**KENT HOUSING OPTIONS SUB GROUP (KHOG) MEETING**

**15 JUNE 2017**

**Held at Maidstone BC Office, Maidstone House, Maidstone**

**Present:** Jane Smither, (Chair) T & MBC: Deborah White, KHG Mentor and WKHA; Marie Gerald, Dartford BC; Andrew Kefford, Sevenoaks DC; Stuart Clifton, Maidstone BC; Elly Toye, Dover DC; Vicky May, Thanet DC; Roxanne Sheppard, Swale BC, Lora McCourt, Canterbury CC; Anna Dale, Canterbury CC; Wendy Labrum, TWells BC; Nancy Fraser, Ashford BC; Lynn Wilders, Gravesham BC; Leve Idow, Medway Council; Bev Jackson, Shepway DC; Vicky Hodson, Kent Homechoice; Lesley Clay, Kent JPPB; Jill Pells, KHG

**Apologies:** Sarah Robson, Shepway DC; Jane Lang, Tunbridge Wells BC;

**Guest:** Richard Barnard, Porchlight; Andrew MacDonald, KCC

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| **Reference** | **Notes/Outcome** | **Timescale** | **Lead person** | **Action/Decision** |
| **Action Log from meeting 16 March 2017** | Action Log agreed with the following matters arising.  Affordability protocol draft has had some changes. Will be circulated and uploaded to website. Could link with the Eviction Protocol for joint meeting with NM Sub Group.  ET has arranged for Mark Gillmore to attend September meeting regarding digital roll out of UC.  RS is to share information on whether 2nd child ruling is retrospective.  VH to ask RM to report back on 22s meeting. | September 2017  ASAP  ASAP | KHG RebS/JP  ET  RoxS  VH | Joint Meeting of NM Sub and KHOG  ET to share presentation from DWP meeting. |
| **Porchlight Employment Pathway Presentation** | Richard Barnard, Manager of the Jobs Education and Training at Porchlight gave a presentation on the work of the project which identified that lack of aspiration was the main problem to be overcome. | ASAP | JP (Done) | Presentation to be circulated. |
| **UASC – Housing Register Applications (item from UASC T & F Meeting, held 22.05.2017)** | Meeting held with KCC on 22 May regarding rehousing UASC. LAs generally place in Band B. Discussed getting applicants on Housing Registers in good time before they require rehousing although LA s have duties to more than this cohort.  AM – looking at all options for young people including shared housing, tenancy training, etc.  A further meeting is planned for September.  MG raised the housing panels now operating in districts. Issues regarding reconnection for persons in supported housing placed out of area. Need to be sure that they can be reconnected and not expect (eg) Dartford BC to re-house. Possibly some work for KHOG on reconnection to refresh the existing policy. | ASAP | LC | LC to circulate existing Reconnection Policy for updating and amendments. |
| **Cost of TA in Kent** | Sarah Porter, Swale BC wanted some information on cost of TA. MG recently did a presentation at the Joint Chiefs meeting on Homeless Reduction Act. CEs were engaged by this and asked lots of questions, particularly around the costs of the new burdens. Need to feed back this information. Need to establish how to calculate this. Will include staffing costs as unlikely to be covered by any funding. | ASAP  ASAP | MG  ALL | MG to provide a template to calculate future costs of TA.  LAs to provide information on net cost of TA 2016/2017 to JP. |
| **Homeless Reduction Bill (SI)**  **Code of Guidance** | MG fed back about meetings to develop the new/revised code of guidance, including definitions of homelessness, etc.  Others attending meetings are Hackney, Enfield, Newham, Liverpool, Southend, Peterborough, Blackpool – a very varied attendance. How Kent works is unique in terms of numbers of LAs. Crisis and John Sparks, Solicitor, Deborah from Shelter are also involved in discussions.  Homeless at expiration of S21 are homeless but could be homeless at home. At expiry of the possession order LAs must offer TA. Can still do prevention and relief duties – around when interim accommodation is provided.  Much of this is reinforcing what is already there but making it more implicit.  Intentionality – can advise client that they are likely to be intentionally homeless and this is what is likely to be offered. If you accept the duty you have to secure accommodation for 12 months if no duty six months.  MG requested something in the code to mitigate where another authority place out of area and then make client intentionally homeless so onus is on that authority to assist.  Duty to refer states that all public bodies (not including HAs which are not public bodies) have a duty to co-operate.  Much of what is being suggested will be tested in case law.  SC advised that the new Code of Guidance is scheduled to go out for consultation in September 2017. | ASAP  ASAP | MG | MG to circulate notes of meetings.  Any questions to MG to feedback. |
| **National Policy (SI)** | Covered in previous item. |  |  |  |
| **Protocols (SI)** | LC referred to KCC Children and Families Ofsted report. Considered to be “Good”.  Full report can be found at reports.ofsted.gov.uk    LC to invite Sarah Hammond, KCC to attend JPPB on JPPB.  LC advised that we need to review protocols in the light of the Housing Reduction Act.  KAA now revised. Training carried out in Thanet. Need to stress that referrals must be signed off by a senior officer. | ASAP  ASAP | LC  LC | Invitation to JPPB on 6 July 217  LC to circulate presentation. |
| **Recent Case Law (SI)** | JS referred to two Minos reviews challenging the meaning of significant. | ASAP | JS | JS to circulate more information. |
| **Training opportunities (SI)** | Andy Gale will be doing some HomRA training at T & M BC for all in September.  JS mentioned that the Andy Gale toolkits on Locata are brilliant. Promising all the updated letters will be available soon.  SC – MBC will be running welfare benefit training via NPAS – available to colleagues.  BJ – thinking of running an effective letter writing course and will share details with colleagues.  ET mentioned that some training needs to be offered more than once so that more officers are able to attend.  SC will arrange eligibility for persons from abroad for new officers. | September 2017 | ALL  ALL  BJ  ALL | JS to advise of details when known. |
| **AOB** | AK – How are people going to record new P1E? ET said that something is being created with Monmouth and Mike Young DCLG. Also discussion about having template letters on Locata.  JS – T & M BC signed up to be pilot for Jigsaw NPSS are doing.  ET – Controlling Migration bid – who is doing it? Any cross boundary bids? CCC met with Mel Anthony and Thanet also attended - looking to put something together. Dover DC is doing something via their Community Section.  ET – Recommissioning of Floating Support services. Request for information – three years figures of homelessness and rough sleeping data required for Sarah Peacock (Supporting People). Also Sarah to be invited to the next full meeting of KHOG. SC advised that data from Locata is not appropriate. Suggest that we wait until Sector has come up with how to provide data and then all do the same.  ET – What is the general number of cases per officer – most 20 – 22 but Sevenoaks 60-80.  LC meeting with MH discharge nurses – they are progressing towards a mental health pathway. Suggested training re HomRA. They would like to know if a homeless person is an inpatient – who would do a visit in hospital? Most would try to visit. MBC have provided Priority House an ipad to do this.  SC – London Boroughs lobbying Government about LHA rates – do we want to be a part of this. KHOG to be involved with this. | November 2017  ASAP | JP  ALL/JP | Invite [sarah.peacock@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.peacock@kent.gov.uk)  Everyone to send numbers of officers and how many cases they manage to ET. Agenda item for September meeting. |
| **Next Meeting** | LA only, **14 September 2017** at 10 am (MBC) |  |  |  |