**Draft Kent Housing Group Housing Health and Social Care Sub Group, 11 September 2023, 10.30 – 12.30, Microsoft Teams Call**

**Present**: Alison Simmons, Chair and Head of Housing Sevenoaks; Brian Horton, SELEP and chair of KHG; Abigail Agba, Canterbury City Council; Carol Cook, Kent County Council; Charlotte Hudson, Swale Borough Council; Duncan Wilson**,** West Kent Housing Association**;** Ellen Schwartz, Kent County Council; Warren Fassenfelt, Kent Fire and Rescue Service**;** Layla Fielder, Kent Community Health Foundation Trust; Cedi Frederick, Chair of NHS Kent and Medway**;** Kirsty Heath, Kent Community Health Foundation Trust;Kimba Layton, Folkestone and Hythe District Council; Malti Varshney, NHS Kent and Medway ICB; Mike Williams, Dartford Borough Council; Naomi Palmer, Thanet District Council; Neil Diddams, West Kent Housing Association; Paul Stephen, Kent County Council; Sarah Hague, Interventions Alliance; Sophie Mackenzie, Canterbury City Council; Sharon Irvine, KHG.

**Apologies**:Sonia Bramley, Clarion Housing; Mike Bailey, Folkestone and Hythe District Council; Louise J Taylor, Dover District Council; Linda Hibbs, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council; Sarah Porter, Porchlight; Natalie Liddiard, Kent County Council; Ashley Jackson, Thanet District Council; Leanne McMahon, Kent Fire and Rescue; Marie Royle, Canterbury Council; Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Sharon Donald, Sevenoaks District Council; Rav Kensrey, Medway Council; Helen Miller, KHG.

| Reference | Notes/Outcome | Who | Action/Decision |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Welcome and Introductions | Alison Simmons, Head of Housing at Sevenoaks District Council and HHSC Subgroup Chair welcomed all participants and introductions were made. | All |  |
| Matters Arising from June 2023 | The notes from the meeting of 12 June 2023were agreed and signed off. | All |  |
| Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy and partnership working | Cedi Frederick and Malti Varshney spoke on the role of Integrated Care Systems in reducing health inequalities. They introduced the structure of the health and care system in the region and referred to the importance of housing to the overall health and wellbeing of our community. They consider the challenges faced across the region, including differences in healthy life expectancy across Kent and Medway, and inequality deprivation, significantly in coastal communities. Working in partnership at a local level, neighbourhood level etc is key, shaping and delivering the agenda; “The answer’s leadership – so what’s the question?”. Cedi and Malti described the partnership and engagement in developing the [Kent and Medway Interim Integrated Care Strategy](https://www.kmhealthandcare.uk/application/files/5216/8476/6108/Kent_and_Medway_Interim_Integrated_Care_Strategy.pdf) with the final strategy due to be published in January 2024.  Questions and comments:  Alison Simmons asked what the shared outcomes described are expected to achieve and how can we link in with those? Cedi Frederick invited everyone to download the Integrated Care Strategy. Outcomes to give children the best start in life – so talking with housing associations, education; working with the most vulnerable people in society to improve physical and mental health; there is a lot of activity in housing providers following Awaab’s Law, the Housing Ombudsman has findings against landlords that could do better; helping people to manage their own health and wellbeing; housing officers etc will be very much involved; supporting people with complex needs; ensuring that as a health system they are there from start to finish – primary care, secondary care, discharge etc, people may need additional support when they go back home. Income, education, family i.e. the wider determinants are all part of it.  Brian Horton – expressed gratitude to Cedi Frederick and to Malti Varshney for their time at the meeting. KHG has a unique platform for health and housing to engage, with the range and breadth of relationships with KHG membership, local authorities, housing associations, with Kent Housing and Development Group, private sector landlords. KHG will link arms to work with NHS Kent and Medway to jointly make a difference.  Cedi Frederck – Malti Varshney’s team, led by Chief Strategy Officer, Vincent Badu is taking this work forward.  Malti Varshney - behind each shared outcome, we are looking into, how would we measure ourselves and hold ourselves to account, so that it is meaningful for our population, and we are demonstrating it through some improved outcomes. This is work in progress that will be part of the final strategy. Also, in terms of developers and working with KHG, it is crucial from ICB's perspective where we are seeing population growth where we know that our elderly in Kent and Medway, the services for our older people would be needed; access to primary and community care is crucial. Through health impact assessments and environmental impact assessments, we can understand population needs.  Kimba Layton – In relation to unhealthy food and problems with obesity, along with government restrictions brought in October 2022, is it worth involving planning in some of these conversations because of the permissions for fast food outlets near deprived areas of concentrated housing estates –nearer than to more affluent areas.  Ellen Schwartz - Determinants of health and housing are our remit. KCC public health and no doubt Medway are working on system obesity approaches. This is into that agenda of working with planners, working with community groups. Food outlets is on my wish list, because we're working with licensing around alcohol, but there is scope in terms of the school and sort of food super zones to think about that it's a bit trickier in terms of the leverage. Working with planning, local authority public health directors have an opportunity to input into planning applications, and they do. At KCC, a planning design guide is being developed that has a health component to it and this will be published shortly. [The Office of Health Improvement and Disparities](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-health-improvement-and-disparities) has a lot of dedicated people and evidence to contribute to local planners. So we are on that case to introduce them into that conversation and this will be done under the umbrella of the Integrated Care Strategy.  Brian Horton - We have the Planning Policy Forum, which is chaired by Claire Pamberi, which is a subgroup of the Kent chief Planning Officers group. Liz Gibney, who chairs the [Kent and Medway Economic Partnership](http://www.kmep.org.uk/), an architect, is one of several other colleagues who are very interested in that food issue. Making good, affordable, healthy choices is something we should be doing.  Ellen Schwartz - food is such an emotive and really important issue. Michael Marmot spoke about the issue between affordability of fast food to high calorie, high dense, fast food, being much, much cheaper and more available in areas where people have less money. It's not necessarily only a matter of choice in terms of preference, it's a choice in terms of no choice. There are levers, but these are clunky – licencing (new licences only); Obesity is a systems approach - not one fix for all.  Alison Simmons - thanked Cedi Frederick and Malti Varshney and said that if they wish to become members of the group to let us know.  Carol Cook - mentioned that Cedi Frederick and Malti Varshney would be attending the Joint Kent Chiefs and Leaders meeting on 3 October 2023. Brian Horton suggested that in addition to the notes from this meeting, Carol Cook and Sharon Irvine could share some bullet points. | Cedi Frederick, Chair NHS Kent and Medway and Malti Varshney, Director of strategic change and population health, ICB | SI to send presentation to group members  Request planning and unhealthy/ fast food outlets to go on the agenda at the Planning Policy Forum of the Kent chief Planning Officers group  In addition to the notes from this meeting, Carol and Sharon to share bullet points |
| Update on Project Officer | Ellen Schwartz – Kent County Council is co-funding this post; recruitment has not started yet. This is an important role, to stress the importance of housing for health. The applicants do not need to have a public health background, but it would be good to have a background in housing.  Alison Simmons – The role could develop the older person’s paper to feed into the current task force. We need to know what everyone's doing in relation to the planning aspect for the future development of housing, and what we can do to help people remain independent in their own homes. | ES | Provide update on the progress on the Project Officer role |
| Vice chair - call for volunteers | Alison Simmons - invited members to volunteer for the role of Vice Chair for the group, possibly from a Housing Association or Kent County Council. |  | Volunteers for role of vice chair contact AS |
| Hot topics and topics for future meetings | Charlotte Hudson – A speaker from the [National Residential Landlords Association](https://www.nrla.org.uk/) (NRLA) presenting some of their policy work a meeting regarding access to the private rented sector; they have done a lot of work on the deprivation gap, benefit claimants. Mainly data and evidence on the impact on the health economy.  Ellen Schwartz - raised the issue with the [Kent Public Health Observatory](https://www.kpho.org.uk/), the analytical public health team at KCC and was advised that the [UK Health Security Agency](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency/about) analysts are better placed to provide that type of data.  Charlotte Hudson – Asked colleagues to produce evidence/ case studies of country wide issues around housing (eg being unable to afford rent) and the impact on health and life choices.  Abigail Agba – asked about the outcome the HHSC Subgroup was seeking. Canterbury City Council has employed an individual to work on dealing with food poverty, looking at ways to support people in public and private tenancies. Increased housing supply will not happen overnight; how to avoid private landlords increasing rent, how to support tenants (eg, paying bills, accessing better food). Brian Horton – share [KHG Kent and Medway Housing Strategy 2020- 2025](https://www.kenthousinggroup.org.uk/assets/uploads/large/FINAL-Kent-Medway-Housing-Strategy-2020-2025-29.7.2020.pdf), and terms of reference for HHSC group. We support the local level work, but it is also about how to influence operational levels and on a more strategic level.  Ellen Schwartz - suggested Abigail Agba connect with the financial hardship task and finish group.  Mike Williams – The issues around mental health in homeless people, the stigma they face in private rented sector; affordable housing that is more than the LHA – these need to be tackled. Kimba Layton – the challenges involved in building and developing low-cost housing that is sustainable raises the cost of building it and this affects viability. Brian Horton – the situation is very complicated. There is need for a commitment to build genuinely affordable homes; KHG has made the point on affordability and most of the Homes England funding is for social rent. | All  ES | Share KHG Housing Strategy and Terms of Reference for HHSC group |
| Cold weather advice | Ellen Schwartz, Deputy Director, Public Health, Kent County Council shared a presentation that will be circulated. | ES | Share Ellen’s presentation with the group |
| Dampness and Mould | Neil Diddams, West Kent Housing Association and Chair of KHG Asset Management Group - shared a presentation on Damp and Mould and the work that West Kent Housing Association are taking to precent damp and mould that will be circulated.  Brian Horton - shared a communication from Michael Gove. | ND | Share Neil’s presentation with the group. Share Michael Gove’s latest communication |
|  | Date of next meeting: 11 December 2023 |  |  |