**Present**: Sharon Williams, Chair & Ashford BC; Tracy Allison, Vice Chair & WKHA; Helen Campbell-Wroe, Pathways; Sandra Woodfall, Dartford BC; Mark Breathwick, Medway Council; Jane Lang, Tunbridge Wells BC; Vanessa Biddiss, Optivo; Rachel Westlake, KCC; Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Anne-Marie Roberts, Golding Homes; Brian Horton, SELEP; John Littlemore, Maidstone BC; Becky Ashley, Homes England; Ashley Hook, MHS Homes; Nicola Bowen, Choice Support; Paul Thomas, SELEP; Rachel Valerio, Riverside; Rebecca Wilcox, Sevenoaks DC; Elly Toye, Dover DC; Joe Scullion, GCHA; Daniel Killian, Gravesham BC; Maria Jacobs, Moat; Marion Money, NRLA: Max Guest, KCC; Melanie Anthony, KCC; Sasha Harrison, Southern Housing Group; Shola Alao, Hyde; Cathy McCarthy, WKHA; Cynthia Allen, Interventions Alliance; Nick Fenton, Kent Developers Group; Tamara Robertson, MHS Homes; Tom Hichisson, Clarion; Caroline Smith, KCC; Helen Miller, KHG; Kellie Pettet-Steele, KCC; James Gray, Clarion; Ashley Jackson, Thanet DC;

**Apologies:** Christy Holden, KCC; Simon Thomas, KHDG; Louise Humphrey, MHS Homes; Tim Woolmer, KCC; Kerry Newbury, Optivo; Donna Pearson, Look Ahead; Louise Humphrey, MHS Homes; Sarah Robson, Sevenoaks DC; Louise Taylor, Dover DC; Andrew Bircher, MHS Homes; Adrian Hammond, F&HDC;

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| **Reference** | **Notes/Outcome** | **When** | **Who** | **Action/Decision** |
| **Introductions** | SW welcomed colleagues to the third full membership meeting of KHG for 2021. |  |  |  |
| **Kent Homelessness Connect Commissioning** | Max Guest from KCC outlined that KCC commissions housing related support for vulnerable adults. The four year framework model is running from 2019-2022 with two prime providers and secondary contractors. They have recorded a noticeable increase in demand and referrals following first lockdown and following the Everyone In initiative.  KCC are developing a service specification for housing related support using lessons learned from the last two years. They have done an impact assessment and service review; key stakeholder survey, user voice interviews, mini forums and have a steering group for the recommissioning exercise. KP-S explained that the support and guidance from colleagues, particularly housing options, has been very useful. They are committed to working with partners to shape this process so please continue to work with them. They will be working with colleagues in health and drug and alcohol services and will work to ensure better communication around referrals.  The current contract expires in Sept 2022. Options are;   * Retender whole framework – * Vary and retender framework * Tender strategic partner model   Less likely options;   * Directly commission with multiple providers * End service   KCC intend to finalise specification and tender documents by December 2021 with the new contract due to begin in October 2022.  MG is willing to talk with anyone with further questions.  Points clarified by questions;   * KCC will investigate the needs of clients who are ineligible for some types of support due to their immigration status * The commissioning will consider the changes in needs raised by COVID-19 including increasing numbers of vulnerable people and the increasing complexity of needs * Understanding the referrals from care leavers and the need for joint working will continue to be addressed. MA requested a discussion with MG on this. * The Government has not pledged more funding for those at risk of homelessness other than for rough sleepers.   Presentations will be emailed, not posted on website, as requested by KCC. |  | **MA** | **To discuss joint working with MG** |
| **Domestic Abuse Act Update** | Rachel Westlake from gave a presentation, to be circulated to members and not posted on the website, on KCC Integrated Domestic Abuse contract. The new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 is now law and the statutory guidance open for consultation until 27th July. Local authorities have received further burdens funding and are expected to deliver immediately.  There are new DA Local Partnership Boards for Kent and for Medway. The Needs Assessment is being updated and will inform a revised strategy. The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) is managed by KCC on behalf of partners including the district and borough councils. It provides both accommodation and community based support for adults. The hospital IDVA service continues.  Referrals to community services and refuges have increased since the pandemic began. Partners have developed virtual One Stop Shops and will open physical One Stop Shops when venues reopen.  The Integrated DAS KIDAS, jointly commissioned and sustainably financed, runs to March 2022.  Points clarified by questions;   * MHCLG has said funding for DA will continue but will not comment on future levels of spending. We should ensure we spend this allocation to evidence need to support future funding bids. * RW attends the KHOG to share information and is happy to engage with other groups. * The Kent DA Partnership Board is engaged with KHOG, works with Clarion and discussions have begun regarding a reciprocal arrangement. * MA suggested that KCC bring their offer of training on DA to the events group so discuss a KHG DA event * NRLA give pointers on DA in their training for landlords and would welcome updated points.   RW is willing to talk with partners with further questions. She provided this link to resources [https://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk/latest-news-articles-advice/domestic-abuse-its-everybodys-business/](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.domesticabuseservices.org.uk%2Flatest-news-articles-advice%2Fdomestic-abuse-its-everybodys-business%2F&data=04%7C01%7CRachel.Westlake%40kent.gov.uk%7C4a7e1f5339224c7d8ef208d90b1c4de8%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637553038455155148%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1%2FlZV6UsYe5pjZygMqdqSG6UjKPKJ%2BxSjtUyzR2eHjw%3D&reserved=0) and also the Domestic Abuse Resource Pack posted with the notes on the KHG website. |  | **JL**  **MA**  **RW** | **Ensure Housing Associations are aware of the services and Board.**  **MA contact KHG Events Group to suggest a DA event**  **Contact MM or NRLA on points on DA to include in landlord training** |
| **Corporate Parent Update** | Caroline Smith outlined that there are 1746 children in care and more than 2020 young care leavers. The biggest pressure is asylum cohort. Kent is not taking new arrivals from port and the Home Office transfers those children to other local authorities. They are working to find a resolution on National Transfer scheme.  It can be hard to find affordable options for move on accommodation when adults reach age 21. Some moves were on hold during the pandemic but they are now encouraging young adults to go to seek accommodation in the private rented sector and are managing expectations around getting a social tenancy, and shared, not self-contained, accommodation.  The Ready Homes accommodation contract will go back out to tender. A report will go to corporate parenting panel in September. SW has joined the corporate parenting panel.  A schools reconnect update is provided with these notes detailing the free travel on buses, learning opportunities, discounted leisure events and locality events. |  |  |  |
| **Homes England** | Becky Ashley from Homes England updated the group with the following information. Peter Denton confirmed as new Chief executive from August 2021. They have a change in senior personnel and are seeking for non-executive directors.  The national statistics were published on the website on 22nd June.  They had over 1000 participants in learning centre events in June. The recordings of the sessions should be available at the end of the summer, with an FAQ.  Bids close on 2nd September for the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme and applicants are advised to apply early as capital will be allocated to suitable bids on a first-come first-served basis  The competition for Strategic Partnerships has now closed. Applicants should be aware that mixed tenure developments are preferred.  Points clarified by questions;   * The First Homes ITT is imminent and queries should be sent to the First Homes Team. |  |  |  |
| **SELEP** | Brian Horton; Housing Advisor to SELEP updated the group with the following;  He has met both Minster for Housing, Chris Pincher, and Secretary for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, to engage with the government on broader housing issues. The issues raised with Chris Pincher were shortage and costs of materials and labour and mistimings between the two. It was clear the Minister was aware of the issues and he saw it has a short term issue from Brexit, COVID-19 and the Suez canal temporary blockage. They have asked developers to continue to feed their ideas in. BH also fed in concerns from developers that the LGA appears to think they are sitting on planning consents which is not a simple issue and needs dialogue to resolve, not sanctions. BH has been invited to a roundtable event for SME house builders with Robert Jenrick. Chris Pincher has agreed to a further meeting in 2-3 months. BH made the case for affordable housing grant for s106 schemes for less than 75 homes where developers over perform by 30%. He also highlighted unintended consequences of RPs doing 100% affordable developments.  Jenrick and Pincher are both passionate on First Homes. The Invitation to Tender for the funding pilot will be going out soon.  BH has monthly dialogue with MHCLG and Homes England so please raise any issues with BH so he can take them forward.  Nick Fenton will be sending a letter to Chris Pincher and Robert Jenrick regarding phosphates and nitrates as it is important to address the issue so developers can begin to get planning approvals. DEFRA has issued a plan to showing how widespread this matter is across the country. NF will continue to meet with Natural England to move towards resolutions. There will be a cross – departmental governmental meeting on nutrient issue to address across the country. |  |  |  |
| **COMF Bid** | SW updated the group on the KHG Contain Outbreak Management Fund bid to KCC. We have secured £2.5m for Kent to prevent homelessness occurring as a result of COVID-19, focusing on the private rented sector, but some support for owner occupiers and social landlords as needed. Money to be spent developing a video for landlords on options to prevent homelessness and encourage landlords to seek help from local authorities early. The second stream is money for each local authority to prevent homelessness. KHG will oversee the management of the funding and outcome and report to EXB and KCC.  The success outcomes are;   * The number of views of the landlord information video * Number of households prevented from becoming homeless through the intervention * The numbers of payments made to reduce or clear rent arrears of tenants; and * The number of households prevented from homelessness, being able to retain their existing homes   KCC will wish to have some case studies.  Thanks to KCC for funds and thanks to Rebecca Smith, Stuart Clifton and others from KHOG for submitting an excellent bid.  HM will clarify reporting required from KCC on 19th July. | **July 21** | **HM** | **Clarify the reporting required by KCC** |
| **Countywide Paper Matters Arising** | Information paper shared in advance of the meeting, SW encouraged members to read the papers and/or feed into any of the groups. Matters Arising – none recorded. |  | **ALL** |  |
| **Outcome of HA Vote** | The vacancy on EXB for a Housing Association seat has been filled by Maria Jacobs from Moat. Thanks to all those unsuccessful on this occasion. |  |  |  |
| **KHG events** | Recently held events include the last of the Half Day Hoarding Awareness Training and the Asset Management Session, which was well attended with a good number of colleagues keen to be part of a new sub group of KHG. Events moving forward – Extra Care Housing event in September, some initial details shared but more to follow, Strategic Partnership Event with Homes England and RP’s set up for October, again date shared but more details to follow.  All members encouraged to share thoughts about future events/training with HM to include as part of the KHG Events Group. Chair of KHG Events Kerry Newbury has a new role in Optivo so stepping down as Events Chair so we need a new willing volunteer. The group meets around once a month to every 6 weeks, more about facilitating the conversation and agreeing the event timeframe etc., supported by other members of the group and the Partnership Manager.  Please consider how your organisation could support the Asset Management Group. BH explained that KMSEP was a vibrant group but less so now the funding has changed. This asset group would help us engage with RPs on asset management at this key time to meet the challenges of net zero carbon and post Grenfell challenges. |  | **HM**  **ALL**  **ALL** | **Details of forth coming events to be shared in due course**  **If you would be interested in Chairing the KHG Events Group please contact HM**  **If you would like to have your organisation represented on the KHG Asset Group contact HM** |
| **AOB** | Jane Lang has been an active member of this group, of the EXB and for Kent Homechoice. The group would like to thank Jane for her contributions and wish her well in her move.  We’re also seeking a new chair for Homechoice.  Items for future meetings;   * Implications for the White Paper – invite the Housing Regulator * Keep up to date with phosphates and nitrates on the agenda * First Homes - Homes England being asked to speak, perhaps stand-alone event. * Asset management concerns, e.g. net zero and what that means for asset management plans * How have services, and ways we engage with customers, changed post Covid. What are organisations doing to build back better? |  |  |  |