

**Maple Rise, Stakeholder Meeting**

**18<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm**

**Location: Maple Rise, Ashford**

<b>Agencies and Services in Attendees</b>
KCC, UAS Children's Service
ABC, Councillor
ABC, Community Safety Team
KCC, Public Health

Kent County Council (KCC) – Ashford Borough Council (ABC) - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS Children)

<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
Introductions made and agenda shared with attendees.
<b>Update</b>
<p>A KCC representative explained that since the last meeting, 10 children have moved in and 11 have moved on. One child is moving tomorrow. A few children keep in contact with the home after they've moved. One child sent a picture of his school uniform with a message expressing his excitement about going to school.</p> <p>There was another Reg 44 meeting recently, and all feedback remains positive with no negative comments. The recent meeting was unannounced; however, the next meeting has been scheduled so the inspector can join the house community meeting and receive feedback from the children with the help of an interpreter.</p> <p>Arrivals have slowed down; at one point recently, there was only one child at the home.</p> <p>They will be celebrating Christmas at the home but without the religious aspect. There are Christmas decorations up, and they'll have a roast dinner and presents on Christmas Day.</p> <p>The children are all still engaging in education and recently enjoyed a visit to the nature reserve.</p>
<b>Recent Incident</b>
<p>A KCC representative explained that there was an incident when the children went swimming at a local leisure centre. A woman, claiming to be a police officer, approached the lifeguard and said that the boys' swimming shorts were offensive. The lifeguard then asked the staff to leave. The KCC representative advised that they had contacted a local police officer, who recommended reporting the incident to 101 as a hate crime.</p>

## Update on Activities

An ABC representative asked whether the home had managed to organise swimming passes.

A KCC representative advised that they now have swimming passes. They also reached out to Ashford Cinema about block bookings; however, the cinema will only do block bookings of 10, so they will wait until the home is busier with more children.

A KCC representative continued, mentioning that the children have been going bowling and to Ashford Football Club. The boys often ask staff if they are going to the football club that day because they are excited to play.

An ABC representative advised that they are organising a football event soon, with details to be shared at a later date.

A KCC representative mentioned that the children attended the Christmas Baubles event, although part of it was cancelled due to the weather. The boys tried a kebab while they were in town, which they really enjoyed.

A KCC public health representative explained that there have been previous emails about training for the staff and children. The nutrition team is happy to provide healthy eating training for both staff and children. The local sexual health outreach team can visit the home to talk about reproductive health, having previously worked in hotels and knowing how to tailor the training. There are also discussions about rolling out trauma-informed practice training for staff soon, which will include webinars and in-person sessions.

A KCC representative advised that the mental health team will be attending soon to conduct training with the children, including group sessions with both children and staff.

A KCC representative mentioned that they are awaiting their Ofsted inspection, which typically occurs within 12 weeks of opening, so it is likely to happen in the new year.

Following the visit to the nature reserve, a KCC representative wrote a small message for the local newspaper. KCC has also been working on videos to educate about the UAS journey, involving the children by asking them to review the storyboard. Overall, this was positive, although one child became a little overwhelmed when discussing their journey.

A KCC representative advised that, aside from the incident at the leisure centre, there have been no further issues. Ofsted was notified of the incident after it was reported to the police.

An ABC representative asked if the police had responded yet and when the incident occurred.

A KCC representative responded that it happened a couple of weekends ago and that the police have not yet responded.

An ABC representative clarified if the staff and boys were asked to leave by the leisure centre staff.

A KCC representative confirmed that the lifeguard asked them to leave, and the staff were unsure if they were in a position to dispute this.

An ABC representative asked if a report had been written for Ofsted. The KCC representative confirmed

that it had and that they would send it over.

An ABC representative mentioned that they would raise the issue with the leisure centre as they are in correspondence with them regarding the upcoming elections. They suggested that the election event might be a good experience for the children to see.

A KCC representative concluded the meeting and provided a tour of the home.

**Stakeholder Questions**

None raised.

**AOB**

None raised