**Present**: Lora McCourt, vice chair Canterbury CC; Robin Cahill, KCC; Sylvia Roberts, Ashford BC; Chris Burgess, Thanet; Sean Richards, WKHA; Hannah Gaston, Maidstone; Marie Gerald and Alex Clarke, MHCLG; Zoe Callaway, Swale; Mark Damiral, Folkestone and Hythe; Rav Kensrey, Sevenoaks; Sylvia Roberts, Ashford; Pam Millington, Dover; Lisa Clarke, Clarion; Stephen Butler, KCC; Jennie Perkins, Canterbury; Lynn Wilders, Gravesham; Vicky Hodson, Homechoice; Rachel Westlake, KCC; Stacey Baston, KCC; Toni Carter, Dartford; Max Guest, KCC; Kellie Pettet-Steele, KCC; Ray Easdown, Medway; Emilija Mazar, KCC; Claire Keeling, TMBC; John Littlemore, Maidstone; Elly Toye, Dover; Rebecca Smith, Ashford; Katie Sorrell, Probation Service; Stuart Clifton, chair and Maidstone; Helen Miller, KHG

**Apologies:** Hazel South, KCC;

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reference | Notes/Outcome |  When | Who  | Action/Decision |
| Matters Arising | HM requested permission to record the meeting. The record was for the purpose of writing the notes and will be deleted.LM the VC chaired the meeting. Page 3 CK and WCW to catch up after the meeting. Not know if action occurred, carry forward.Page 3 One you – One You notes were sent out, action completedPage 4 DA update, action completed Page 5 IH Protocol – Thanet Protocol Chris Burgess to provide feedbackPage 5 RS action to contact Marie around EU resettlement scheme for any who needed additional time. Marie provided this link- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/temporary-protection-for-more-applicants-to-the-settlement-scheme> |  | CK & WCWCB | Catch up to discuss nomination arrangements between RBLI and LAs and move on arrangementsProvide check Thanet protocol and feedback to group |
| MHCLG Updates | Marie Gerald explained the annual H-CLIC stats were released today. Headlines include since 2017 over 375000 households who were homeless, or at risk of being homeless, have been helped to keep their home or into longer term accommodation. People are getting more help, particularly single households, who would not have had help before. For this year single households made up 72% of households owned an initial duty. MHCLG know this is the pandemic year and can see what the impact of the pandemic was and can compare it to the year before. They know there were measures to protect renters during the pandemic year which clearly worked as there was 41.4% reduction in households owed a homeless duty following the end of an AST, compared with previous year. This reflects the work everyone did during Everyone In. Circumstance and causes of homelessness changed that year as previously it would be end of AST, etc. This also impacted on TA, with fewer households with children moving into TA and more single households. The stats also show an increase in homelessness in offenders and a lot of work is being undertaken here.Offenders; LAs have their offenders funding now Accommodation for Ex-Offenders funding (AFEO). CAS3 MoJ temporary accommodation for prisons leavers for up to 12 weeks is being rolled out. Prisons have link housing specialist between prisons and LAs for managing the process and for Kent this is Tom Beresford. Marie is running a workshop in West Sussex to bring all of those stream together with MoJ, HMPPS, Probation, etc. to try and manage the pathways for offenders. If Kent would want a work shop ask Marie and Alex to facilitate that.Marie is not going to be the Kent advisor, as moving areas, and it will be Alex Clarke. Afghan Relocation, a letter will be sent to LAs CExecs on Monday detailing the support that will be offered for UK nationals, and the refugee side, and UK nationals who were in the UK who now have family members joining them here. This letter will also be circulated to KHOG. They would welcome intelligence from LAs on what is happening on the ground. Chris Burgess asked about ex offender accommodation. MG explained there is a lot going on. There is the MoJ pilot project CAS3 and we have a presentation on this later in the agenda. MHCLG also has funding called Accommodation for Ex Offender Funding which is to help ex-offenders access the private rented market and all 8 Kent LAs receiving funding have been notified. MHCLG hope to see the CAS3 and the AFEO help to create a pathways from prison to accommodation. JL Thanked for Marie’s hard work. Feedback on Afghans scheme, MBC are working with KCC to gain accommodation. Over last week they are also getting people approaching MBC directly, not via the scheme. Appears that Ministry are advising those with relatives already in the country to approach direct rather than use the main scheme. A request for all to use the ARUP scheme and request for that to be feedback to ministry. MG agrees that LAs can advise people to use the main scheme. SB introduced herself, from PH at KCC for adults’ drug and alcohol services, including outreach work for homeless clients. She asked whether anyone had had feedback around misuse of prescribed substances in the Afghan population and would colleagues know how many households are impacted or where they are located? Unfortunately this information is not fully available. MCHLG are playing catch up as dynamic situation.Canterbury are also receiving direct applications from those with family members already in the UK. They aim to refer back to bridging hotelsCB asked JL did the families go back to the bridging hotels. Some did, some were directed to apply to the housing register to determine their status and eligibility. Also the support is available at the hotels. MG suggested LAs let Alex know of the issues so he can feed in back Action. MHCLG will feed this back. |  | **All****MG/AC****all** | Decide if workshop welcome and contact Alex / Marie to facilitate it. Forward letter on Afghan programme to KHOG for circulationFeed issues with supporting Afghan households back to AC |
| KCC COMF Hardship Funding Update | The MoU was circulated this morning. We’re keen to send it for signing using Yoti and to do that we need the name, post and email address of the person who will sign it. The funds can be spent as described in the bid. Funds can be used to spend for staffing for the scheme, but the vast majority most be spend for those in need. Funds can be spend by third parties, but must follow the criteria from bid and must be spent, not parked, by 31.03.22. The funding is mainly for those currently in PRS adversely financially affected by COVID, either to address arrears or to help them more somewhere more affordable (perhaps rent deposit, rent in advance), ensuring that accommodation is sustained for at least 6 months, not is not for short term accommodation not really to help those leaving TA. Any funding not spent by 31/03/22 must be returned. Kellie p-S timing is key. KCC is strict on timing, so do not expect it to be extended. KSAS may be relevant and KPS will forward the details can be used for food, furniture, etc. so could be relevant to same people.Elly T, checking how flexible can LAs be, what evidence will be asked for, and whether there be collusion between landlord and tenant? RS suggested LAs treat cases in the same way they would any other homelessness approach, asking same questions and seeking the same evidence for these cases. LAs would want to check that covid has created or increased the financial difficulties. As laid out in the MoU, KHG will be asking for a data return from each LA each month by the 15th of the month. |  | **KPS & HM** | Action KPS to forward KSAS details to HM to circulate |
| Commissioning Updates | Adults; MG doing an options appraisal for the commissioning model. The related events are a second steering group for Kent Homeless Connect re-procurement on 30th Sept 10-12 am where all LAs are welcome to attend and contact Max to arrange this. Second market engagement event 5th October 10-12 again contact Max if you wish to attend. Young People; RC, they are recommissioning existing accommodation services including fostering and adoption by April 2022, and also young peoples supported accommodations and floating support and the shared accommodation (used for unaccompanied children whilst going through appeal process.) The consultation has begun and he is creating a concept paper for a new service model for these services to support commitment in the joint housing protocol, particularly for 16-17 year olds. There is currently no capacity in social work so KCC are not accepting more newly arrived unaccompanied asylum seeking children at the moment though that may change in future. KCC are supporting the Home Office to accommodate in fostering placements UASC for those claiming to be under 16 years old. Domestic Abuse; RW DA Act has been passed and the strategy is being reassessed. An addendum has been created and is being consulted on now [www.kent.gov.uk/domesticabuseconsultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/domesticabuseconsultation) This will continue to run until 27th Sept. Please submit feedback. **The consultation on the draft safe accommodation addition to the current Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy was published for consultation yesterday and is available here**[**www.kent.gov.uk/domesticabuseconsultation**](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kent.gov.uk%2Fdomesticabuseconsultation&data=04%7C01%7CRachel.Westlake%40kent.gov.uk%7Cda9e45a53a644830b68608d962e9c00c%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C637649578347792491%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=wxfBq2z76Y6OSKhHjw%2F3kHFVeynWk9ZXOvQhVoDPYtE%3D&reserved=0)**.****Please support dissemination and awareness where possible. The social media and communication sub-group will produce and send out suggests posts to its members. If your organisation would like to be a member and isn’t currently included, please do email Iona and she will add you to the distribution.** Iona Hunter-Whitehouse - ST SPRCA Iona.Hunter-Whitehouse@kent.gov.uk Drug and Alcohol; SB explained that generally they expect people to come into services and they are aware of the case for an outreach service. COMF will fund 6 extra outreach workers across Kent, for homeless people and for other clients too. This will run to end of June 2022. They are making partners aware that this service exists and ask that you use the usual referral pathways but flag that the service user would benefit from an outreach approach.  |  | **ALL** | Contact MG if you would like to attend either event |
| KHG/KHOG Protocols Update | Lisa Clarke, tenancy specialist manager at Clarion, DA reciprocal agreement, has invited Sean Richards, a former colleague. They got to this point as their team chairs a core group for National Housing Federation on DA to help HAs to work to same standards and share best practice. They are linked to Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance. They wanted to set up SE forum open to LAs, HA, support providers, etc. and London talked about their reciprocal programme and so Lisa was interested to see whether this would be helpful for Kent, or perhaps a pilot for Kent. She circulate her PID some months back which sparked email discussion. The principles of this are;* Be able to move survivors of DA without them losing their tenure and reduce pressure on homelessness services
* Open the service to LAs and HA, all social housing providers

It could run with a nominated person for each LA helping a survivor of DA whose current landlord cannot help relocate through their own stock if the survivor wishes to stay in Kent then the details would be passed to the coordinator to request a suitable home. The coordinator would have a database to record the homes provided. The coordinator would liaise with housing providers and collate the stats. The numbers are not expected to be large. Would need to be open to MARAC, IDVAs, etc. The concept is in its infancy. Lisa wants to find out what the appetite is and what they key issues would be. If appetite may be form a group with rep from each organisations. Uses Whole Housing Approach including the documents that they provide – so reducing the amount of work it would take.Sean, finding alternative accommodation is a regular theme at MARAC, but the current housing provider may not have it in a suitable area, regarding safety and support networks. Sometimes survivors can circulate from homeless service who refer back to current housing providers and back again or current provider cannot provide suitable accommodation.KP-S asked if this could be tabled with KCC policy team to join the dots on this matter and also ensure that support services know of the clients. JL is discussing this with Serine. JL suggested we should be working towards DAHA accreditation and wants to flag there is an existing policy for all to be aware of. Key Issues to determine;Should this be a separate procedure? Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) for guidance been asked but not responded yet. The client may not currently be accepted as homelessJL The support that would be provided would be greater than that currently provided by Locata. Need to make sure the clients do get all their rights, and therefore the support, they should be offered. Should a resettlement services providing support for a few months after moving?The current protocol focuses on homelessness and this discussion is wider than that. May need to refresh existing protocol or have a new protocol. Lisa suggested a working group on this, Sean Richard volunteered - send message to HM to volunteer. IH protocol; no updateMAPPA Housing protocol; SC had feedback on this process previously. TC, inaugural meeting but referral detail was limited. It did highlight the need for a chair, and a coordinator to ensure all information was available. Will aim for regular meeting on last Thursday of month when referrals have been received. They are working out a written process. NPS currently leading.Robin Cahill raised the joint housing protocol. Ministry of Housing wanted this to be reviewed and to include 18-25 years old. TC, RK and Marie are part of a Porchlight Homeless Womens Group to look at needs to repeat rough Sleepers and the trauma they’ve encountered. They asked them to ask if there is an appetite for a Female Rough Sleeper Protocol to create a more uniform approach across Kent. JL thinks this would be an interesting and useful piece of work and MBC outreach team would be happy to support that study. Lora McCourt also happy for CCC rough sleeper group to support this.  |  | **All****SC****LM****All** | Email HM if you would like to volunteer to join a working group on this.SC to state whether there was any feedback on his feedback.Review the joint housing protocol and include RCContact TC if you’d wish to join the group or nominate a member of staff for this.  |
| CAS3 Procurement & support, | Katie Sorrell, NPS now called the Probation Service gave a presentation that is to be circulated by email. Contact details are provided at the end of the presentation.Community Accommodation Service Tier 3, previously called Vanguard, now called CAS3. New scheme that provides 84 nights accommodation for people leaving prison, BASS or approved premises who cannot find any other source of accommodation. Funding is initially for 1 year but do hope it will continue. They take them on day of release, not those already homeless. It is managed by the Homelessness Prevention Taskforce Team. They hope to support around 140 across Kent in this scheme. They are placing across the county in shared and single person accommodation. The shared accommodation is for up to 4 people. The supply provider is Housing Action Management. Referrals only go through Housing Action Management Team.This scheme was put together at pace and more properties may be added. They may not be able to help all eligible clients immediately. Address approval process was laid out. Once the provider identifies a property the Probation Services must make a decision in 24 hours. Probation notify the Police and LA of addresses to seek feedback which is taken into account, both within the 24 hour period and afterward. Not all addressed proposed are secured so LAs will hear of more addresses than are then used. 30 minutes per week support is provided for CAS3 residents to help maintain the tenancy. The Probation practitioner will do other types of support including referrals for support services. Clients will be supported to create a move on plan. They check for health and safety but did ask for any advice on fire safety and facilities to inform their checks. JL raised a concern that the service is not confident around fire safety and that this should be considered before they place people to ensure homes are safe to protect the clients and also their organisation. It takes time to build knowledge to ensure accommodation is safe and responsibility lies with the Probation service to ensure homes are safe. JL suggested best practice would be for homes to inspection by those with the correct skills before accepting them. Katie explained how challenging this is due to the tight timescales between seeing a home and agreeing taking it. JL raised a concern around skewing the market, prices being paid, and out of area placements. KS explained it is a v small number of homes in each area.LJ raised a concern that there would be a break in the support provided to the client when properties are provided. KS explained that they aim to place where any support network is and they aim to provide support appropriately.HG asked what happens when the 84 days ends. KS explained they aim to create a move on plan with CRS provider, Probation, etc. It would be useful to develop the relationships and pathways to ensure all have accommodation by the end of the period. KS explained the internal panel reviews cases and will be able to provide information to LAs going forward. The Probation Service gives the information on placements to the housing options leads provided by Marie. SC flagged that the Duty to Refer continues and KS agreed this is required before a client is accepted on the scheme. KS agree the workshops flagged by Marie would be useful to create pathways.Lora asked if they would wish to housing rep on the panel and KS agreed that would be valuable. This discussion will be considering offline. Jenny Perkins jennie.perkins@canterbury.gov.uk was nominated as KHOG rep.  |  |  |  |
| Urgent National Policy | The DA Act is in force now.SC will be arranging 90 minutes training for his team on DA. LM organised training for her team from Shelter and would recommend that. |  |  |  |
| Volunteers for vice chair role | SC will end chairing in December 2021. LM will step up to chair. Email HM with any volunteers. Will ask for a summary of experience and skills if there is more than one candidate and then will vote.  |  | **All** | Consider volunteering to the KHOG vice chair |
| Review the KHOG ToR | Frequency of meetings – is 4 LA only and 2 full KHOG right. Changes needed;Add a line for increasing the number of meetings when needed.Add Aim of ending rough sleeping in Kent into ToRChange wording so meetings can be virtual, face or face or hybrid. |  | **HM****SC** | Draft and circulate amended TORDetermine capacity of rooms at MBC and book if appropriate |
| AOB | LM is working on developing East Kent Protocol for Mental Health Services to cover escalating concerns. JL There is an effective outreach mental health service in West Kent and it’s possible that the working Lora is doing and West Kent’s model inform each other.  |  | **LM****LM & JL** | Circulate draft for comments and then Marie Royle will take to KHG.Discuss West Kent model |