**Draft KHG EXB Meeting Notes 29 November 2023, Microsoft Teams Call**

DRAFT

**Present**: Steph Goad, Golding Homes; Brandon Lewis, Brian’s intern; Charlotte Hudson, Swale; Christy Holden, KCC commissioning; Stuart Ilsley, TCH; Tessa O’Sullivan, RACE; Vicky May; Homechoice Lead and Gravesham BC; Brian Horton, interim chair and SELEP; Becs Wilcox, Medway; Shona Johnstone, HE; Helen Miller, KHG;

**Apologies:** Amy Cheswick, mhs homes; Mary Gibbons, Moat; Simon Thomas, rep for Kent Chief Planning Officers; Clare Maynard and Mark Breathwick (left the Board now); Simon Mitchell, KCC Commissioning Adults Services ; Tim Woolmer; KCC; Sharon Williams, treasurer and Ashford;

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| **Reference** | **Notes/Outcome** | **Who** | **Action/Decision** |
| **Matters arising from Oct 2023** | HM Set up meeting with Mark D, Robin C, Toni C, John L and Brian H on how to support KHOG and shape future meetings – Done. Idea introduced at KHOG on 20th Nov and meeting booked to cover it with heads of service in December.  SI Seek AC support on consumer standards event – done  SI seek volunteers from events group to have event on handling complaints – seeking clarity from AM on purpose and audience for event  VH send BH information on delays in advertising or letting homes – done  HM arrange a meeting with CF to form idea on keyworkers for infrastructure delivery and how to take it to ICB. CF has invited us to work with Malti Varsney on this. Date set for 15th Dec.  HM liaise with ABC HR to arrange for partnership assistant post to be extended – done  SI email members asking members if they’d like to come together for training and if so for topics. Done. SI and HM been through the topics, identified those provided by SEC or other providers and seeking more info on what training should cover for topics not already covered. |  |  |
| **KHG budget and staffing update** | HM gave a brief update highlighting the Awards ceremony cost well under budget due to doing more work in house and using multiple smaller suppliers. The final cost is expected to be £2800. The deficit is as expected when the budget was set in February 2023. To aim to reduce the deficit it would be useful to encourage the 5 housing associations with more than 500 homes in Kent, who are not members, to join. These are Housing 21, Anchor, Places for People, London and Quadrant and Anchor. HM made a plea for members to help us contact housing associations who are not yet members. Christy Holden can help contact Housing 21.  The partnership assistants post has now been extended by a further 12 months.  We were unable to appoint from the first round of interviews for the project officers post. The second round of interviews is due on 13th December. | All | If you have a contact you’d be willing to reach out to in either Places for People or London and Quadrant, please let HM know |
| **Seeking a lead for DFGs** | Christy Holden explained that Mark Breathwick had taken a lead of DFGs when there was a challenge around adaptations preparing a foster home for disabled child. Mark now has a new role in Medway Council and LR has now left Medway Council. They have been developing a protocol with the Medway PS housing team and working with OTs in Kent and Medway and other keys partners. This piece of work needs to be progressed.  HM there is an East and a West Kent DFG and this may fit better there for sign off?  BW There have been some changes at Medway. She can pick this up with MB and the Medway PSH team if that would help if this is just to get it over the line.  VM GBC would be happy to be involved. They also have a project that helps people leaving hospital. If you need a borough or district on board to help please ask.  The **Commissioning Update** was circulated. The decision to cap supported accommodation offer to care leavers at 19 not 21 was covered at the main KHG meeting. KCC has made it’s a decision and LHAs will work with it. We need to make the transition as smooth as possible. KCC recognises that the clients will not be going into the socially rented sector and are seeking private rented accommodation. Clear Spring will be expanding the reception service for UASC. | CH | Send the draft protocol to BW & VM for comments. Then can come to Board for sign off. |
| **DEFRA proposal, RACE Budget and update** | Tessa O’Sullivan has circulated a paper showing the budget is still showing a surplus for year 1 and 2.  DEFRA has funding for rural housing enabling service for a service for every county. RACE would like to use that funding to extend the service duration but DEFRA does not allow this funding to replace existing funding and so use the existing funding at a later date. They are looking at whether they can get money in other way. They need to go via an ACRE member. A Kent ACRE is setting up but has not been able to set up as a charity yet. They will look at how to bring other funds into RACE to allow them to extend how long RACE can run.  The funding allows for external help to apply for funding. A few matters need to be clarified with ACRE. They need to ensure they can deliver the additionality.  Board members were asked to delegate agreement to Brian if a decision is needed rapidly. Agreed.  The third survey is out. They will do private surveys and charge for these. TO’S is meeting with EDI group on stigma around affordable housing in rural settings. |  |  |
| **Regular updates** | **Medway Council – Becs Wilcox**  MB is now assistant director and other staff are covering the Head of Housing role. They do not have access to parts of Gun Wharf due to RAAC.  **Marketing\* – Jeff Sims- see written update**  **Events - Becs Wilcox - see written update**  We are working with White Label Creative to agree the themes, speakers and sponsors. We hope to run the event between 20th Feb to 20th March to avoid the pre-election period which could occur if there is a May election. Medway has PCC elections in May.  **Commissioning Update – Simon Mitchell and Christy Holden** (see CH’s update in the Seeking a lead for DFGs section above)  **SELEP – Brian Horton**  The transition arrangements are progressing. There is a desire to do housing and development issues on a wider than county basis if funding can be arranged. This group would need to decide whether a new group would be recognised the way SELEP is by this group. |  |  |
| **Planning protocol** | Brian, Nick, Simon – postpone to when Nick and Simon as present. |  |  |
| **K&MHS** | Brian we are focusing attending on delivering the existing strategy and forming the 2025-30 strategy. We will ensure partners are fully involved. |  |  |
| **Homes England Update** | The Cabinet reshuffle brought a new housing minister; Lee Rowley. The policies and approaches remain the same. The Autumn Statement announcements cover more money for affordable housing and anticipate additional capacity funding and who the beneficiaries will be which should help planning. They are working with LAs along the estuary to unlock housing delivery.  BH There is an affordable housing roundtable tomorrow. It will discuss levels of grant, grant being applied to market failure around s106 processes. Any findings will be fed back to HE.  SJ the better the evidence base you can provide showing the issues the better. Please take any guidance from Becky Ashley on that.  BH rent policy, LHAs, grant rates will be discussed.  SG we will also benefit from certainty to help with planning. |  |  |
| **AOB** | Dates of 2024 KHG Board meetings; 6 Feb; 28th March; 16th May; 18th Jul; 3rd Oct and 21st Nov. |  |  |

**\*Papers shared in advance of meeting**