KHOG Group

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| **Date of update; March 2024** | | | |
| Ref |  | General Contribution | Action this period |
| **Theme Health and wellbeing – none identified for this group** | | | |
| HW4 | Share, enhance and promote the successful Hospital Discharge Schemes to enable all residents of Kent and Medway to benefit from this service | Where person is homeless | Duty to refer protocol is in place. Piece of work to be completed to research how soon the DTR is coming in from the health setting/provider.  Joint work between NHS Kent and Medway ICB on hospital discharges in mental health units, with a plan to progress to MADE events. |
| HW7 | Inform and influence countywide strategies that impact upon housing support and care provision for all vulnerable clients groups, children, young people, adults and the ageing population | More related to the housing provision part | Initial work has started to review training package that we have in place & build on the good work started in Maidstone in delivering joint agency training and developing a webinar for housing legislation awareness.  Subgroup now created and meeting 22/03. Led by Vicky Hodgson. |
| HW8 | Continue established countywide approach and partnership working to reduce and prevent homelessness |  | Protocol list has been reviewed & will be regularly in order to identify any updated guidance that needs to be amended. Protocols placed in order to importance of reviewing over the course of the year.  Care leaver protocol now in final draft for comments.  NM and VH are meeting on 22/03 to discuss how to share data on a quarterly basis from across Kent to identify trends and share good practice.  Rough Sleeper Co-ordinators have confirmed the launch of a task and finish group. First event to be begun by Helen Miller.  Sub group to focus on how reviews are managed in Kent, in particular for accommodation suitability. This is being lead by Fiona Bennett-Stepp and Debbie Jefcoate. |
| **Theme Working together for safer homes** | | | |
| SH4 | Strengthen the partnership working to include how Kent Housing Group respond collectively to local or national consultations that will impact upon the safety and well-being of Kent and Medway residents |  | Consultations and new guidance highlighted at every meeting. We will agree where a group response needs to be completed but will encourage each district to make their own response where needed.  Most recent consultation on changes to the allocation of social housing to non-UK nationals, those with an ASB related offence etc. was not responded to by KHOG due to the political sensitivity of the subject and a lack of agreement on the response. |
| SH6 | Promote and facilitate the sharing of information about services that can be offered to residents to support the countywide and individual health and wellbeing agendas | Would this be part of a PHP? | Exploring new ways to use the new Huume housing system to encourage joint working for applicants with health organisations such as One You. Inviting One You to KHOG will keep housing colleagues informed of new initiatives available.  Close ties have been formed with the Kent Homelessness Forum, and a board member from KHOG is currently sitting on the KHF board to promote joint working and information sharing. |
| **Theme Infrastructure First -** | | | |
| **IF3** | Consider, respond and implement recommendations from Government reviews that promote a positive change in approach and outcome, e.g. Letwin Review |  | All guidance & government issued updates are discussed at KHOG and comments from members are discussed.  An issue has occurred with H-CLIC submissions which being addressed by Kent Homechoice members and Huume. |
| **Theme Accelerating Housing Delivery- possibly no actions for this sub group** | | | |
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| **Theme Affordability - possibly no actions for this sub group** | | | |
| A4 | Continually review homelessness prevention policy and procedure, including the review of countywide protocols |  | We regularly update the group on reviews with protocols. We encourage all KHOG members & stakeholders to be part of review task & finish groups when reviewing processes.  Closer links developed with the Kent Homelessness Forum (KHF) to bring together other agencies, providers and commissioned services with LA’s. Will also seek to engage with KHF members when developing sub-groups as needed. |
| A5 | Explore new models and pathways to support vulnerable members of the community, including sharing learning and best practice regarding Housing First pilots |  | We are currently looking at ways of improving TA delivery from a wider aspect. This includes availability and cost but also impact on the service user. We have met with the biggest provider of TA in Kent & taken on board their concerns about the complexities of issues arising in TA and we are about to explore the option of creating a TAAG – Temporary Accommodation Action Group <https://www.justlife.org.uk/our-work/national/temporary-accommodation-action-group>  We are meeting with the TAAG representatives on 27/03 for initial discussions. |
| A6 | Support the County Council to determine and shape the market about future provision of accommodation care and support for social care client groups |  | We plan to explore how the delivery of the Kent Agency Assessment process is making a positive impact on vulnerable people. Does it work well & negate the need to make homeless applications. Are LAs using their Allocations Policies to help the most vulnerable that are referred within this process. |
| A7 | Understand and influence the development of affordable housing that is flexible to meet changing needs, including meeting the needs of those with physical disability | As allocations is part of KHOG |  |
| **Other important matters since last update including any cross sub-group working;**  **Implementation of the Kent DA reciprocal arrangement. Need to monitor the sign up as numbers had been slow. Matter to consider: can we look at the promotion of this scheme to get as many LAs & providers signed up to it.** | | | |