**Present**: Brian Horton, interim chair and SELEP; Lisa Clarke, Clarion; Jody Bulman, Gravesham; Amy Cheswick, MHS; Linda Hibbs, TMBC; Paul Koster, Dartford; Vanessa Biddiss, Southern Housing; Ellen Schwartz, Kent Public Health; Gill Butler, Folkestone and Hythe; Carol Cook, KCC; Rachel Valerio, Riverside; Julie Johnson, KCC; Ashley Jackson, Thanet; Caroline Smith; KCC; Claire Jones, Interventions Alliance; Mark Breathwick, Medway; Lin Perkins, Golding Homes; Colin Kavanagh, Moat; Steph Goad, Golding Homes; Sharon Williams, Ashford; Claudine Bell and Scott Morrison, Money and Pensions Service; Sharon Donald, Sevenoaks; Simona Gavrila, Housing Forum; Nick Fenton, Kent Housing and Development Group; Helen Miller, KHG;

**Apologies:** Alison Simmons, chair of HHSC sub group and Sevenoaks DC; Anne-Marie Roberts, Moat; Cathy McCarthy, WKHA; Mary Gibbons, Moat; Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Clare Maynard, KCC; Shola Alao, Hyde; Nicola Bowen, Choice Support; Simon Mitchell, KCC; Steve Nunn, Moat; Anjan Ghosh, Kent Public Health; Leanne Donald-Whitney, GCHA; John Littlemore, Maidstone BC and Vice chair; Tracey Kerly, Ashford BC;

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference** | Notes/Outcome | Who | Action/Decision |
| Update on chair | Brian Horton explained that KHG alternates between LA and HA chairs. We would normally have a HA chair now but unfortunately the person who we’d hoped would be able to take the chair is unable to. We have recruited Stuart Ilsley and Amy Cheswick, both from HAs onto the Board. John Littlemore is our vice chair and Brian will be acting as our interim chair in the meantime. |  |  |
| Domestic Abuse Reciprocal Agreement between social landlords | Lisa Clarke from Clarion Housing Association explained the progress on the domestic abuse reciprocal scheme for social landlords. She showed a presentation which will be circulated.  The scheme helps households with a social tenancy to retain a social tenancy, but with a new landlord, when their current landlord is unable to rehouse them appropriately when relocation is needed to escape domestic abuse. Lisa outlined how it will work and said members are welcome to contact her with any questions.  It will be monitored to allow performance to be assessed. The data will be passed to KHOG and KCC DA services. The project management group will assess every 3 months for first 12 and make adjustments as needed and then handed over to KHOG to oversee.  Lisa gave a webinar to social landlords in Kent on 3rd April on the project as well as having kept the tenancy management and KHOG sub groups informed throughout the development of the project. The scheme is ready to begin. The MoU has been signed up to social landlords in Kent. Landlords can give one months notice should they wish to live.  CK from Moat have been discussing it internally and intend to sign up.  LC the group used the whole housing approach from DAHA and sought advice from the London scheme to form this scheme. The London Scheme covered more than DA. The Cambridge scheme had around 30 cases per year so the case load is expected to be low but a great outcome for the households.  RV Riverside intend to sign up.  MBr This sounds like a great project. There has been a re-organisation at Medway and he will encourage his team to investigate.  VB their two organisation have just merged. She’d like to meet Lisa Clarke to discuss.  ES welcomed the presentation and from a public health point of view this scheme sounds excellent for both the tenants and landlords. She encouraged Lisa to work with the Integrated Care System to embed these services in it as this service does support health. The prevention sub committee that will be chaired by Anjan Ghosh is relevant. The consultant lead for DA (and mental health and substance misuse) is Jess Moohkerjee and it would be useful to make contact with her too.  Lisa confirmed that KCC domestic abuse services have been involved with creating the service.  BH KHG could send LC presentation to all relevant member organisations to encourage them to sign up.  To contact Lisa email [Lisa.Clarke@clarionhg.com](mailto:Lisa.Clarke@clarionhg.com) | HM  CK  RV  MBr  VB  LC  HM | Circulate LC’s presentation  Contact LC to progress this  Contact LC to progress this  Liaise with colleagues to progress  Contact LC to discuss  Contact JM to raise topic  Draft a note from BH to go to all social landlord members on this. |
| Money and Pensions Service | Claudine Bell is the new partnership lead for the South East. Her presentation will be circulated.  MaPS is a body sponsored by DWP with most funding coming from the Financial Conduct Authority.  She outlined the five core functions;   * Money Guidance * Pensions Guidance * Debt Advice – the need for this appears to be growing in a wide range of people * Consumer Protection * Strategy   They provide a cost of living [campaign](https://maps.org.uk/cost-of-living-resources/) that members are welcome to use.  Their Money Helper [website](https://moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk/moneyhelper/) gives free support, information and guidance for members of the public. Members are welcome to signpost to this website on their own website.  The Money Advisor Network is a free service for creditors in public and private sector that can customers can use to seek debt advice. This could be used to complement any systems you already have in place. To sign up please email Claudine.  The Money Guiders [Programme](https://maps.org.uk/money-guiders/) provides free development to organisations and practitioners who give money guidance to customers in need. This is for staff whose main job isn’t finance, for example housing officers. This is for guidance, not for financial advice. The programme is online and gives modular e-learning for up to 10 hours that is flexible and can be fitted around other workload. Staff can choose to seek the City and Guilds accreditation.  They’ve launched a [Money and Mental Health Guides](https://moneyandpensionsservice.org.uk/2023/04/26/mental-health-and-money-guidance-for-supporting-customers/) on how to support customers with mental health pressures.  Claudine invited members to get in touch for help for employees and customers. [Claudine.bell@maps](mailto:Claudine.bell@maps)  Ellen Schwartz confirmed the links between financial stability and good health. There is a Financial Hardship Group in Kent and Claudine is linked with that. CB to link with ES on a new mental health tool.  Claire Jones, from IA, asked that their services link up and will email Claudine.  Carol Cook runs the Financial Hardship Group and will invite Claudine to attend and present. | HM  ES  CJ  CC | Circulate CB’s presentation  Link with CB on mental health tool  Contact CB  Contact CB |
| What the Housing Forum offers KHG members | Simona Gavrila from the Housing Forum gave a short presentation that will be circulated. KHG is a member of the Housing Forum and that allows members to request a place at these events.  She highlighted the webinars and in person events. The Forum also welcomes suggestions for working groups and events so please let Simona know.  The Forum has a campaigning role and members are regularly invited to give their views on matters. | HM | Circulate SG’s presentation |
| Delivering K&M Housing Strategy | Brian Horton explained there is an implementation group for the strategy. The sub groups are actively delivering elements on this. Sharon Irvine, the new partnership assistant, is collating the progress. |  |  |
| Open Forum | Before the elections the Kent Leaders had requested a session on housing at their June meeting. A presentation is being planned with KHG, Kent Housing and Developers Group and Kent Chief Planning Officers Group. This will highlight the duties and challenges around housing and how partnership working helps delivery. It will cover how affordable homes are delivered as part of wider housing development.  MBr Medway have many new Members and he’s keen that we do set the scene around housing, including the [K&M Housing Strategy](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/protocols/kent-medway-housing-strategy-2020-2025-a-place-people-want-to-call-home/).  LH can we work with NRLA as Marion Money has highlighted that landlords are leaving the sector. If there are fewer private rented homes it would cause a perfect storm. BH suggests we invite MM from NRLA to attend the Exec Board to look at challenges to PRS. Also invite LH for her input.  We also need to attract new private sector landlords to engage. The costs of running PRS homes has increased. Homes with higher utility bills are less attractive. PRS landlords have increased mortgage rates and the tax arrangements have changed so reduced profit. There are fears around the introduction of a ban on no fault evictions and regaining control of your property. Some landlords are fearful of being taken to Court around dampness and mould. | HM | Liaise with MM to ascertain if will speak at KHG Board |
| SELEP update | Brian Horton explained there is an indication in the budget that LEPs will not be funded in same way in future years. They may be taken to county boundaries. |  |  |
| Corporate Parenting update | Caroline Smith, corporate parenting lead at KCC, gave an update on children and care leavers. The number of children in care has increased, as has the number of care leavers. The inspection on youth justice was positive on how KCC support that cohort of children.  CS thanked LAs that supported KCC by putting leaflets encouraging people to consider becoming fosterers in their council tax bills and that it is an effective approach to address the shortage of foster families. She would like to do this campaign again in all districts in 2015.  She is taking paper on Care Leaver Covenant to Cabinet next week seeking sign up on this. They are making contact with Kent LAs to discuss offers for the Care Leaving cohort.  She will bring Social Care Review learning to future meetings. |  |  |
| Kent Housing and Development group | Nick Fenton, chair of the Kent Housing and Development Group, which aims to bring development, including housing and affordable homes and all the infrastructure explained that market sales are still keen with strong demand. Developers are concerned about the end of Help to Buy. The RPs are working well on shared ownership. There is not a lot of land on the market – possibly many parties waiting and seeing.  The build costs of levelled off a little and the MMC market is strong, however, L&G have said they are honouring existing contracts but not seeking new ones for MMC.  BH Some developers are struggling to get interest in s106 from RPs. NF has not seen evidence of this yet. Long term working relationships should smooth this. SG they are trying to keep an open portfolio and are doing s106s. They are beginning a couple of sites using MMC for some parts.  ES Housing is a key component for wellbeing and health and questioned how does KH&DG access and work with the projections on population growth, including projections for anticipated increased in number of older people? NF explained that bigger developers do have conversations with housing departments but they probably don’t consider needs of specific groups. It’s likely this is taken up more by Housing Associations. KH&DG is open to having these discussions. There is an infrastructure mapping platform being created by KCC and those doing this work do work with KH&DG. They are plug into the Kent Chief Planning Officers Group. NF we also need to think about the legacy of existing housing and how we create a cohesive communities. | ES  ES | Contact CP to understand the GIF work and how KPH can contribute  Liaise with Nick Fenton to speak at KH&DG |
| South East Asylum Governance Board | John Littlemore had to send his apologies | HM | Ask JL to send a note on this. |
| Commissioning Update | Simon Mitchell sent apologies and this report for the KHG Board which is relevant for this group;  The following are the key projects underway within Adult Social Care Commissioning through 2023:   * + Older People’s Residential / Nursing contract reprocurement (by April 2024)   + Cost of Care programme (April 2023) – Market Sustainability Plan   + Hospital Discharge Programme (integrated approach with NHS K&M)   + Live Well Kent & Medway (new contract starts April 2023)   + Kent Advocacy Services (new contract starts August 2023)   + Domestic Abuse SAFER (Property target hardening) procurement   + Technology Enabled Care procurement (evaluation phase)   + Integrated Community Equipment Service (reprocurement)   + Preventative Services – Savings programme   + Home Improvement Agencies contract (review and future direction)   + Adult Social Care Accommodation Strategy (review and update)   KCC Commissioning is currently going through a significant restructure over the next few months |  |  |
| KHG Awards nominations open | HM explained that the nominations for the awards closes 30th 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 nominate now. |
| Social Landlord Benchmarking exercise | Sharon Irvine, the KHG partnership assistant, has contacted all our members with social housing stock to invite them to complete a survey. This will help create a benchmark of social landlords and we also hope to use it to flag best practice to help members learn from those leading on any areas.  BH explained that idea came from Tracey Kerly from Ashford. We do want to make this a genuinely useful exercise. | All social landlords | Please do complete and return the survey. |
| AOB | Date of next meeting 12th July;  Topics for next time; Gill Butler F&H learning from ‘mock’ inspection from their collaborative working with the Regulator Social Housing |  |  |