – posts yet to be announced.

• West Kent PDU will cover the existing CRC / NPS legacy offices of Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Medway and Gravesend; East Kent PDU will cover Swale, Canterbury, Thanet, Ashford and SE Kent (Folkestone office).

• Although we will all belong to the same organisation it will take a number of months before we start merging caseloads and offices – legacy systems will remain until at least the autumn with allocations from Courts following the same process as before – Low / Medium Risk cases to the Legacy CRC teams and High risk to the Legacy NPS teams.

• The current target date for e fully merged organisation is April 2022.

• A number of community services will still be delivered by SEETEC (the parent company that owned KSS CRC), along with other providers under a new Dynamic Framework

• Later in July we are expecting a roll out of a new Community Accommodation Scheme, which will provide temporary accommodation to prison leavers who would otherwise be rough sleeping. This would be for Prison Leavers or persons moving on from an Approved Premises or Bail accommodation (BASS) who have exhausted all other options.

• Finally on the legacy NPS side we now have a lead accommodation officer currently straddling West and East Kent PDU – Zandra Parker. Zandra has taken over from Bally whom you will know!

CA advised that the CRC nationally expire on 25th June, with probation staff and their caseloads will transfer to the NPS and be known as The Probation Service. Other staff, accommodation advice and assistance will transfer to SEETEC, as per the update above. This the last meeting for CA as CRC, but will attend in the capacity of the dynamic framework as a paid member of KHG. Should not see a difference in the service following the transition. CA advised that the region will remain Kent Surrey and Sussex with two leads for Kent, covering East and West but under regional director.

ET advised that agreed a number of reciprocal agreements and team are struggling how to record on Locata, can colleagues share their process of recording. SC advised that the Kent Reciprocal Protocol covers two options; one is about discharge of duty and would be recorded in the normal way. When you swap and take on a duty, this is not set out in the Housing Act s213 talks about cooperation and assistance, could say it is a s.198 referral that has been accepted?

RS introduced Helen Miller as the successor of the KHG Partnership Manager, will be hosted by Ashford BC and will be in post from 12th July. Once Helen has her Ashford BC email she will be in touch with colleagues.

**NEXT MEETING – 9th September 2021 (LA Only Meeting)**