

Acacia Stakeholder Meeting
11th November, 2pm
MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in Attendees
KCC, UAS Children’s Service
FTC, Representative
KCC, Prevent
Kent Police
Abbey School

Kent County Council (KCC) – FTC (Faversham Town Council) – Swale Borough Council (SBC) - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS Children)

Welcome and Introductions
Introductions made and agenda shared with attendees.
Updates
<p>A KCC representative explained that there is a positive atmosphere within the centre and that everything is going well. It operates 24/7, and the boys are happy and well looked after. The centre is moving at a fast pace, with 14 boys on Friday and full capacity by the end of the weekend.</p> <p>The gradual opening of the centre has been very successful, with no issues reported in the community or within the centre since the last stakeholder meeting. The boys have started to go into the community on their own, in small groups, and are reminded about their behaviour and the importance of staying in touch with the centre. This information is communicated through interpreters, and photos are taken of the boys before they leave for safety.</p> <p>A KCC representative mentioned that the young people have been visiting the local shop, which enjoys their visits and engages well with them. The centre also recently visited the carnival and frequently goes swimming. Despite initial concerns from the leisure centre about behaviour, there have been no issues, and the leisure centre is pleased with the boys' conduct.</p> <p>A KCC representative advised the police recently attended a community meeting, discussing hate crime and offering support to the young people. They also talked about potential issues the boys might face when venturing into the community. The young people listened attentively.</p> <p>A Kent Police representative inquired about the number of young people residing in the centre.</p> <p>A KCC representative stated that around 200 children have resided at the centre, with an average stay of about 11 days. Thanks to the support from partner agencies, there haven't been any escalations involving these 200 children, contrary to initial fears.</p> <p>A KCC representative also noted that while there have been no incidents or escalations</p>

related to the centre, there was a serious incident in the community that the police managed. The police contacted the centre to alleviate any community concerns that the young people at Acacia Court were involved. No one in the community believed that the young people from Acacia Court were involved.

Additionally, the representative mentioned that they reached out to the local school about the serious incident. The school reported that while parents were concerned about the incident, they did not believe it involved any of the young people from Acacia.

A KCC representative advised the lack of community concerns contributed to the decision to allow the boys to go out without support workers. The centre has also introduced a new curriculum for the independent living programme, helping the boys with their resettlement journey. The young people are enjoying the education sessions and gaining key skills for their next placement.

Stakeholder Questions

A KCC representative asked the stakeholders if they had any questions or feedback.

A Kent Police representative responded that they hadn't received any feedback from the community regarding issues with Acacia and did not anticipate any either.

A representative from Abbey School mentioned that they were expecting teething problems but had not received any concerns. They suggested that it would be beneficial for Acacia Court to attend events organised by the school in the future.

A KCC representative agreed and proposed collaborating on an event for Refugee Week, noting that the boys love football, which could be a good way for the school and centre to work together.

An FTC representative stated that they hadn't heard anything negative regarding the centre.

A KCC representative thanked colleagues in Prevent for providing information and updates about the serious incident. They expressed satisfaction that the slow approach has been effective and noted that other centres have adopted this approach due to its success.

The KCC representative thanked the attendees for coming and encouraged them to stay in touch.

AOB

None raised.