**Present**: Jo Ellis, Chair & Town and Country Housing; Sharon Williams, Vice Chair & Ashford BC; Mark Foster, KSS CRC; Brian Horton, SELEP; Jane Lang, TWBC & Kent Homechoice; John Littlemore, Maidstone BC; Marion Money, NRLA; Daniel Killian & Jody Bulman, Gravesham BC; Stephen Elliott, Riverside, Peter Dosad, Dartford BC; Kerry Newbury, Events & Optivo; Nick Gilchrist, Look Ahead; Bev Covington, Clarion HG; Maria Jacobs, Moat; Stuart Clifton, Maidstone BC; Mary Sturgeon & Hayley Brooks, Sevenoaks DC; Mark Breathwick, Medway Council; Steve Fox, Gravesend Churches HA; Melanie Anthony, Debra Exall, KCC; Helen Campbell-Wroe, Pathways;

**Apologies:** Clare Maynard, KCC; Olushola Alao, Hyde Housing, Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Donna Pearson, Look Ahead; Cynthia Allen, KSS CRC; Louise Taylor, Dover DC; James Gray, Home Group; Caroline Smith, Christy Holden, KCC

**Speakers**: Samantha Jones, KF&RS; Siobhan McCoy, Pennington Choices; Matthew Pateman, Serine Annan-Veitch, Chibuogu Nyananyo, Kent County Council/Public Health;

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| **Reference** | **Notes/Outcome** | **When** | **Who** | **Action/Decision** |
| **Introductions** | JE welcomed all colleagues and speakers to the meeting today. |  |  |  |
| **KF&RS Item** | Sam Jones provided an overview of the offer from KF&RS that included – the New Collaboration Team was established in January 2020 with KF&RS setting out their agenda to forge and build upon working relationships with partnership organisations, including KHG. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 gave emergency services the Duty to Collaborate, KF&RS have had to demonstrate value for money and efficiency.  The new Team sits within the Prevention, Protection and Customer Directorate with a number of areas that are focused upon. The collaboration team structure has three elements to it, Blue Light, Customer and Community Collaboration. SJ ran through the focus of the Customer and Community Collaboration working objectives, the cross cutting themes and safety messaging.  KFRS also working towards positive recruitment and ‘Have a go sessions’. SJ also shared the contact details across a number of teams for KHG colleagues to use and share. Information was also shared about how to make a priority referral.  JL thanked KF&RS for their recent assistance and support at a fire in Tunbridge Wells. MJ advised that Moat are currently working through a Fire Safety campaign and asked about KF&RS support/advice for this piece of work. SJ and MJ to liaise outside of the meeting. KF&RS happy to assist with anything of this nature, MJ agreed to share the details of the campaign with KHG members in January when completed. | **ASAP** | **RS** | **RS to share the slides with meeting notes** |
| **Pennington Item** | Siobhan McCoy, Senior Consultant, Pennington Choices joined the meeting and provided the following – Pennington Choices operate nationwide and deliver property related services, they are multidisciplinary, expert in field of consultancy, work with organisations support organisations to improve performance.  Compliance landscape – building safety, keeping people safe in their homes, complying with legislation and approved codes of practice (expected to have regard to these) also regulation aspects, the regulator has become more involved and engaged over the last few years.  Two recent fires Lakanal House and Grenfell, actions of the landlord had made the buildings less safe to live in, the second part of the inquiry is still taking place. In two years since Grenfell there have been other significant fires but without loss of life. The big 6 things are currently on the agenda to keep people safe in their homes as outlined by Siobhan (gas, electric, fire, water, asbestos and lifts).  Changes ahead following consultations on the Building Safety Bill and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, along with the Social Housing White Paper. Judith Hackitt very clear about landlords making changes that they need to and not to wait for the expected/anticipated news about changes. 53 recommendations made through her report, Building a Safer Future, published in May 2018. Siobhan shared a list of key dates about information about the Government response to the Hackitt and Inquiry.  The intention of the draft Building Safety Bill is to keep people safer in their homes but also feel their home is a good place to live. A new regulator for Building Safety, responsible for implementing and overseeing and new regime for higher risk buildings as well as driving improvements across all buildings. A stronger voice for residents, setting up a resident’s panel, driving industry culture change and finally tasked to deliver a framework/national oversight around construction products.  A new duty holder role, an organisation who will be the accountable person and you can have more than one per building, responsible for appointing building safety managers who will keep residents in high rise buildings safe, listening and responding to residents.  Building Safety Charge – a proposal that leaseholders will be able to see and understand what being charged for in respect of fire safety.  Higher Risk Buildings – Design and Construction: those who create a building safety risk will as far as possible be responsible for managing the risk. Golden Thread of Information – ensuring risk is are managed throughout the buildings life cycle.  Strengthening the Fire Safety Order – those areas that need further work, a number of proposals have been made including better supporting guidance, Fire Risk Assessors as examples. Also responding to findings from the first Grenfell Inquiry.  Cladding – has been a heavy focus on cladding following the Grenfell Fire, and the significant fire hazard about the use of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM). There has been an Independent Expert Panel created who have provided advice.  In November 2018 guidance was published in relation to the HHSRS, how high rise residential buildings with cladding should be assessed. In January 2020 the Advice for Building Owners of Multi-storey Multi occupancy residential buildings – replacing previous guidance notes.  Considerations – do you understand what you have got buildings wise? Are you actively dealing with these identified issues? Do you understand the risk, are there other risk factors alongside cladding? What is the history of building? What is the cost implications of the areas of action you have identified? What is your wider investment requirement? Do you have an integrated funded fire safety strategy? Implications for achieving Decent Homes or enforcement? What is the immediate and longer term development programme and type and finish of buildings coming forward?  MJ commented on the complexity of having Head Leases or Leases on buildings, not in control of the building but under expectation from the Regulator and the residents to manage the building compliance and keep residents safe.  SM advised that you need to be clear about the role and responsibility as a landlord, be clear about the robust approach to flag, take up and escalate with the building owner.  JE advised that under significant pressure from leaseholders with regards to certification from lenders, is there any movement on this or the costs being passed to leaseholders? This is recognised as being an issue but progress does remain slow, the more able to demonstrate that buildings are low risk, undertake the appropriate risk assessment, and evidence back. Lenders relaxing the approach and focusing on the high risk buildings. | **ASAP** | **RS** | **RS to share the slides with the meeting notes, colleagues are welcome to contact Siobhan with any questions outside of the meeting.** |
| **DA Item** | MP is an analyst with Kent Public Health Observatory and has been undertaking this DA Needs Assessment, commissioned by the Director of KPH in response to the DA Bill. This was a multi-agency piece of work, sourcing data from a wide range of areas, including Kent Police, KCC Commissioning Teams, PH Health Data, Medway Council, Prisons and Probation Service, Local Authorities and Kent Fire & Rescue Service.  The key findings – Prevalence of DA, based on Crime Survey Data with circa 5.7% of the adult population of Kent impacted by DA. The vast scale of society costs associated to DA, as high as £2.6bn per year across Kent and Medway. The trend of DA over the last few years, has declined over the last decade but increased over the last three years (this assessment was pre Covid-19). DA in the community remains unreported to the Police, around 60% are being reported with 46% leading to a crime being recorded. Found that 95% of commissioned service users are female, clients aged 20-40 are accountable for two thirds of the user of the service, with higher prevalence between 25 to 35 year olds. Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences – use of these in Kent could be low, but this is based on high level findings. Have had some data from Kent Police with an increase of call volumes in the first part of lockdown, but not a huge impact on crime numbers, don’t have data from June onwards.  Homelessness prevalent issue, official national stats that 12% of homelessness acceptance due to violent relationship breakdown. Current legislation is not addressing homelessness due to DA but the current Bill will address.  Crime Survey for England and Wales – those in more urban settings more likely to suffer DA, a 6% prevalence compared to a 4.2% prevalence in a rural setting. Tenure and dwelling types also offer disparity in data around DA.  Referral source in the KCC Commissioned Services – a lot through the One Stop Shops across the county, also through IDVA’s.  Serine updated colleagues on the DA Bill progress, this has moved through the House of Commons, waiting on a date for the House of Lords, confirmed in the Spending Review and some money from MHCLG to get started on the implementation from April 2021. The Bill is currently focusing on accommodation based, lobbing is going on to widen to community based services. Creates a statutory duty of DA, including coercive and controlling behaviours, introduces DA Protection Notices and Orders, and expands the definition to include Children as victims. Priority housing status to all those fleeing Domestic Abuse, what does this entail for local authorities and how to prepare? Creating of Local Partnership Board, needs assessment for accommodation based support, identify unmet need and then what to commission to meet the unmet need. The local PB will include a range of providers, including district councils.  MHCLG will release a template to follow to help with identifying what data is needed, KCC are continuing these discussions locally and what sits outside the KCC commissioned contracts. Looking at move on accommodation, why people are not qualifying for support, service provision which is happening for adults and young people outside of what is known already.  The Local Partnership Board is Appendix B in the Bill, there will be a need to have a strong district representation moving forward. Currently considering where the Local Partnership Board will sit and link. DE confirmed that any decision about the Board will be agreed via Kent Chief Executives. | **As approp**  **2.12.2020** | **ALL**  **EXB** | **MP happy to take any questions via email following the meeting and update**  **Agreed to discuss options for the Local Partnership Board and representation at the KHG Executive Board meeting.** |
| **SELEP Update** | BH provided an update to the group that included – continuing to work with the three Developer Groups within the SELEP areas and engagement with Homes England and MHCLG. Correspondence with 5 asks of Government has been shared Robert Jenrick MP (as shared ahead of the meeting). The Developer Group Chairs are working collectively to share market intelligence, with 15 or 16 weekly calls with MHCLG, these are now monthly calls with those leading on Market Intelligence and engagement and will continue through until May 2020. If there are any issues colleagues are aware of with regards to housing markets locally to share via BH who can feed this into the conversations with Homes England and MHCLG. Currently waiting on a meeting date with Chris Pincher, to have a conversation with County level politicians ahead of this.  All Parliamentary Group for SME’s engagement continues, with particular focus on the SME house building and frustrations.  The developer groups with Localis will be hosting an event in the New Year with some senior speakers and national representatives.  Brexit is another factor for consideration, asset management and availability of materials but also the navigation around localities if transport issues arise. MHCLG keen to hear any concerns on this issue should colleagues wish to share via BH.  BH will be shaping and leading a though leadership piece of work about the ‘new normal’ post Covid - What does the new normal mean for communities, the commercial property perspective etc. | **As Approp** | **ALL** | **JE urged colleagues to share their views, experiences to BH moving forward so that they can be shared.** |
| **Countywide Update Paper** | Countywide Groups Update paper shared ahead of the meeting. There were no matters arising from the paper. |  |  |  |
| **Handover of the Chair** | JE term as KHG Chair has come to an end so she must step down, her thanks passed to all colleagues for support and commitment to the group. JE thanked Rebecca, Sharon and the Executive Board and wider membership for their support and commitment to the group.  Sharon Williams will now be Chair and there has been the opportunity to nominate for Vice Chair (HA representative). Tracy Allison, Chief Executive at WKHA nominated herself, the group agreed to this and TA is now Vice Chair of KHG, colleagues welcomed Tracy as Vice Chair.  All colleagues extended their thanks to JE for her commitment to the role and leadership of KHG over the last two years.  Colleagues to continue to share their thoughts about what KHG should be responding to, to ensure that the membership offers the value for money and relevance for the whole membership. | **ASAP** | **RS** | **RS to update the contact details on the KHG website.** |
| **KHG Awards 2021** | KN advised that the Events group for KHG have been working behind the scenes to develop a plan to host an event for March 2021. There will be a virtual event and all membership organisations are encourage to make a nomination, using the guidance document that is shared via the KHG website -  <https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/kent-housing-group-excellence-awards-2021/>  The deadline for nominations is 5th February 2021. | **By 5.2.2020** | **ALL** | **Colleagues to view the guidance and submit a nomination by the agreed deadline, using the link in the minutes.** |
| **AOB** | RS reminded colleagues about the training on offer currently, Employee Mental Wellbeing on the 11th December and then Prevent Training on the 12th January 2021. There is also still the opportunity to sign up to the ACE online information session taking place on the 8th December from 9.30am for 2 hours.  SW wished colleagues a happy Christmas. |  |  | **If colleagues need details about any forth coming events contact the RS** |

**Date of first meeting for 2021 – Wednesday 10th February 10am, via Microsoft Teams**