**KHOG Teams Call Summary Meeting Notes – 4th March 2021**

**Attending** – Stuart Clifton, Chair & Maidstone BC; Lora McCourt, Vice Chair & Canterbury CC; Rebecca Smith, KHG; John Littlemore, Maidstone BC & KHOG Mentor; Julie Terry, WKHA; Rav Kensrey, Sevenoaks DC; Claire Keeling, TMBC; Angela Palmer, Riverside; Chris Hammond, Riverside; Cynthia Allen, KSS CRC; Ray Easdown, Medway Council; Elly Toye & Pam Millington, Dover DC; Megan Hare, K&M NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust; Mark Powell, KCC; Hazel South, KCC; Helen Campbell-Wroe, P2I; Jessica Mookherjee, KPH; Laura Davis, Porchlight; Manpreet Bhupal, Gravesham BC; Marie Gerald, MHCLG; Max Guest, KCC; Michael Collins, Michael Collins, Maidstone BC; Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Nirosha Dissanayake, KCC; Rachel Westlake, KCC; Ray O’ Shea, Ashford BC; Rupert Bateson, MHCLG; Sam Spiller, KCC; Sophie Valentine, TWBC; Toni Carter, Dartford BC; Vicky Hodson, Kent HomeChoice; Victoria May, Thanet DC; Zoe Callaway, Swale BC; Maha O’Saeed, Public Health England; Chris Bishop, Riverside; Louise Scott, NPS; Catriona Toms, KMPMT; Amy Charlesworth, Maidstone BC; Zena Cooke, KCC

**Apologies** – Robin Cahill & Christy Holden, KCC; Donna Pearson, Look Ahead; Steve Barker & Bally Majhail, NPS;

**Actions & Key Points from 21 January 2021**

JL advised that has shared a paper with MHCLG and can go ahead with assisting those with no recourse to public funds, going to use grant funding to cover the cost of this accommodation.

**ACTION** - Hospital Discharge Protocols, please share examples with MG and escalate to JM in Kent Public Health to pick up with CCG’s.

**ACTION** – RK and TC to work with RS on the Health and Safety Guide T&FG.

**MHCLG Update**

MG went through slides with the group, to be shared following the meeting. There are four specialist teams within MHCLG (HAST, RSI, Specialist Advisors and Youth Homeless Team).

Rough Sleeping – 33,000 people supported by local authorities by November 2020, 10,000 still in emergency accommodation, 23,000 already moved onto longer term accommodation, introduced Protect Plus Funding. Changes to Code of Guidance undertaken, carefully consider the vulnerability of applicants from Covid-19 (8.44) and 8.45 careful consideration of whether those with a history of rough sleeping should be considered vulnerable in the context of Covid-19 in relation to health and age. Rough Sleeper questionnaire key findings shared in the slides with the links (pre-Covid in 2019). Circumstances and Needs from the questionnaire, 96% had 1 vulnerability or support need in addition to their homelessness need, other details shared within the slides.

Funding update – all summarised within the slides. For the RSAP (Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme) Funding - If you are a local authority with a scheme and going past the 31st March to notify HAST advisor, going into the second year with prospectus due to be launched imminently.

Information from accommodation survey used and the data shared for Kent comparison within the slides. Numbers did increase in January due to the cold spell in December/January.

Slide pack to include Move On data – this is all published data, the link to the published data will be included. Rough Sleeping data published at the end of December. MG confirmed that RSI year four applications submitted by local authorities. For LA’s looking to make bids for the RSAP funding this will be a co-production process working with your HAST advisor.

Wider Homelessness Update – full year data from 2019-2020 (before Covid-19) – information included in the slide pack. Data release from July to September 2020 included as part of the slide pack, fewer households owed a homeless duty, is this likely to be due to reasons such as the eviction ban? Overall there has been a decrease of numbers of households in temporary accommodation, along with the number of children’s in temporary accommodation.

Homeless Prevention Fund (the new fund) 2021-22 – to fully enforce the HRA have committed to spending £750m to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping. Additional details about the funding included in the slide pack. If you do have families in B&B over 6 weeks likely to have closer support from MHCLG

The eviction ban extended to 31st March, will review any further extensions needed, landlords required to give at least 6 months’ notice, rules for court will continue as per the September situation. MG to send links with the slides to enable access to the possession claims. MG would welcome any intelligence on this area of work, PRS and social housing examples. MHCLG having dialogue with NATFED.

Domestic Abuse Bill – still waiting on the confirmation of time line for the Bill to complete its process, expanded to include single people at risk of DA being in priority need without the need to assess viability and reviewing the use of language, more details included in the slide pack.

JL raised the appetite for the extension of the s21 notices to continue with the 6 months’ notice period? MG advised that this due to end on the 31st March 2021, the Renters Reform was due this year but is on hold, MG to ask a colleague in the PRS Team to attend KHOG and discuss. JL advised that there is a person employed by the national CAB service to advocate and due to Covid-19 this is happening so need to be aware. There is a massive increase in the number of cases where DA is at the heart of the issue recently, is this the case for others? MG advised that across the areas there are increases in reporting of DA or approaches, MG to feedback.

MG reported back on the meeting with NPS and MOJ and LA colleagues regarding approved premises or bail accommodation in their areas, learning about each other’s challenges, showed that communication needs to be increased, AP have reduced units due to Covid-19 and to look at the funding to increase provision.

**Update on Women’s Services, Porchlight**

LD advised that International Women’s Day on Monday 8th March and launching a 3 year strategy on Monday. Updated since the last presentation to KHOG, launched Kent wide Rapid Rehousing Fund, available to all female clients across Porchlight, emergency accommodation with rent deposits or rent in advance and funding for goods, been a really successful piece of work. Secured funding to employ a specialist worker for East Kent, for those who have experience violence. Delivered training to over 100 people across porchlight and other organisations, implemented change in referral process so that clients can have choice about the gender of their key worker. LD shared themes from the ***Seeing the Unseen*** report and have been monitoring the impact of Covid-19 on women who are homeless. Seen an increase in the number of women who are rough sleeping due to DA, higher barriers to health services and the added layers of process. The aims are to reduce the street impact, to intervene earlier, securing and maintain accommodation, paid work, reintegrating into society and developing positive relationships. There are a number of themes about accommodation services, non-housing related services for women, emotional support and the way those who have experienced violence are worked with. LD extended the invitation to join the Women’s Services Working Group to KHOG members again, networking and problem services **ACTION** - to make contact with LD if interested in joining. The rapid rehousing work is just where Porchlight is the prime provider for the Kent Connects Contract.

JL advised that MBC have a good working relationship with East Sutton Park and providing voluntary work and paid employment for those ready to leave prison and has been successful and productive and would encourage other colleagues to engage with other open prisons and JL can provide more details outside of the meeting on this project.

MG commented that the difference between the male and female rough sleepers is due to the complexities of the women rough sleepers, she mentioned work in West Sussex on this area of work, can provide contact details of a colleague at Homeless Link and happy to attend a future meeting of the working group. Worth considering a capital project being led by an RP or LA in Kent is a possibility to assist with this work. **ACTION** – MG and LD to make contact outside of the meeting.

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

**Domestic Abuse** – RW advised that work is continuing on the DA Bill and waiting on the template, due to be paid funding in April. Current amendments in the Bill include the intention to bring in legislation about Community Support and this will follow a national mapping exercise, also need to report the impact to of community support. Referrals for community support are higher and complex, higher mental health issues. Have applied for additional funding for the IDVA. Providers are working proactively with vaccination centres and offer a robust response to domestic abuse reporting.

When additional updates available on the IDVA project RW will share back.

**Adults Homelessness** – MG advised that the trends of recent times have continued, particular challenges with move on, support and sustaining tenancies, taking direct response to use the transitional underspend to address these issues. Change of plans regarding vaccine services, moving towards the four mass centres and 12th March afternoon, concerned about the impact on uptake of the vaccine, some districts and boroughs may be providing transport to enable, happy to have a discussion about how to support efforts to get this cohort vaccinated. Completing the impact assessment of the current Kent Homelessness Connect contract, there is opportunity to modify or transform the service to remain fit for purpose, locality focused, support LA with activity and is anything missing or need improvement? – MG to arrange mini forums to have these conversations with colleagues – contact will be received from MG early next week.

CK asked about the result of the stakeholder survey being published and how will data be used? Results are with the KCC in house analytics team, MG should receive the report in under a fortnight, he will check about whether this can be shared wider. Approximately 90 responses to the survey were received.

**YP Services** – HS advised have the launch of the YP protocol on the 18th March with a YP attending. Still having positive move on’s with young persons. A reminder/plea that when YP are leaving their accommodation please don’t advise to stay until the bailiff attends. Updating the local offer information on kent.gov mainly in relation to disabled young people and young adults, with contact from KCC due soon. SC advised that the YP Protocol does include Care Leavers and talks about move on and early intervene to prevent homelessness of Care leavers and joint assessment with the leaving care team to support them.

**Rough Sleepers and the Covid/Health Response**

JL updated on the vaccinations rollout developments and also GP provision. Have been discussing with CCG about the role out of GP access, a paper has been approved by the PCCC with a dedicated GP service to support street homeless cohort, this work is on-going and good progress, JL to keep feeding back on this.

RS has shared an email updating on the roll out of the vaccinations, how to get the programme delivered to the client group, trying to get as many at the centres as soon as possible and how to achieve. The mass vaccinations centres reduce any wastage, using the roaming teams to pick up any residual clients. Some of the clients have complex needs and behaviours make the whole process challenging. To overcome many challenges it was agreed to move forward with a particular slot at the centres, hence the time slot on **Friday 12th March between 2pm and 4pm**. Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) are able to support the Kent Districts to provide coaches via KCC, JL to send out the contact details to link with KRF as soon as available. There is also the potential to provide funding for transport via Naz Chauham, the Covid19 Vaccination Programme Lead at the CCG, but they do need advance notice of this as monies cannot be paid retrospect. There is also the grants available to LA’s in respect of Covid-19 outbreak management to pay for transport (Contain Outbreak Management Grant).

The mass centres will be a walk in but asking clients to bring with them their NHS number, colleagues to advise accordingly.

JM to share slides again with the meeting notes. Understands the homelessness emergency and the scale of work and information leading to fragmented approach, leadership, health care complexities and other elements. Having a needs assessment for this cohort would be beneficial and how to share data for commissioning purposes. How to build relationships across all the sectors and close the gaps between services. Wrap around care and links to inpatient detox and a good long term care plan for individuals. Is there a way to make better use of financial resources available? Case studies are included within the slide pack.

How do substance misuse and health come together? How can we make access to services for rough sleepers more accessible and sustainable through better use of funding and linkages between groups and organisations? Coproduction is key moving forward. JM happy to work and have dialogue with colleagues on all issues raised. How to get the right services in place around outreach?

JL commented that the issue over the last 12 months, there is a health and housing group for KHG and this could be the group if considering longer term planning and working in partnership around commissioning. The responses through have KHOG have been due to the immediate response phase to the pandemic.

**ACTION** – colleagues to share the gaps about the provision to be shared via RS or can speak directly with JM about these issues.

**KCC Hardship Funding**

ZC provided an update about the KCC Hardship Funding, KCC have received a number of different grants from Central Government for Covid recovery, and this is being used to support residents and business directly or through the districts, with productive arrangements in place to make sure funding goes where it needs to. First is the Contain Outbreak Management Fund – a sum of money received by KCC (approx. £4 per head of population) and this is used for KCC to do what it takes to contact the outbreak, with scope to look at what can contain the outbreak in an innovate way for example supporting homeless cohort to be able to avoid risking infection by introducing measures around support, payments to low income households to encourage to stay at home due to self-isolation. KCC on a regular basis have a sub group that are assessing proposals and bids coming through, meeting weekly to assess against the criteria and allocate funding, for bids that are appropriate and meet criteria successful bids are being funded for up to 12 months. Keen to make sure that the funding is used, committed to trying to get the whole process for each proposal within four weeks. KCC Leader recently made a key decision to allocate £10m (Helping Hand Fund) of which £4m is working with low income families across a range of agencies and considering how to work with districts, to help during the Covid response. ZC happy to liaise with any colleagues about the funding available. SC mentioned whether any of the hardship funding could be used for those in the private rented sector and to support the work of housing options teams to prevent homelessness? Would district colleagues are to consider a small T&FG to consider at proposal, capturing groups who don’t have as much access to support as others do? ZC advised that the COM Fund is an ongoing fund from Government all the time that we are under restrictions. If agreeable to having a T&FG be clear about how to disaggregate some groups and how to link to the containment of the outbreak, the best possible chance to be funded from either funding pot.

**ACTION** – ZC to share criteria information and other relevant documentation via RS for colleagues.

**ACTION** – If would like to join a T&FG please confirm with RS and a meeting will be set up accordingly. If there is a need to have a member of sub panel to attend a T&FG meeting this would be possible, RS to let ZC know.

**KHG/KHOG Protocol Updates**

Launch of the **YP Protocol** on the 18th March, agenda has been shared, formal meeting appointment to be shared next week.

**IH Protocol** – volunteers have come forward and a first meeting will be set up in due course and SC has suggested a proposal to include vulnerable adults as well as families, to be agreed at the first meeting.

**MAPPA Protocol** – CK advised that there is a meeting of the MAPPA SMB in a couple of weeks, CK to prepare for this meeting based on the feedback provided to date. Further updates to be shared by CK.

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

SC advised colleagues about the Spring Budget and announcement about the single accommodation rate exemption. From June 2021, care leavers up to the age of 25 and those under the age of 25 who have spent at least three months in a homeless hostel will be exempt from the SAR in Universal Credit and Housing Benefit (previously due to be implemented in October 2023). **ACTION** - SC to follow the Social Welfare Changes Fact Sheet via RS.

**AOB**

CT advised that KMPT are really keen to work more closely with housing moving forward and to make contact with CT, RS to share contact details with the meeting notes - catronia.toms@nhs.net

PM advised that Dover DC are trying to arrange free training, if any details to let PM and ET know as webinar training has a cost associated to it. SC advised that MBC have had Eligibility Training via Minos over two sessions to cover the changes since Brexit and transitional arrangements, this was not a free session. Contact SC for details. LM advised that have used NPAS and had good feedback on this from colleagues.

**NEXT MEETING – 22nd April 2021, 10am Microsoft Teams (LA Only CALL)**