**Present**: Sharon Williams, KHG chair and Ashford; Tracy Allison, vice chair and WKHA; Brian Horton, SELEP; Paul Koster, Dartford; Sasha Harrison, SHG; Colin Kavanagh, Moat; Daniel Killian, Gravesham; Polly Hardy, Interventions Alliance; Mark Weinel and Seb Blythe, KCC; Tracey Kerly, Ashford; Vanessa Biddiss, Optivo; Katie Sorrell, Probation; Elly Toye, Dover; Simon Thomas, Kent Chief Planning Officers and Canterbury; Mel Anthony, KCC; Shola Alao, Hyde; Mark Breathwick, Medway; Marie Royle, Canterbury; Ashley Jackson, Thanet; John Littlemore, Maidstone; Marion Money, NRLA; Linda Hibbs, TMBC; Nicola Bowen, Choice Support; Rachel Valerio, Riverside; Lin Perkins, Golding; Nick Fenton, Kent Housing and Developers Group; Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Anjan Ghosh, KCC Public Health; Shona Johnstone, Homes England; Cathy McCarthy, HHSC chair and WKHA; Sarah Tickner HHSC Project Officer; Scott Elliott, Medway Public Health;

**Apologies:** Jo Ellis, TCH; Stephanie Goad, Golding; Anne-Marie Roberts, Golding; Leanne Donald-Whitney, GCHA;

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| **Reference** | Notes/Outcome |  When | Who  | Action/Decision |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Matters Arising | MA to make contact with SC on Charity Shop Gift Card - DoneMembers to complete the HDIs EDI survey. Feedback will be given on the survey at the July meeting. |  |  |  |
| KHG structure and [K&M Housing Strategy](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/assets/uploads/large/FINAL-Kent-Medway-Housing-Strategy-2020-2025-29.7.2020.pdf) | SW gave a presentation on the strategy which will be shared. The sub groups are key to feeding information into the organisation and SW urged organisations to consider sending a delegate, or perhaps go on the circulation list, to keep in the loop. Tracey Kerly is Chief Executive of ABC and also maintains the links between Kent Chiefs and Kent Planners and KHG.SW invited members to raise any issues with KHG.The Board may sometimes set up cross sub-group working groups as needed to address parts of the strategy.KHG works best when its members feed their ideas and concerns in. Please contact SW and HM with ideas. Please also feedback to your colleagues from these meetings.HM sent an update from the events group. If you would like to highlight topics for events please contact HM who will liaise with the events group. |  |  |  |
| From housing supply to housing regeneration | SJ from Homes England gave a presentation which will be shared with the notes.Their focus on regeneration was emphasised, with a move from house building to creation of place. The Levelling Up White Paper has 12 missions covering housing, devolution, education and training, addressing crime, etc. It will be a longer term focus for the government.The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is passing through Parliamentary processes. The 20 key geographical areas have not all be announced yet. Some areas have been identified as priority 1 for levelling up fund but greater clarify should come. The HE offer includes Affordable Housing Programme, Brownfield Infrastructure and Land Fund and English Cities Fund. BH gave a SELEP view; Ashford Garden Community is getting some funds and some funds are still coming into the south east, particularly for coastal area. SW, TK, NF, SM and BH are planning an event to highlight the opportunities of Levelling Up, probably in September inviting KHG, Kent Chief Planning Officers Group, Kent Housing and Development Group, and Homes England to look at how to deliver good growth and affordable homes. There will be a focus to ensure that all residents benefit from development. SJ it is possible that regeneration may be include existing buildings to redevelop – perhaps redeveloping town centres and shopping centres into mixed use and development above retail. BH highlighted the power of KHG working with Kent Chief Planning Officers Group and Kent Housing and Developers Group, to achieve outcomes but also when lobbying DLUHC.ST, Kent Chief Planning Officers, the Kent Planning [Protoco](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/protocols/delivering-growth-kent-planning-protocol/)l bringing KHG, KCPOG and KHDG is powerful and useful. ST and NF sit on the KHG BoardNF of Kent Housing and Developers Group, joined up working is a key strength in Kent.TK The Kent Chiefs Group have specific areas they wish to focus on and that includes delivering affordable homes and working better together. They want to do deep dives into areas that are of concern, including affordable homes, cost of living crisis and the enormous pressure on many services. Construction costs are highly volatile which makes planning more challenging. Working with ST and NF is essential to show the collaboration between these key partners. Nutrient neutrality at Stodmarsh is a big issue but we must find a way to be able to grant consents. There are infrastructure issues but there will be solutions and we must find the funding and address the barriers to resolve difficult issues. Car use issues may have new solutions, particularly in planning garden communities. SW thanked TK for championing KHG with Kent Chiefs and Leaders. TK will join some KHG meetings as availability allows.  |  |  |  |
| SELEP update | BH They continue to raise material and labour availability and cost inflation in ongoing discussions on with DLUHC. House prices increases did almost cover this but may not soon and can’t for affordable homes. This could lead to reduced delivery.There is also a dialogue with DLUHC around planning fees and a consultation is expected on this. BH hopes that any increase will be ring fenced into planning services.BH reiterated his offer to take any suggestions from members up to the DLUHC meetings. SW said these issues can also be raised via SW or HM or direct to BH. |  | All | Use BH’s offer to raise important issues with DLUHC. Matters can go straight to BH or via SW or HM |
| Kent Homeless Connects | MA from KCC showed a presentation. The Kent Homeless Connects service includes; 1. Support in accommodation for single vulnerable adults to learn to live independently. The service pays for support, not accommodation.
2. Support to people in own home for tenancy sustainment and support for move on to settled accommodation
3. Rough sleeper outreach work and centralised referral line

It is described fully in the consultation document. Kent County Council is seeking views on how the proposed change to Kent Homeless Connect could impact residents and partners if the decision was made to stop funding the service. Visit [www.kent.gov.uk/homelessnessconsultation](http://www.kent.gov.uk/homelessnessconsultation) to find out more and share your views. The consultation is open until June 6 2022.The consultation responses will be used to inform the decision that will be made by the Cabinet on 21st July. KCC are working with local housing authorities and providers to plan the transition. SW what arrangements will be put in place for support for vulnerable adults? MA KCC are working with providers at a scheme level to understand support needs. This flags whether they are likely to have Care Act needs, and also other needs following DA, and for D&A use, etc. This helps flag the support needs. KCC has received more money for DA work so it may be able to support some vulnerable people in KHC in a DA service. Live Well Kent may also be able to provide relevant support. They are identifying trends. They’re also finding about other models for providing these services.JL highlighted LHA concerns. They’ve found the lack of clarity from KCC on the transition is a shared LHA concern. They would welcome clarity on what the transitional arrangements will be. He recognises the rise in applications from those suffering DA. The code of guidance in two tier area and how to discharge them is still unclear. MA KCC is meeting with the LHA to help clarify the transitional planning. JL agreed he had a meeting booked for this.SW reiterated this is an area of concern and the getting the transitional arrangements right is key. HM has asked KHOG if they wish to do a joint consultation response and ST is doing the same with the HHSC group. These responses are sought by midday on 26th May. SW highlighted the importance for each organisation submitting their own response too and that has 6th June deadline. |  | All | Submit your response on the KHC consultation by 6th June. |
| Corporate Parenting update KCC | Mark Weinel from KCC’s corporate parenting directorate to represent Caroline Smith. Seb Blythe oversees accommodation team. They have 1774 young people in care. There are just under 2000 care leavers who are 18-25. The National Transfer Scheme is mandatory, and there are 240 asylum seeking young people in this service at any one time who will go to other LAs across the country. They have 683 foster carers and have just had a drive to recruit more foster cares. Please do encourage anyone interested in becoming a foster carer to step forward. There are fewer foster carers in West Kent and fewer who will take sibling groupsKent Supported Homes is run for young adults leaving care where a room is rented from a host who providers some support. They are keen to recruit more Kent Supported Homes hosts.They ran a ETE event at Detling Showground for care leavers to promote opportunities for care leavers. Invitations went to each LA and some did attend. Looking for pledges from LAs regarding work experience, apprenticeships etc. for support care leavers. Do contact Mark to make a pledge. SB and MW meet DLUHC and DFE. SB receives a rough sleeping grant for care leavers. They aim to create a bespoke protocol for care leavers and hope to present on this to KHOG. They are aware of the existing joint protocol. Josh McAllister’s review of children in care may make care leaver a protected characteristic. They have just been visited by OFSTED and await official feedback but informally it appeared to go well.SW welcomed the presentation to KHOG and the Board would also like to hear on this. JL Are we any closer to know when KCC can look at recommissioning services for young people? MW will ask Robin Cahill to comment on this. The timescales for Duty to Refer for homelessness are getting very short. Please ask colleagues to refer at earliest possible opportunity. MW yes will remind on this. SB the focus is for KCC to work with partners as soon as possible, including with duty to refer and he will remind staff of this.  |  | MWSB | Ask RC to comment on when KCC will look at recommissioning services for YPRequest that colleagues use the Duty to Refer as early as possible for YP at risk of homelessness |
| COMF update | JL referred us to the circulated item which said; KHG made a successful £2.5M bid to KCC for this project which aims to address financial hardship arising from Covid-19 leading to homelessness. It has two strands;1. Funds to each Kent LHA to address financial hardship arising from Covid-19 leading to homelessness in all tenures
2. Funds to market the LHAs homelessness service to landlords using the website [www.supportforkentlandlords.co.uk](http://www.supportforkentlandlords.co.uk) and social media, press releases, etc.

COMF funding is for preventing homelessness primarily in the private rented sector but can also be used in the social rented sector and for mortgage arrears. It is for households adversely financially affected by COVID. The project was to run to 31st March 2022 but KCC extended it to June 2022 as some councils were not going to be able to spend the funds in time. Sevenoaks and Dover councils were allocated additional funds of £45,000 each, so a total of £220,000 which they spent by the end of March 2022. All other Kent councils were allocated £175,000 and given an extension to the end of June 2022 to spend it. Spend continues to vary across the county and it is likely that some funds will be returned to KCC as 5 councils had spent less than £100k, and 5 had spent more than £120,000 by the end of April. LAs are asked to continue to submit their monthly data returns to HM by 14th of each month. **Maxims marketing update.** PR and marketing agency, Maxim, is continuing to promote the COMF funding.A press release has been drafted and recently issued to the local media on reaching £1.5 million spend. It was also added to the Support for Kent Landlords [website](https://supportforkentlandlords.co.uk/) and shared on Kent Housing Group’s social channels and [website](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/news/).The advertising campaign with KM Media Group (on KMfm and KentOnline) proved successful so the online element has been extended until the end of June.A new page has been created for the Support for Kent Landlords website which includes anonymised case studies from people who have benefited from COMF. These case studies have been used in a new animation. Paid for promotions on Facebook have greatly increased the views and this activity will shortly be replicated on YouTube. KHG is working with our website provider and animation provider to update those resources so they will have value longer term, after this project has ended. Please do contact HM with any questions on this. |  | LAs | Kent LHAs are requested to continue data returns to HM on or before 14th of each month until July. |
| Homes for Ukrainians | JL this is a big issue and the media are interested to hear how it going. We have 3000 applications of guests intending to come in to Kent and over 1000 sponsors registered. The distribution varies across the county with more in Tunbridge Wells and fewer in Gravesham. There is a vulnerable people community cell which provides an operational basis for responding to the Ukrainians scheme. There are two schemes; the extended families scheme where family members can offer a home to their extended family, and the Homes for Ukrainians scheme for people to go to those who volunteer to sponsor them and are unrelated. There is support for the Homes for Ukrainian scheme. There is no support available for those coming to stay with extended families. The government keeps these two schemes, extend family and Homes for Ukrainians separate.The Homes for Ukrainians scheme has checks including that the home is safe. When there are issues with safety with home the district councils must let the sponsor family know. JL asked that each LA has a procedure for when a sponsor asks for that decision to be reviewed, and this could be the normal complaints procedure. DLUHC are asking LAs to keep a record and update monthly. There are approaches when the extended families placements break down. A rematching model will be created under Homes for Ukrainians scheme. MB is this an informal scheme for the extended families scheme to be rematched? JL The host for extended families route gets no financial assistance, or rematching, and we are lobbying on this. JL has asked all LAs to report back on their numbers as he need to send the figures by lunch time 25th May to answer CNNs media enquiry. Please contact JL with concerns to be raised at VPCC.  |  | LAsLAsLAs | When you find an issue with the safety of a sponsors home you must inform the sponsorSet up a procedure for when the sponsor disagreed with your decision. This could be your normal complain procedureContact JL with any concerns to feed back to the VPCC. |
| **Focus on health** |
| Housing, Health and Social Care sub group update | Cathy Mc, chair of the Housing Health and Social Care sub group of KHG shared a presentation on their work which will be circulated. This sub group has members from health, probation, KFRS, KCC commissioners, charities and social care and housing. Meetings are themed based on their action plan. CMc outlined their action plan and how the partners agreed the themes together, then highlighted the work from the last 12 months and then the plan for 2022-23. If you would like to join this sub group please contact its project officer, Sarah Tickner.SW said that if there are areas Kent Public Health want us to feed in to please let ST know.  |  | All | If you organisation would like to send a rep to this group please contact Sarah Tickner |
| Kent Health Perspective | Anjan Ghosh, director Public Health at KCC, shared a presentation that will be circulated. Now the pandemic is waning and we’re moving into a living with Covid-19 model it is an opportune moment to decide what to focus on next. His presentation highlighted the links between unhealthy, unsuitable or unstable housing on the health of the occupants. 21% of privately rented homes are not decent, 16% of homes occupied by their owners and 13 % of socially rented homes. Only 23% of new homes in Kent are affordable. The population of Kent is anticipated to increase by 18 % between 2022 and 2040 – will housing provision keep pace?This leads us to consider what we can do about this. There will be a five year public health strategy. 80% of this activity is likely to require actions from partner organisations. We need to make a big difference on reducing health inequalities. The cost of living challenges could exacerbate health inequalities. We will need to be ambitious in scope and scale and work together to tackle to long term issues. Mike from KCC will liaise with CMc on how KHG can support to development of the Public Health Strategy. It will work with existing strategies. KCC will create a steering group at director CE level and an operational group for people with both operational and strategic level. AG is seeking nominees for both these groups. SW our KHG Board meeting will discuss this matter this afternoon.BH welcomed AG to KHG and Kent. KHG has worked with KCC public health for over a decade and previously the Kent Joint Planning and Policy Board for health, housing and social care and is keen to continue the strengthen this work. He thanked KCC for their financial support for HHSC for 2022-23. SW thanked ST and CMc for their work on this agenda who help the work happens. She highlighted that each sub group contributes to the public health agenda.MM of NRLA highlighted that the vast majority of private sector landlords do want their homes to meet the HHSRS and Decent Homes standards. LAs need the resources to ensure all homes are up to standards.  |  | KHG Board | Identify nominees for the steering and operational PH groups |
| Turning the Tide | Scott Elliott from Medway Council’s Public Health service talked about the Turning the Tide agenda. Turning The Tide is about addressing inequalities in health in BAME communities in the South East. It aims to address health, employment, racial and wider inequalities. Covid-19 disproportionately affected BAME people, and also older people. Turning the Tide aims to ensure that health and care systems address these BAME inequalities. It identifies the wider determinants of health, which include housing. We need to consider what are we doing, as a system, to give great health outcomes? The Turning the Tide Board wants to take local actions that have a genuine impact, building on existing good practice. SE showed two websites;* <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south-east/health-equalities/turning-the-tide/turning-the-tide-strategy/>
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

SW has attended a Turning the Tide Board meeting. The Turning the Tide Board are currently identifying existing good practice, and then gaps, so can target resources appropriately. SW it would be useful to understand going forward, how the Kent and Medway work will dovetail.  |  |  |  |
| AOB | HM please let me know what you’d like to go on the agenda so we can keep this relevant and useful.KHG Excellence Awards have opened for nominations. HM circulate the nomination form and the categories. Date of next meetings 20th July 10-12.30, 21st September 10-12.30 |  | **All****All** | **Please contact SW or HM with suggestions for topics for next meeting****Please nominate your colleagues for their excellence** |