**Children’s Commissioning Update October 2023:**

The new regulations for **Supported Accommodation** go live on 28 October 2023 and the tenders have been evaluated for the new services. This includes the provision of Accommodation and Support for 16/17 year olds to meet the new Ofsted Regulation Standards for Supported Accommodation and Accommodation only for 18 year old Care Leavers. The recommissioning of these services started in 2021 and have developed along the way as we learned more about the requirements and the guidance.

We have shared with Districts/Boroughs the commissioning intentions, collectively through Kent Housing Options Group, and individually. We also shared with the Kent Finance Officers Group and Kent Joint Chiefs through the Summer. The Key Decision to award the contracts is due in October 2023.

We have a near final draft of the **Disabled Facilities Grant Protocol** and are asking for final questions and comments before sharing with the Public Sector Housing Group, where this work initially set off and will come back to KHG for final sign-off.

The high court ruling in relation to all **Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children** entering Kent being taken into care has impacted on the availability of care provision across the County. We are working with the Home Office, the Department for Education and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, along with other local authorities, to develop a sustainable plan to accommodate all children under 18.