

Maple Rise, Stakeholder Meeting

11th February at 10am

MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in Attendees
KCC, UAS Children's Service
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ABC, Councillor
KCC, Councillor
Kent Police

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

Welcome and Introductions
Introductions made and agenda shared with attendees.
Update
<p>A KCC representative explained that since the last meeting, 11 children have moved in, and 13 have moved on. There are currently 4 children in the home, 3 of whom have been there for a while. One child has been at the home since early December, having declined several NTS moves due to being specific about the area they'd like to move to.</p> <p>The representative continued, mentioning an incident involving this same child going missing, which was the first missing incident since the home opened. They advised that the incident was managed well in line with the policies and procedures.</p> <p>The representative also shared that there was one safeguarding case since the last meeting involving an agency staff member. This was investigated, and the staff member no longer works for them.</p> <p>There was another Reg 44 meeting recently, and all feedback remains positive with no recommendations. They are expecting a mock inspection in the next two days.</p>
Update on Activities
<p>A KCC representative mentioned that they have been sourcing a variety of activities. They received support from Kent Kindness, which provided zoo and bowling tickets, both of which the children really enjoyed. The children also participated in an art competition after the zoo visit.</p> <p>The representative advised that they have been focusing on building the ISP with the social work team to ensure high-quality care. However, the weather has resulted in a quieter period. They mentioned that the staff have been busy managing the boys' behaviour and have handled it well.</p> <p>A KCC councillor suggested a visit to the Big Cat Sanctuary and offered to share the contact details to</p>

arrange a day trip. They continued by asking whether the home had made progress with the local leisure centre and offered their help.

A KCC representative responded that they had met the manager of the local leisure centre previously, as there had been an incident at the centre involving a member of the public and the children. They added that they had recently obtained some gym memberships.

A KCC representative then asked how the memberships worked and whether they were assigned to specific children.

A KCC representative explained that they had blank memberships.

A KCC representative then asked how often the children went to the gym.

A KCC representative advised that this depended on the group of children. For the current group of boys, they had been attending the gym a couple of days a week.

Stakeholder Questions

None raised.

AOB

A Kent Police representative shared that the staff member originally visiting Maple Rise had left Kent Police. They will be taking over the responsibilities, and due to the staff constraints, they have not been able to visit as frequently as desired but will continue to offer support.

A KCC representative appreciated that.