**Present**: Sharon Williams, Ashford and chair of Kent Housing Group; Ollie Garsed-Bennet, Rapport; Martyn Penfold, KCC; Anya Harris, KCC; Paul Koster, Dartford; Jody Bulman, Gravesham; Carol Cook, KCC; Brian Horton, SELEP; Lisa Clarke, Clarion; Kate Still, Golding Homes; Claire Jones, Interventions Alliance; Ellen Schwartz, Kent Public Health from 11; Paul Thomas; Mark Breathwick, Medway; Ashley Jackson, Thanet; Gill Butler, Folkestone and Hythe; Rachel Valerio, Riverside; Louise Taylor, Dover; John Littlemore, Maidstone; Alison Simmons, Sevenoaks; Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Carrie Hartwell, SOC KCC; Lin Perkins, Golding; Jess Harman, KCC; Jane Miller, KCC: Alicia Macintyre, KCC; Becky Ralph, KCC; Caroline Smith, KCC; Neil Diddams from 11.55, WKHA and chair of Asset Management Group; Helen Miller, KHG;

**Apologies:** Marion Money, NRLA; Simon Mitchell and Clare Maynard, KCC; Linda Hibbs, TMBC; Nick Fenton, KH&DG; Steph Goad, Golding Homes; Leanne Donald-Whitney, GCHA; Olushola Alao, Hyde Group; Nicola Bowen, Choice Support; Simon Thomas, Canterbury and Kent Chief Planning officers; Mary Gibbons, Moat;

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| **Reference** | Notes/Outcome | Who | Action/Decision |
| Prevent Awareness and radicalisation overview | Jess Harman, KCC, Kent and Medway Prevent Coordination showed a presentation that will be shared by email. The event at the detention centre at Dover was an example of a terrorist attack driven by extreme right wing ideology. A serious case review is ongoing. Worryingly, we do not believe he was known to any authorities before the incident.  Public bodies have a statutory duty to address Prevent. It’s a way to safeguard people from becoming radicalised and involved in terrorism. Prevent is not a criminalising process and aims to prevent people moving into criminal activity. Many children under 15 are referred, often from schools, and this is welcome information.  To make a prevent referral go online [Report radicalisation or extremism (Prevent) - Kent County Council](https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/community-safety-and-crime-policies/contest/prevent). You do not need consent to make a referral. The Channel process will seek consent.  There is an offer for your organisation to contact Jess to delivering Prevent training to your teams. Contact Jess to enquire [Jess.harman@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Jess.harman@kent.gov.uk)  The website is [www.prevent@kent.gov.uk](http://www.prevent@kent.gov.uk) referrals can be made at [preventreferrals@kent.police.uk](mailto:preventreferrals@kent.police.uk) and there are more contact details in Jess’s presentation.  There is a Hateful Extremism conference on 28th February online [ONLINE - Kent Police & Kent and Medway Prevent team CPD - Hateful Extremism Tickets, Tue 28 Feb 2023 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-kent-police-kent-and-medway-prevent-team-cpd-hateful-extremism-tickets-483878101427). | HM  All | Share Prevent Presentation  Contact Jess if you’d like to enquire about training for your organisation |
| Preparing adult social care for CQC readiness | Becky Ralph and Alicia Macintyre, adult social care in KCC. They are looking at how KCC can be ready for CQC inspections on how KCC meets its responsibilities under the Care Act 2014, but also listening to the person’s voice, how they are working with partners and how they meet the 9 quality statements in assessment framework. They shared a short presentation that will be circulated.  They are seeking evidence for their review on homelessness, DFGs, partnership working, integrating care and support services.  Becky asked the group; If CQC came today what would you want to tell them about adult social care?  Please do use this survey <https://forms.office.com/e/kAVGg1VEwL> on each of the quality statements as requested by Becky during her presentation. | HM  all | Circulate KCCs CQC presentation  Please use the survey to give your views |
| Update on delivering the [K&M Housing Strategy](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/protocols/kent-medway-housing-strategy-2020-2025-a-place-people-want-to-call-home/) | Brian Horton explained that soon after the strategy was launched we went into the pandemic and that slowed progress. There is now an implementation group driving the delivery of the strategy. It looks at what we’ve done so far and the areas that still need work. The implementation plan identifies who will lead on each area. Kent is unusual in having a bottom up strategy for housing across the county.  The sub groups all report on they contribute to the objectives in the strategy and these were circulation with the papers for this meeting.  The strategy covers the whole market, not just social housing, and Kent Housing and Development group and Kent Planners are aware of it.  We are regaining that focus on working with Kent Chiefs and Leaders and will continue on that after the elections.  KHG produces a quarterly newsletter to our members and that will include updates on delivery the strategy.  If you are interested in a particular topic do join, or invite a members of your teams to join, the relevant sub-group [Our Sub Groups - Kent Housing Group](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/subgroups/) |  |  |
| Chair and vice chair of KHG | This is Sharon William’s last meeting as chair of KHG. This afternoon the KHG Executive Board will be looking to elect the chair and vice chair and then that information will be shared.  Sharon thanked the group for their support and all the work they put in to making Kent Housing Group work. |  |  |
| SELEP Update | Brian Horton highlighted that there has been some churn in personnel in the ministry. We have Rachel Maclean as the new housing minister.  SELEP is working with K&M’s SME group on resourcing of planning and campaigning to increase planning fees, ring fenced for planning, to improve the speed of the planning service. There may be a national consultation on this.  There are running a Garden Communities event on 26th April at RIBA in London and BH has a small number or tickets available so contact Brian promptly if you’d like to request one. [Building Garden Communities | Returning 2023 Book Now!](https://gardencommunities.co.uk/)  Big issues on concerns around rent cap and that was feed into briefings for the previous housing minister which led to 7% decision.  The developers had reported interest home buying had dropped in December. There is some recovery this year but is fragile. Shared ownership appears popular.  BH is planning a First Home event with DHA on how it’s working and flagging any challenges. MB said First Homes pilot take up is strong in Medway. Not yet clear what the impact on First Homes will be on shared ownership. Maidstone is experiencing developers squeezing affordable rent as a result of First Homes. | All | Contact Brian Horton to request a ticket to this event. |
| Corporate Parenting update | Caroline Smith from KCC, showed a few slides that will be circulated.  The Christmas Appeal for 2022 had the target to raise enough money to give all care leavers a £10 voucher. This would have needed £20,000 and donations were far more generous, allowing for a legacy fund. Many businesses donated to the campaign and there are details in the slides.  The remaining money will create welcome boxes for those moving into accommodation for the first time.  Fostering recruitment continues and many LAs have agreed to include a flyer on this with their council tax letters.  SW and CS have been working on a challenge card asking whether young people leaving care can apply to any local authority for housing, not just where they have a local connection. SW suggested this would be useful for discussion at KHOG and perhaps at the Homechoice group. HM to ask these groups to consider the question and what the implications would be and the monitoring needed.  It may be that another protocol may be required to make this work with partners, perhaps starting with a focus group from KHOG and Homechoice, perhaps including RP partners.  JL The approach to look into this sounds right and is similar to the approach for ex service personnel, yet the government brought in legislation for that. We may also need a discussion on the number of one bedroom units provided to ensure supply can meet demand for this group and other people who need one bed units.  There is little change on unaccompanied asylum seekers.  BH wondered whether this topic should be raised at a policy level with the ministers. Also should this be wider, a national matter, as with ex service personnel. CS perhaps we should start in Kent with our local care leavers’ offer but also willing to talk about the national picture. CS hopes KCC would sign the care Leavers Covenant.  JL if we lobby government on this and suggest changes around reasonable preference to care leavers it could help resolve this. Gravesham were looking at deliverables for care leavers. CS this work is ongoing and would benefit from additional input from other LAs.  AS Leicestershire had care leavers promises and it may be useful to look at that. They did keep the local connection for care leavers. Perhaps we should look at whole, offer not just housing.  MBr how does this fit with Medway as Medway people in Kent and vice versa. They view care leavers as though they do have reasonable preference. It has flagged issues around how ready care leavers are to live independently so may need to look at package in the round.  Ashford is working with Golding Homes on previous supported housing scheme that has now houses young people and used the contracts KCC has for young people. They may be many models to explore to help young people succeed in their new accommodation.  KCC can offer tenancy training, floating support and packages to put around this.  It’s a big topic that will need a thorough exploration. | HM  HM | Circulate Corporate parenting slides  Flag this discussion with the chair and vice chair of KHOG and with Homechoice project officer. |
| Kent Housing and Development Group | Brian Hortons explained that unfortunately Nick is unable to join us today. We can invite Nick to give an update last time. |  |  |
| Commissioning Update | Anya Harris gave an update on KCC commissioning which will come from Simon Mitchell in future.  Older Persons residential contract is being reviewed before going out for tender.  They will be a Retender of care and support in the home contract, which is home care, predominantly in the community and supporting independence service.  They are looking at the hospital discharge for pathways bringing health and social care services together to support a speedy discharge.  The carer strategy came out last year and there is work around commissioning for that.  Martyn Penfold is working with Anya on refreshing the accommodation strategy for future needs for accommodation with a greater focus on supported living and older people’s needs. They would welcome collaboration with district partners and housing providers for working age adults and older people. Martin will be looking at a needs assessment and partners housing strategies.  BH There is also Kent Housing and Developers Group and the market hasn’t really responded to demand and needs to understand the changes in demographics. Also liaise with planning and understanding changes in demographics with them.  MP is beginning to scope out how to engage on the topic. He will look at the existing stock. The government is looking to increase regulation around supported housing. The analysis should identify the gaps and then priorities will come from that.  AH to seek an update on HIA contract and circulate if possible. | AH  MP  AH | Contact Brian Horton to seek contacts in wider partners.  Tell HM which sub groups you’d like to attend.  Please provide an update on the Home Improvement Agency contract. |
| KHG Awards nominations open | HM explained that the nominations for the awards opens today and closes 19th May. The categories and nomination forms are available on the [website](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/kent-housing-group-excellence-award-2023/) The awards will be held in person in a venue in Kent. | All | Promote the awards to your staff and begin nominating. |
| AOB | BH raised his thanks to Sharon Williams for being our vice chair, then chair. She will continue to be our treasurer going forward. |  |  |
| Asset management group | Neil Diddams, chair of the asset management group, and Director of Property and Asset from WKHA gave a presentation on dampness, mould and condensation which will be circulated.  We’re good at controlling risks around legionella and gas, but not yet so good on controlling risk around dampness and mould and so we need to recognise the risk to health, disrepair and property damage from it.  The energy crisis makes the likelihood of fuel poverty much higher. Colder homes are more likely to experience condensation and mould.  There is a risk that occupants may choose alternative forms of heating over fears around affording heating.  The Ombudsman is clear that it is not a lifestyle issue. ND talked through how damp and mould can be found when occupants are not drying their washing in their home.  WKHA took action to actively identify dampness and mould and they are working through those homes. They reach out to residents to seek complaints on dampness and mould. They have a dampness and mould policy and procedure that should be signed off soon to help raise the topic through the organisation. They’ve changed the advice on their website to encourage residents to raise concerns over dampness and mould.  If gas supply has been capped they are looking into how the home is heated and what support they can provide.  ND ran through the WKHA new approach to addressing dampness and mould in their home.  Asset management sub [group](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/subgroups/asset-management-sub-group/) shares their learning and best practice with each other. They’ve had talked from Thermocill, Zap Carbon and Endotherm to consider products that reduce fuel bills or reduce mould growth.  This year they will;  Review the recommendations from the Coroner’s report for Awaab Ishak.  Review the use of in property sensors to understand the environmental conditions in the home  Review the resource needed to make the changes needed  Future Homes Consortium is focusing on dampness and mould and the best ways to address it. ND will bring the learning from this to the asset management group.  JL Welcomed the presentation. This is going to be a big focus for Maidstone this year. KHG is a great vehicle for promoting good practice and can the findings of asset man group be shared with the PSH sub group. JL updated K&M ICP committee in December and they were also very interested in dampness and mould. Maidstone’s bid to look at how to identify those homes more likely to experience dampness and mould.  SW can we create a good practice guide on how to work together on these issues.  ES made a really good case on what is at stake for Health and wellbeing and then solutions for addressing. ES willing to support on winter messaging around dampness and mould and ventilation.  ICP strategy prevention is the main theme and inequalities run through it. We can use this DMC to talk about housing and the wider determinants of health it shows the links between housing and health very clearly.  There are also links for the health housing and social care sub group, with its new chair Alison Simmonds. | HM  HM | Circulate ND’s presentation  Forward ND’s presentation to the chair and vice chair of the PSH group |