**Draft Full Membership Kent Housing Options Group Meeting Notes, 15 Sept 2022 Microsoft Teams Call**

DRAFT

**Present**: Toni Carter, Dartford and chair KHOG; Manpreet Bhupal, Gravesham and vice chair; Helen Miller, KHG; Sarah Hague, Interventions Alliance; Luke Edwards, KCC; Mark Damiral, Folkestone and Hythe; Chris Burgess, Porchlight; Kenan Dogan, Gravesham; Philippa Nancoo, Pathways - SIG; Rebecca Goldring and Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Liz Elsden, DWP; Emily Oates, KCC; Hazel South and Robin Cahill, KCC; John Littlemore and Natalia Merritt, Maidstone; Yvette Hazelden and Megan Reynolds, Lookahead; Ray Easdown, Medway; Alex Clarke, DLUHC; Amanda Gill and Sylvia Roberts, Ashford; Claire Keeling, TMBC; Kylie Gillham, Canterbury; Vicky Hodson, Homechoice; Duncan Berrington, Thanet; Elly Toye, Dover; Stuart Clifton, TWBC; Rox Sheppard, Swale; Graham Urquhart, KCC;

**Apologies:**; Anna Dale, Lora McCourt, Canterbury; Bob Porter, Thanet; Daniel Killian, Gravesham; Christy Holden, KCC; Nicola Bowen, Choice Support; Sarah Huntley, DWP; Caroline Lower, Sevenoaks; Cynthia Allen, Interventions Alliance; Mel Anthony, KCC; Pam Millington, Dover

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| Reference | Notes/Outcome | Who | Action/Decision |
| Matters Arising from July 2022 | TC Arrange a meeting with NC, JL and MBh to decide how the reviews of the protocols written by KHOG will be done. The meeting will be arranged.  RC, help Maddie from Beam connect with 18+ Team at KCC. Done  HM circulate HNA and presentation on new Kent Drug and Alcohol strategy – done  HM seek NM’s guidance on H-CLIC data for COMF – done  HM volunteers for IHF/Families with complex needs linked to KCC rep and meeting planned for later in September – Done  MBh liaise with KMPT to confirm 5 days time frame for hospital discharge protocol – done  HM circulate draft hospital discharge protocol for KHOG for comments – done  HM email group seeking volunteers to review YP protocol for both 17-18 homeless YP and care leavers – done volunteers identified and emailed to seek suitable dates for meeting  All email HM with ideas for joint bids – no emails received  TC arrange a meeting on TA – done and brief update later in meeting  All – email HM with topics for future KHG events - no emails received  All – email ET with how many housing officers that manage cases and the number of case you deal with. ET to share the info. ET has had from some. If any others would like send to ET please do | MBh | Arrange a meeting with NC, JL, TC to agree how the review of protocols will be scheduled |
| DLUHC updates | AC explained that Simon Clarke is the new SOS for DLUHC. We are waiting to know who the minister will be. SC is keen on levelling up and sees it in terms of deprivation and will be including areas of deprivation in the south east.  The Rough Sleeping Strategy has been released and that shows the RSI funding. It includes the single homeless accommodation programme that allows bids for funding for accommodation on gaps in pathways for single homeless. AC will share the prospectus when available.  AC extended thanks for responses to HPG consultation. These responses are being considered by the policy team. It is possible the end solution could be a different formula.  AC is leaving DLUHC at end of the month. TC gave her thanks to AC.  JL KHOG appreciates all AC‘s support and assistance. KCC is currently consulting on drugs and alcohol strategy. AC confirmed the direction of travel remain the same for RS and drug and alcohol when there is a change in government personnel.  KD, regarding the HPG consultation and tranche payments and how will validity of HCLIC be measured? AC believes a valid return means returning all data areas, and on time. He does not know whether the number of errors would be a concern. There is no firm decision on this yet. | AC  AC | Share the protocol when available  Email HM on detail of new advisor(s) when known |
| Ukrainian Families and the housing register | JL ask what approach do people take when Ukrainian guests approach a LA when their placement has broken down. He suggests that LHAs take a housing register application and then also seek to find a re-match option, following government guidance. Sponsors were expected to provide a service for 6 months and many have indicated that they will not renew at the end of that period so we may find any increase in applications in October/November.  Dartford are seeing approaches from the family and the sponsor route. They now have some families in TA due to this. They are reviewing their allocations policy.  CK TMBC put families in TA as needed and are exploring rematching. They raised the query over whether there also a need to manage expectation due to the issue of gap between LHA and rental amounts and the potential need to move to areas with lower rents. JL will feed that back.  ET from DDC said they have accommodated families whilst seeking rematching. They’ve needs to provide support services. They’ve also needed to manage safeguarding which did not feel like genuine safeguarding concerns. More people want to rent privately but lack guarantors – can KCC help on that – landlords and agents cannot carry out credit checks for Ukrainians and are worried about taking the risk.  AC has not heard issues around credit checks being raised before. He has heard that re-matching has been successful in other areas. AC asked to find out whether other areas have managed to overcome issues around the credit check or guarantors.  KG Canterbury has signed with Help2Rent which may help. Some LAs legal departments are reticent on using Help2 Rent. Some LAs have found Help2Rent are not offering homes in the area. Canterbury will monitor how Help2 Rents goes and let KHOG know. KG also offered sharing the legal agreement they have with ET. | AC  KG | Seek successful practice on ways round credit checks and guarantors for Ukrainians and feed back  Share legal agreement with ET |
| Commissioning updates | Young People  RC and HS gave a short presentation on Young People Supported Accommodation and Floating Support that will be circulated. The contract was due to expire at end of September and a direct award means the contract now ends of 31st March 2023. OFSTED have not published its final details on the new regulation and this is expected in December. KCC aim to work toward the five pathways shown to reflect levels of need and give young people greater choice. The timelines were set out and are provisional based on Cabinet approval and OFSTED final requirements. More consultation and market engagement will be carried out.  DA  Emily Oates and Luke Edwards shared a presentation on DA and KHC and other commissioning activity.  Emily Oates and Ashleigh Cain have joined RW’s team and can be contacted at [domesticabusecommissioning@kent.gov.uk](mailto:domesticabusecommissioning@kent.gov.uk) The DA needs Assessment is being refreshed by [sara.collins@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sara.collins@kent.gov.uk)  They are planning 16 days of action campaigning.  JL colleague reminder to engage with your areas domestic abuse coordinator. They are not necessarily located within housing teams.  KHC  LE explained that the KHC contract will end and there is a variation of the contract to include a transition period. This was emailed out a few days ago.  JL said MBC still does not know what this means at a district level so it greater details could be provided that would help.  LE the contract ends at the end of Sept and KCC are working on local transition plans.  CB in lot 1 (Canterbury, Thanet Folkestone and Hythe) have been meeting to look at staffing structure and model. Has similar happened in other areas? JL think not has waiting on KCC decision. RG said MG had said they were picking up meetings with other areas in September.  MR they’ve been working collaboratively with KCC to look at what will be prioritised in each tranche. If you’d like more details please contact her.  CB are also happy to collaborate with all parties.  Live Well Kent and Medway  Contract runs to 31st March 2023. They are looking to procure a new contract.  KSAS  Applications remain high. The Housing Support Fund has ended and they await new on further funding | HM  HM | Circulate the presentation  Circulate the presentation |
| Protocols | Domestic Reciprocal agreement in social housing – we have not progressed this matter since the last update, mainly due to a cyber-attack at Clarion and the significant work needed to put work arounds in place. However the group will reconvene soon.  TC confirmed that the DA coordinators will support this are of work.  IH/ Families with complex needs. A joint meeting with KHOG and KCC representatives is scheduled for 23rd September with Maidstone hosting. If anyone else wants to volunteer email HM.  Kent Agency Assessment form  VH has got the paper form digitalised. VH has tested it with LA colleagues. She will test with KCC colleagues this afternoon. Once all feedback is used, and any updates needed applied, we’ll have a full digital form going direct the correct officers.  JL requested an update with reprovisioning IT system for Homechoice. VH explained that the contract ends in July 2023. We’re moving to a contract with Hume. She is rolling out the training to all LHAs. Allocations were done first with Options coming second and finally a day on how to set everything up. There is a project set up meeting coming soon. VH intends to employ another person to support this work. They will need permission to shut the housing register for a period next year to move from old system to the new. There will be an intense period on work in June 2023 to ensure cases have come over. VH will keep you all up to date.  KMPT and the old Joint Protocol for planned discharge for homeless people from mental health in-patient facilities – 3 KHOG members provided comments. MBh will consider these and make any amendments soon by the end of September.  Young Persons protocol  RC We’re going to have two working groups, one for 16-17 years old, one for care leavers. We have volunteers from KHOG, DWP and KCC for each group. | HM  MBh | Invite VH to give an update on Homechoice each meeting for next 12 months  Review and make amendments |
| Discussion and info sharing on dates for rough sleeper count/estimate; night shelter provision, etc. | North Kent, T&MBC, Swale and Dover are going for (redacted) for their count/estimate.  Dover Outreach Centre have bid to transition fund to bring property back into use to provide 10 bed spaces so they hope to have a suitable building.  Maidstone has existing provision. Some of the churches still want to open to provide shared accommodation yet the evidence for need is lacking.  Dartford explained the numbers of RS on the street are minimal due to provision of services, yet the church group do want to set something up and they are liaising with them on this. They have 2 RS who have not engaged with them so far – no matter the offer made. TC would welcome suggestions on how to get her to engage. NM their outreach team work well with entrenched RS and will ask them to liaise with TC. CK suggested keep going with relationship building as there may come a time when they are ready to engage. Porchlight suggested being very flexible approach on how they can engage.  There is some concern that church provision may encourage people from out of area.  Porchlight is happy to work with each district on winter provision. They did have a freeze on open bed spaces but that has finished now and people are welcomed in. | NM | Request Maidstone outreach team liaise with TC to advise on entrenched RSs |
| Brief update on TA | TC there was an energetic meeting on this early in September. Key points are;   1. Having a SPOC in each LA and having a monthly meeting to discuss out of borough placements with potential for swopping to bring people to right area 2. Can there be an instant messaging function within HUME 3. Can Locata open up availability within the TA module – and potentially with HUME 4. Transparency around which providers we use and how much we pay – checking first with legal teams if can discuss business agreements 5. Some LHAs have arrangements to use own stock for TA with a leasing scheme for hard to use units – perhaps could share with LHAs if sitting empty. 6. SC will keep us updated with the procurement arrangement with MBC, SBC and TWBC   KD suggested that for homes used as TA from managing agent we could consider whether the homes are being inspected and could we take a similar approach and share inspection details between LHAs.  A more detailed meeting was held on this topic immediately after this KHOG meeting. |  |  |
| Topics for KHG events | Topics  TC agreeing fuel poverty and cost of living are really important.  JL Kent Chief Execs will be talking about creating warm hubs. Kent Authorities may be asked to provide these services.  DA remains important yet there are the 16 days of action in November. There was a DA event in June so we’re probably not ready for another event on this yet. Once DA coordinators are settled perhaps they would suggest the next focus for a DA event. |  |  |
| Any Urgent National Policy, Case Law Updates | SC There will be new exemptions to shared accommodation rate for victims of DA or modern slavery from 1st October. The evidence needs is not clarified yet. [The Housing Benefit and Universal Credit (Victims of Domestic Abuse and Victims of Modern Slavery) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (legislation.gov.uk)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2022/942/note/made)  Dartford are providing training on illegal eviction. If you’d like training with Shelter please contact TC.  Jansons v Latvia the ECtHR was asked to decide if Police refusal to intervene when a person who locked out of his home was a breach or Article 8 and Article 13 and held it was. This may lead to a change in policy. | All | Contact TC to request a place on this training by 19th September |
| AOB | MAPPA.  There is a consultation on how MAPPA meetings are run. Currently meetings are run around specific individuals and the relevant LA is invited. Probation and housing colleagues met to discuss last week. Probation were worried about housing colleagues not attending unless they know the case. Probation suggested making the meetings all day, to discuss several cases, and bringing some districts together. They may want just one senior housing representative but for that person to represent more than one LAs area. Housing colleagues voiced concerned about doing that for another LA’s case.  SC LHAs should have knowledge of the cases as offending related services should do a duty refer and perhaps we should highlight that. TC this duty was raised at the meeting.  JL encouraged all to feed back into the consultation. He suggested we do not resources to allocate an officer to attend a meeting all day. Also it is not appropriate to ask an LHA to make judgments on other LHAs actions. LHAs are not well resourced and must use time wisely.  NM there did not seem to be base understanding of how LAs operated. They also may want more than one full day from some LAs. 60 minutes per case seems limited and so comprehensive pack of inform would be needed before the meeting. NM suggested a KHOG response as well as each LHA to respond.  CK this raises concerns for housing and other agencies, this social services. They intended to set up a task and finish group – let’s also feed into that.  RE this is a massive extension to current commitment. The guidance asks LHA to take interest in cases that are relevant – so the correct LAs, and not expecting LAs to make decisions for other LAS. Also the housing representative should not be tasked for contingency planning for housing – taking responsibility from primary organisations on this.  TC suggested a few come together to form KHOG response.  YH DA 16 days of action the DA media and comms group will come out to agencies, partners and employers to sign up to the employer champion scheme and attend the employers initiative against DA lunch and learn sessions. Emails will come out about that to all.  ET has anyone done any awareness sessions for Ukrainians and would you share with ET. TC Dartford are working on creating a package of information that she is willing to share. They have fortnightly meetings with them and hope to get other agencies involved in these. KG will find out what was happening in Canterbury and feed back to ET.  Future Meetings;  Date of next meeting; LA only 10th November 10-12.30.  Topics for November meeting;   * MAPPA meetings * TA * Homechoice update   TC do we continuing with hybrid or all virtual? The final decision was no more hybrid meetings. We’ll meeting virtually for all meetings in 2023 except the May one which will be only in person and at Trinity in Maidstone.  Dates for 2023 to be sent out soon and will be; 26th Jan KHOG full; 21st March KHOG LA; 25th May KHOG Full in person ; 19th Jul KHOG LA; 7th Sept KHOG Full; 22nd Nov KHOG LA | All  All | Please respond to this MAPPA consultation  Contact TC if you would like to join and task and finish group on this |