**Draft Kent Housing Group Housing Health and Social Care Sub Group 12 June 2023, 10.30 – 12.30, Microsoft Teams Call**

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**Present**: Alison Simmons chair and Sevenoaks; Brian Horton, SELEP and interim chair of KHG; Sophie Fournel, Disability Assist; Bob Platt, KCC; Sam Lain-Rose, KCC**;** Kiren Morris, KFRS; Sarah Hague, Interventions Alliance; Tammy Foster, KCC; Sarah Porter, Porchlight; Carrie Hartwell, KCC; Mike Williams, Dartford BC; Mike Bailey, Folkestone and Hythe DC; Layla Fielder, Kent Community Health Foundation Trust; Kirsty Heath, Kent Community Health Foundation Trust; Abigail Agba, Canterbury; Ashley Jackson, Thanet DC; Ellen Schwartz, KCC; Sharon Irvine, KHG

**Apologies:** Neil Diddams, WKHA;Helen Byrne, WKHA;Carol Cook, KCC; Niki Melville, TCH;Rav Kensrey, Medway; Mike Barrett, Porchlight; Richard Stanford -Beale, KFRS; Sonia Bramley, Clarion HG; Sian Harris, Clarion HG; Rebecca Smith, Ashford BC; Louise Taylor, Dover DC; Linda Hibbs, TMBC; Kimba Layton, Folkestone and Hythe DC; Paul Stephen, KCC; Andrew Johnson, Gravesham BC; Leanne McMahon, KFRS; Helen Miller, KHG.

| Reference | Notes/Outcome | Who | Action/Decision |
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| Digital inclusion and capabilities - Sam Lain-Rose, Digital Lead, KCC | Sam Lain-Rose shared a presentation that will be circulated.  The programme covers three main areas – ensuring access to hardware and connectivity, ensuring that services are designed with accessibility in mind and meet the users’ needs and skills so users can use the technologies and services effectively. Language can also be a barrier. They raise awareness of the support available, use a strong partnership approach and look at wider issues.  The presentation included an introduction to the financial hardship program, covered the risks around online financial transactions, cybercrime, harassment and bullying, privacy violations, potential for addiction. Sam pointed out how to identify signs of online theft and fraud as well as shared the links for available support and information on the projects and schemes.  Mike Williams asked, does your service support cases where financial abuse or digital abuse has been proven - for cases which involve legal proceedings? SL-R - we do not get involved in legal proceedings; our support involves signposting to the police or other organisations that can provide support. We focus on raising awareness and making sure that everyone has the tools they need to operate online safely. | SI | Circulate SLR’s presentation. |
| Welcome and Introductions | Alison Simmons, head of housing at Sevenoaks DC, Chair welcomed all participants. |  |  |
| Matters Arising from March 2023 | John Littlemore was going to get some more information on the TB Protocol from KCC.  Ellen Schwartz - TB protocol is being part of a wider discussion between colleagues from the UK Health Security Agency, the NHS and KCC Public Health.  One response has been received following circulation of the Kent and Medway Housing Strategy action plan.  The Housing with Care for Older People document BH and DW volunteered to review. AS met with KCC (ES, Anya etc) to discuss data to update document.  Notes signed off. | All  ES  All  All | Please see if you have a copy of the TB protocol, or a good practice example from elsewhere and forward to SI.  Update on TB in future.  Please send additions to the action plan to SI.  Consider volunteering, with BH and DW, to review this document. |
| Sophie Fournel, CEO, Disability Assist | Sophie Fournel shared a presentation that will be circulated. Disability Assist is a disabled persons user led organization, recently commissioned by KCC to deliver support to physically disabled people. The presentation showed that since April 2022 Disability Assist has supported clients to achieve nearly £935,000 in annual benefits income, but SF had checked the figure and it is actually £1,048,388.18.  BH referred to SF’s call for better links with Housing associations and the questions she raised for them, stating that the questions and information should be shared with the wider KHG, as this presentation is more for a different group than the HHSC, as this subgroup focuses on health and well being. KHG will facilitate links between Disability Assist and other KHG sub groups and member organisations.  ES agreed that while the specific questions are for a different audience, the presentation was very helpful for this group. It was useful to hear the significant impact Disability Assist made to enable people to get the benefits that they are eligible for, and that the group needs to be supporting that theme because it is one of the underlying factors enabling health and wellbeing. If Disability Assist is not connected with the KCC Economic Hardship Group, we can make an introduction to the manager.  AS - Building on Brian’s point there are various subgroups across the Kent Housing Group e.g.: KHOG which deals with the Housing Options and links in with the housing registers and what properties are available; and the landlord group which deals with the damp and mould. It is very important to link Disability Assist in with the other sub groups so SF can get more answers, from both housing associations and councils that have their own stock.  So it's making sure what services are out there, where (for example) West Kent have got a full tenancy sustainment team; Sevenoaks doesn’t have its own stock and has [HERO](https://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/info/20045/homelessness_and_finding_a_home/131/hero_housing_home_energy_and_retraining_options_advice_service) which helps everybody that's not in a social tenancy. Every local authority will do things slightly differently and may or may not have their own stock, so it is important to link into them to get a clear picture across the whole of Kent.  AS has had a meeting with a Disability Assist representative from somebody putting a case forward and they went through each part of the case and were very good in relation to how they helped with the assessment, purely from a housing register perspective.  SF – this has been a good starting point and anything that can help her to meet the right people would be helpful and to know where to bring their beneficiaries’ issues and the challenges that arise. SF has been the long-term Chair of the Kent Wide Physical Disability Forum and is currently interim chair of the Sevenoaks Access Group until somebody comes forward. So SF is aware of what is happening in many areas across Kent.  BH invited SF to contact HM or SI if she is finding it difficult to navigate and we'll happily try and point her in the right direction. | SI  SI  ES | Circulate SF’s presentation.  Arrange for SF to present to other KHG sub groups and circulate presentation.  Make introduction for Disability Assist to KCC Economic Hardship Group Manager. |
| Update on Project Officer | AS – the Project Officer role will sit within the public health team and the job description is currently under review; we're hoping that the role will be advertised in July.  BH - this a good example of how working together across partner organisations in KHG. It's enormously positive that Kent Public Health, KCC have agreed to host this role and really cement the relationship between Public Health and KHG. Getting this post locked in, rather than subject to monthly/yearly budgeting will benefit the joint working. | ES | Provide update on the progress on the Project Officer role. |
| Hot topics and topics for future meetings | * AS invited members to suggest hot topics for future meetings. * AS - The last meeting highlighted the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy and that will be on the agenda in either September or December. * BH - Thermal comfort – It is at the point where we are having more days where the temperature might be north of 30 degrees (Celsius). There are a number of buildings that are pretty good at keeping heat in, but very poor at letting heat out when we need to. We could discuss this with Neil Diddams when next he is on a meeting call to start that discussion with this cohort and with the KHG Asset Management sub group. * ES agreed about Thermal Comfort, and suggested heat and drought as a topic. She is involved in some work across Kent County Council and the Integrated Care Board on climate adaptation, and heat and drought have been singled out, from the emergency planning and response perspective. It's joining up people who are talking about it and bringing the housing perspective to the table. There is a significant urgency behind this. * BH - It’s an aspect of retrofit, net zero is often spoken of, but often it's around insulation. And if that isn't done in a way that is sensitive to the fact that our climate is cold in the winter but can be now very hot in other parts of the year, there's a danger we could be making the problem worse rather than, just even maintaining a steady state. * ES - Following the publication of the 2021 Chief Medical Officer report on Air Quality, which was mainly outdoor, there is now renewed and increasing interest in indoor air quality. It should be on the radar in this subgroup, although probably not with the same urgency as the other issues just discussed. | ES | Add Integrated Care Strategy to meeting agenda for September or December  Add Thermal Comfort to meeting agenda.  Take indoor air quality forward for the next agenda. |
| Vice chair - call for volunteers | AS – several calls have been made for a volunteer to be vice chair. Another call will be put out for a vice chair. If attendees at this meeting are representing somebody else, they are invited to feed that back. | SI | Send out call for volunteer Vice Chair. |
| Action Plan setting for the group, themes and topics for 2023-2025 | AS said the action plan was circulated, following some work done at the last meeting and called for any further comments or additions to input into this document.  BH - In the absence of response we would publish the action plan and focus on the delivery. |  | HHSC group Action plan signed off and to be published |
| Dampness and Mould - Neil Diddams | Neil Diddams sent apologies as he was unable to attend, so the presentation on dampness and mould will be postponed to a future meeting. |  | Contact Neil Diddams to reschedule presentation. |
|  | Dates of next meetings: 11 September, 11 December. |  |  |