

**Olea Grove Stakeholder Meeting**  
**4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 10am**  
**MS Teams Meeting**

<b>Service/Agency</b>
KCC, UAS Children’s Service
KCC, Councillor
DBC, Councillor
DDC, Dover Asylum Resettlement Team
Kent Police
NHS
DDC, representative

Kent County Council (KCC) – Dover District Council (DDC) - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS Children) - Ash Parish Council (APC) - Dover Borough Council (DBC)

<b>Introductions</b>
Introductions made and agenda shared.
<b>Update</b>
<p>A KCC representative started the meeting by explaining that the home has continued with a slow approach to avoid being intrusive in the community. There has only been one complaint since opening regarding exterior lighting, which has since been rectified. While the slow approach has been working well, they’d like to start thinking about how the home and the young people can be more active in the community.</p> <p>A KCC representative explained that there is a good relationship with the local GP, who has been very responsive. The home has aimed to not overwhelm the GP surgery, and the process seems to be working well. The local pharmacy has also been helpful.</p> <p>The children have been engaging in local community activities, such as attending the park to play sports and visiting local attractions. The ISP programme helps the children integrate into the community and develop key skills.</p> <p>A KCC representative expressed a desire for the home to engage more with the community and allow the community to play a part in the ISP programme. This will provide the children with a good opportunity to see what the UK offers. For example, the home organised for one of the young boys to attend a local mechanic after he expressed an interest in becoming one, which was a positive experience.</p> <p>A KCC representative continued, advising that they’d like to offer further opportunities to the children with other local employers if possible.</p> <p>A KCC representative mentioned that the children recently visited a castle, which was</p>

educational and illuminating for them. The children also visit the Mosque in Margate or Canterbury.

A few of the children have attended Ash Village Church and enjoyed their time there. The home continues to build relationships with the Reverend.

A KCC representative was pleased to see a Kent Police representative attend and mentioned they'll update the representative on when they can visit the home for future in-house community meetings.

The Kent Police representative advised they'll await a timetable of the meetings and integrate them into their calendar. They aim to attend at least once a month, and other officers will join them. They mentioned that they can bring uniforms for the children to try on.

A KCC representative responded that they're pleased once a month is achievable, and they'll email further details.

A KCC representative advised that their main aim for the meeting was to discuss what the community has to offer.

### **Stakeholder Feedback**

A KCC councillor representative advised that they could provide a list of local employers, along with contact details and a summary of what they do.

A DDC representative asked what age group the boys are.

A KCC representative stated that the typical age range is between 14 and 16 years, although occasionally they may be a year or two younger.

A DDC representative mentioned that there is an Inspire programme that pays for children to do activities, such as football. They are willing to try and organise for the children to attend and will consider that the children move on quickly. They also mentioned the Impact Fest, which is for young people to attend. There will be dance-offs, bands, and lots to do. They will share the details.

A DBC councillor representative advised that Ash has a Community Roots van visiting soon on the 29th of March. It would be a good way for the children to be involved in the community. They advised reaching out to the county clerk.

A DDC representative advised that they were happy to provide details.

A DBC councillor representative mentioned that there were initial worries among the village, and it would be positive for them to see the children integrating well.

A KCC representative continued, stating that they'd like to be part of the community and feel that it would help the boys feel as though they belong. They explained that the home

celebrated Christmas and would like to explore local festivals and traditions. They mentioned that they'd like to explore any events the local community is doing for Eid.

A DBC councillor representative advised that they could share the family day out timetable, which involves axe throwing on Medieval Day and lots more over the summer.

A KCC councillor representative mentioned that the medieval centre would be happy to do something with the young people.

A KCC representative explained that the home has not received any pushback from the local community since opening; however, one or two of the other centres have seen this. They are conscious that they want to maintain a slow approach and asked if there are any causes for concern.

A DDC representative advised that there haven't been any concerns raised to him, even during the door-to-door meetings they do.

A KCC representative asked whether this meeting was the right forum to discuss concerns that could be occurring in the community or nationally.

A DDC representative responded that they feel this meeting is a good opportunity to discuss concerns and that they are part of meetings with the KCC Prevent Team. If there are any concerns raised between stakeholder meetings, then KCC will be made aware.

A KCC representative advised that they've recently met with the headteacher of St Faiths, who has advised that the home will be able to use the gymnasium facility outside of school hours.

A DBC councillor representative asked whether the home has been in contact with the headteacher from Cartwright.

A KCC representative responded that they haven't been contact with them. They mentioned that there is a potential leisure centre that a Kent Police representative has suggested.

#### **AOB**

A KCC representative discussed the frequency of the stakeholder meetings.

A KCC councillor representative responded that since the home is contactable between the meetings, they could be extended to every 2 months, but this can be reviewed once the number of arrivals at the home increases.

A DBC councillor representative asked whether there was a possibility of visiting the home.

A KCC representative advised they'd be happy to arrange this.

A Kent Police representative suggested contacting the local library.

A KCC councillor representative advised that there is a library in Ash, but the library in Sandwich is more likely to have activities for the children.

A KCC representative thanked everyone for attending and concluded the meeting.