**Present**: Brian Horton, chair; Brandon Lewis, Brian’s intern; Ashley Jackson, Thanet; Marion Money, NRLA; Tania Lunney, KCC; Paul Koster, Dartford; Linda Hibbs, TMBC; Lisa Clarke, Clarion; Tracey Kerly, Ashford; Steph Goad, Golding; Emma McCaughan, KCC; John Littlemore, Maidstone and vice chair; Polly Hardy, Interventions Alliance; Gill Butler and Samuel Aligbe, Folkestone and Hythe; Charlotte Hudson, Swale; Caroline Smith, KCC corporate parenting; Mel Anthony, KCC commissioning; Paul Thomas, Development and Land Services Ltd; Ellen Schwartz, Public Health KCC; Rachel Valerio, Riverside; Marie Royle and Abigail Agba, Canterbury; Nicola Bowen, Choice Support; Carol Cook, KCC; Kerry Turner, KCC; Sharon Irvine and Helen Miller, KHG;

**Apologies received before the meeting:** Claire Jones, Interventions Alliance; Anjan Ghosh, Kent Public Health; Amy Cheswick, mhs homes; Mary Gibbons, Moat; Mark Breathwick, Medway; Alison Simmons, Sevenoaks; Lin Perkins, Golding Homes; Sasha Harrison, Southern Housing; Clare Maynard and Simon Mitchell, KCC; Tony Hughes, Southern Housing; Simon Thomas, rep for Kent Chief Planning Officers Group; Shola Alao; Hyde Housing;

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| **Reference** | Notes/Outcome | Who | Action/Decision |
| Matters arising from July 2023 | All Contact JL with any issues for him to take to this Kent Migration governance board - done  JL Continue with keeping the group informed on levels of rent, standards within HMOs, how funding follows the households, for migration etc. - done  HM Circulate Kent Estates Partnership presentation – done  HM circulate F&H’s presentation following their mock inspection – done  BH send note to scope work around NEET - done  All contact BH if you’d like to attend event on 14th July  CS Please update group on the outcome of the Judicial Review at the November meeting, or via a note to circulate if preferred – covered in corporate parenting update.  MA Arrange meeting with LH, JL, SM and other interested parties on reprocurement of Home Improvement Agencies – delayed awaiting the new director who is in post now.  All LHAs liaise with Vicky on historic housing data issue - done  VH Continue to flag any issues around Kent Homechoice that KHG can support with - done |  |  |
| How the multiply project can help your residents | Tania Lunney; KCC have government funding for upscaling numeracy. The courses are at various levels including for those with learning difficulties. They also provide courses with other skills, like cooking on a budget, customer service, etc. It is flexible and can include cash handling that could help with employment. They will upskill so people can access other courses. Courses are free, non accredited, for those 19+ and so can be flexible to the needs of the group and individual. Learners must not already have a GCSE or higher qualification but allowances are made around skill fade.. The skills could be useful to clients and staff. Members input may be to provide venues for those in the community to attend.  Landlords can refer in or ask for specific courses for a group. Learners will be supported on to next courses internally and externally for courses or employment.  CS has the lead for the care leaving service and this could be useful for some care leavers. CS will link TL with their education officers.  ES, deputy director in Kent Public Health, this would be useful for those who are NEET and she would like to link TL with David Smith at KCC and perhaps other partners.  MA Adult social care, she will share TL’s details with Rachel Westlake to support those fleeing domestic abuse. Some of the care workforce may also benefit from developing numeracy skills.  DoE do require some evaluation and that is ongoing and will be done at the end. ES perhaps public health could help you apply for funding to research how the training helps.  LH was also interested in making contact with TL. | TL & CS  ES & TL  MA & TL  LH & TL | Arrange to liaise  Arrange to liaise  Arrange to liaise  Arrange to liaise |
| Using ReferKent to support your vulnerable residents | Emma McCaughan from KCC financial hardship team gave a presentation that will be shared. ReferKent is an online referral system that makes referring between organisations simple and quick. We know that when we signpost people they may not act on the advice given, particularly for vulnerable people. It includes support around mental health, debt, domestic abuse, addictions and more recently dampness and mould into Maidstone Borough Councils housing service.  To join organisations are asked to sign an SLA and a data sharing agreement. Referring is easy and needs the clients name, contact details and a brief description. When the referral is received the organisation contacts the client to offer their services. Each organisation can get reports on the referrals they make and receive. They offer training on using the system.  Access to services is key for good physical and mental health and this service creates a ‘no wrong door’ approach where which ever service they use first they can access all, if we are all members.  Please contact [referkent@kent.gov.uk](mailto:referkent@kent.gov.uk) to sign up. Visit [ReferKent - for organisations who support Kent residents - Kent County Council](https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/cost-of-living-support/professional-referrals/referkent)  for more details.  ES How well is ReferKent embedded into health systems. EM this is work in progress. | HM  EM & ES | Circulate referkent presentation  Meet to discuss embedded referkent into health systems, using the data & social prescribing |
| Damp& Mould; understanding & addressing health risks for rented housing providers | Ellen Schwartz showed a presentation that will be circulated. More attention has been given to dampness and mould since the tragic death of a toddler due to mould in his home. The coroner report included a recommendation that guidance should be provided for landlords. The link to the document is [www.gov.uk/government/publications/damp-and-mould-understanding-and-addressing-the-health-risks-for-rented-housing-providers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/damp-and-mould-understanding-and-addressing-the-health-risks-for-rented-housing-providers)  It is hard to know how many households live with dampness and mould, but estimated to be between 1-6.5million. There was a culture of blaming condensation and mould on ‘lifestyle’ issues and so the occupants. The Housing Ombudsman is clear that housing professionals should no longer be talking about lifestyles.  The health risks are mainly respiratory and mental health difficulties. The slides described how the dampness and mould growth impacts on health. They show which groups are most vulnerable to health impacts from living with dampness and mould. There is plenty of legislation covering dampness and mould. Social landlords have made significant changes in their actions to seek and address dampness and mould. Local Councils have the enforcement role for dampness and mould. We need to ensure people know how to raise the issue with their landlords.  ES asked; How can we work as a system to raise awareness around dampness and mould?  ReferKent presented to the private sector housing group. This is following Maidstone BC’s wish to take dampness and mould referrals from other professionals via Referkent. Other LAs may follow suit.  MBC is doing a project with West Kent Health to look at how to identify homes and people more likely to suffer with mould and damp to take a preventative approach. They are working with a GP practice on this. Data sharing can be a barrier. Some of the local Housing Associations are also on board. JL will share the learning from the project when available.  SG Golding has a dedicated damp and mould team. They triage and prioritise the work. They do a mould wash to reduce the hazard whilst assessing works needed. They are happy for that team to receive referrals on dampness.  MM of NRLA highlighted the work they do to educate landlords on addressing dampness and mould. Tenants on key meters are worried about money and turn off ventilation etc. to keep the heat in, but it keeps the moisture in too. Could services around numeracy be offered to help those on key meters manage their finances effectively?  West Kent Housing Association have given permission for the links to their videos on dampness and mould to be shared with the group;   * + [Preventing damp and mould in your home through heating](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEfWfRVTdq0)   + [Preventing damp and mould in your home by reducing moisture](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=858zpef9cH4)   + [Preventing damp and mould in your home through ventilation](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGyWGrp9W78) | HM  JL | Circulate presentation on dampness & Mould  Circulate details of MBC project to ES and CH |
| Safe and Legal Route; asylum, refugees and housing | Carol Cook from KCC; in the illegal migration Act there is a duty to for the Home Office to consult with LA on the cap number of entrants coming in via the safe and legal routes for asylum. The Home Office has announced the cap of the number of refugees will launch in January 2025. All LAs have been invited to set out their capacity to accommodate those arriving in the UK via the safe and legal routes so the HO can determine a number, which they will put to Government in summer 2024 via a Statutory Instrument which will then be implemented in 2025. The consultation response needs to be mutually agreed between upper and lower tier authorities. LHA can also send their response it. If LHAs have other data to include please send it to CC  The KCC partnership team will be writing a joint response. This response goes to Chief Executives next week, Kent Leaders on 13th Dec and will be sent off on 14th or 15th December.  Carol has asked ICB for their response to include in the county wide response. That could be circulated to LHAs if desired for them to include in question 8 of your response. Carol has the Schools positions and if LHAs want that please ask Carol. CC has written a briefing note for KCC and she can share that with LHAs if desired.  CS there is a pressure from UASC and can that be taken into account. CC yes that can be included as can any data from adult social care.  Roy Milliard, LAs have been brilliant in Kent on resettlement, but there are a lot of competing pressures and issues around capacity and funding. We should flag the capacity of the health service too. The information sent on 15th Dec will then be reflected and the Home Office is expected to do discuss further and what can be delivered.  CC would LAs want to see the draft of the county response? Yes, to circulate to LAs. No wider circulation until after agreed by the Leaders.  ES would CC send the request for information for this to ES too please? We need to emphasise the importance of preventative health services, infection control and vaccination, as well as health treatment. | LAs  CC  CC | Contact Carol Cook at KCC if you would like her to send you the ICB, Schools responses or the briefing note for KCC.  Circulate county response to LAs  Contact ES for health data too |
| Open Forum | BH asked how on Local Housing Allowance (LHA) being relinked to 30th percentile of market rents, to come into effect in April 2024, affects partners?  CH This hasn’t been changed the LHA link for temporary accommodation, which are still at the 2011 levels. It is likely to help in future but doesn’t help immediately. There may also be an increase in the Homelessness Prevention Grant  GB The change to 30th percentile level is useful. Still very challenging for general and TA costs. Some parts of F&H’s area are at the Dover rate and some in Ashford and so it would have helped if they’d looked at geographical boundaries too.  BH there is 10th Affordable Housing Roundtable events tomorrow – difficulties getting RPs to buy affordable homes, rent setting and grant levels for social housing and widen the eligibility for grant to address. Please book here [Affordable Housing Roundtable (10): Our Asks of Government Tickets, Thu 30 Nov 2023 at 08:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/affordable-housing-roundtable-10-our-asks-of-government-tickets-756129372307?aff=odeccpebemailcampaigns&utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=ebcampaigns&utm_campaign=21558209&utm_term=ctabutton&mipa=ABIdvVvKTKa9FHPbGTpzJ_WBnhBffYzsFFs55McwQ-M9WvVCBAAPnwuKhp26q0xFG6-8VmhUgmUlyg8ASmOjBed9Lx4VulY0W5qpct9dm23PajzThBRNqnAAsMfucHb9PeKAi64ZJasd9sNtUrXbbpNq7BvRDCAw112hInpbqshs9sByNwkuC3ZTz3chANhttqEau16jEcsx49m2_T9w2U2k6gQTjVmjQGmr2f5eu6d2rOKeg2wE6jIJjJF7tM9DTIhq5bjPGL0puA2GErYsxxi_lefir6UYQg) to attend.  HM raised the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023. She explained how it is relevant to LAs, HAs and supported housing providers, with the consultation beginning in January 2024. The LHAs will provide the licensing function and write the supported housing strategy. Some housing associations are providing the accommodation used to provide supported housing. There is a KHG working group on preparing for this Act and please email HM if you’d like to join.  JL Lobby government and MPs to get housing on everyone’s manifesto. We need enough housing built and for it to be genuinely affordable, probably based on proper subsidy.  BH we’re thinking about how to refresh the K&M Housing Strategy. We’re scoping out a KHG conference in February or March.  PT we could lobby on non statutory housing. We need to understand the extent of the care leavers, perhaps district by district. It would also be useful to know the extent of the homelessness issues. It would be useful to understand need to help apply for planning approval. If any member can send a PT a breakdown of the annual care leavers on a LA basis please do. If any member can send PT the non statutory housing requirement broken down including the extent of the homeless issue please do.  ES asked that Kent Public Health are involved from the beginning in writing the strategy to ensure the quality of life through good housing. They may be able to help with data modelling to show the need. | All  CS  SI | Email HM if you’d like to join the supported housing working group.  Send PT breakdown of annual care leavers on LA basis.  Invite ES to join strategy group. |
| KCC commissioning update | Mel Anthony shared a presentation on adult social care and commissioning that will be circulated. The models will be changing and becoming very client focused. Four major contracts; Older Persons Residential and Nursing Care, Care and Support in the homes, Supported living and residential care for people with learning disabilities, mental health or physical disabilities need to be recommissioned now.  They medium term financial plan shows the need for significant savings and there is a link in the presentation with more details. The presentation gives an organogram for adult commissioning team. Commissioning and procurement have been separated.  KCC will clarify who will attend KHG and the KHG Exec Board for adult services commissioning. | HM | Circulate MA’s presentation on commissioning |
| Corporate parenting update | Caroline Smith shared a presentation that will be circulated. KCC are awaiting a Court judgment but currently they take all the children who arrive in the ports in Kent.  There is a lack of foster carers. Many did not register with OFSTED and some failed or are waiting for their inspection.  The Care Leavers Covenant has been agreed on the help that will be provided.  A key decision has been made to change the offer to care leavers. Supported Housing will be offered to the age of 19 not 21 for those living in shared accommodation. They will be helping those leaving the service to find their accommodation. The support services, including rent deposit scheme, rent guarantor scheme and setting up home allowance continue until they are 25.  CS made an appeal for their Christmas Campaign to give each young person a £10 voucher.  AA pleased to hear KCC providing a support service to care leavers until they are 25. Also good to hear about rent deposit scheme, guarantor schemes and home allowance. From housing we were worried that more YP would be coming forward to homelessness services. | HM | Share CS presentation |
| Delivering the K&MHS | Brian Horton we’re still delivering the existing strategy through the sub groups. We’re also looking forward at what should be in the 2025-30 version. It will probably be shorter and more strategic. |  |  |
| SELEP update | Brian Horton, they are working toward SELEP ending in current form in March 2024. Some functions will be provided at county level and they hope the housing and development function may continue at a wider geographical level. |  |  |
| LA and HAs supporting each other | John Littlemore at KHOG he agreed to raise the topic that Bridge Housing Solutions is operating in Kent as a letting agency for social housing. They contact social landlords to help let hard to let homes to those not living in Kent. This is not from the 75% nomination rights, but from the 25% transfer rights. LAs have around 3500 households in temporary accommodation and it is likely that these households would be willing to accept these homes that are considered to be hard to let.  LH there have found that 8 of their new build homes went via Bridge Housing Solutions. They have a new housing allocations policy and so they housing register is being rebuilt so allocations are challenging. LH asked that if a housing association cannot fill a home it would be preferable for it to be used within Kent and there be an agreed process for this in place.  RV has not experience of Bridge Housing Solutions. In areas where they have low levels of stock they are not getting the right nominations through and extends voids time. She asks how we can communicate better to fill voids quicker – perhaps going to another LA in Kent if they cannot let to the LA where the home is located.  BH, it is likely we do have local need for homes. We need a task a finish group to understand this issue better. VH highlighted unallocated homes can sit a while. HM convene a group; Invite VH, JL, LH, BH | HM & All | Convene a group on letting affordable homes to those outside Kent. All, email HM to join this group. |
| AOB | Dates for 2024 meetings; 6th Feb; 16th May; 18th July; 26th November |  |  |