

The Limes Stakeholder Meeting

8th January at 1pm

Venue: MS Teams

Services in Attendance
KCC, UAS Children's Service
KCC, Prevent
Kent Police
DBC, Councillor
DBC, Councillor
KCC, Councillor
DBC, Dartford Community Safety Team
Local Charity

Kent County Council (KCC) – Dartford Borough Council (DBC) - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS Children)

Introductions
Introductions were made and agenda shared.
Update
<p>Since the last meeting in December, the number of young people has fluctuated between 14 and 41. In the lead-up to Christmas, the number of arrivals started to slow; however, the numbers increased on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. There is spare capacity in the centre, and having other centres available now is helpful. At the beginning of January, there were 16 young people residing in the centre.</p> <p>A KCC representative explained that the young people come from a range of different nationalities and continue to not cause any issues in the centre. No one has gone missing from the centre since the last stakeholder meeting.</p> <p>Complaints have slowed down slightly, and responses to complaints remain quick. The complaints are similar to those previously mentioned, such as light pollution, deliveries, and noise. There has been a recent complaint regarding individuals being dropped at the front gate, which is being investigated.</p> <p>A KCC representative advised that there have been no further visits from 'Britain First'. The young people continue to visit the mosque; however, the size of the groups walking to the mosque has been reduced to prevent further complaints. They continue to visit Tonbridge School to play football and join in with PE activities. There is hope that the</p>

young people will be able to play cricket in the summer at Tonbridge School.

A KCC representative explained that Kent Fire and Rescue will soon be visiting to complete fire safety training with the young people, as many of them will be cooking on their own at their next placement. The KCC representative welcomed any other similar suggestions.

Stakeholder Questions

A KCC representative asked if there were any questions.

A DBC councillor representative asked how quickly the young people were moving.

A KCC representative responded that in the summer, the young people tend to move on the NTS quicker than in the winter. The last time the average stay was checked, it was 6.7 days.

A DBC councillor representative asked if the double yellow lines are required on the side of the road of the residents' houses.

A KCC representative advised that ideally there would be double yellow lines in front of only 5 or 6 houses, or perhaps a loading bay could be an option. They advised that seeing if the fire engine could access the property would be a good indicator of where the double yellow lines are needed.

A KCC councillor representative responded that they'd suggest a loading bay.

A KCC representative responded that putting a loading bay next to the gate would increase visibility when leaving the centre. There are several commuters that park around there, causing access issues, so double yellow lines or a loading bay would alleviate that issue.

A DBC councillor representative asked about a complaint regarding a refuse lorry blocking the road while collecting the Limes bins.

A KCC representative advised that since opening, the refuse truck has waited in the road while loading.

A DBC councillor representative asked whether that would continue as there were a few cars that had to turn around in the road.

A KCC representative responded that when the refuse truck collects residents' waste, there are occasions where you must wait or turn around. The refuse truck has been given instructions to arrive before 7 am to avoid the commuter and school rush times.

A DBC councillor representative asked if notice can be given for when the refuse lorry will be arriving.

A KCC representative advised that it arrives twice a week just before 7 am. They advised that the loading bay would help rectify this issue.

A KCC councillor representative advised they'd look into the loading bay option and asked whether staff are parking on the road.

A KCC representative responded that there is plenty of capacity in the car park for staff to park and many do not drive.

A KCC councillor representative asked whether there had been any updates on the fencing.

A KCC representative and a DBC councillor representative both advised that there hadn't been any updates, and the residents hadn't mentioned the fencing issue.

A KCC representative asked a Kent Police representative if they had any updates.

A Kent Police representative advised that on the 13th of December, they received a report from a member of staff at The Limes that they had been approached by an unknown individual on the street. Due to the nature of what was said to the member of staff, it has been recorded as a non-crime hate incident.

A DBC councillor representative asked whether there was any follow-up from the police report.

A Kent Police representative advised that due to it being a non-crime hate incident and not knowing who it was that approached the member of staff, it has just been recorded on the system for now.

A Kent Police representative advised that if the young people are staying longer at the centre, then they'd be happy to organise a BEAT officer to attend and provide information on UK law.

A Local Charity representative expressed his gratitude and mentioned that a common issue with the centre's opening is there is fear and uncertainty around it. They are pleased to see how calm the approach has been, but they were disappointed to hear that a member of staff had been approached in that manner. They'd like to explore further involvement with the young people. They are pleased about the feedback from local councillors. It is beneficial to keep an eye on hate crimes as historically over the summer months there are occasions of riots due to issues occurring nationally.

A KCC representative responded that they are aware that incidents that occur nationally can impact the centre. The Prevent team in KCC updates us on possible national tensions.

A KCC Prevent representative explained that currently there are no national tensions to be concerned about. There is a weekly meeting where national tensions are discussed.

They advised that there have been no further issues regarding the 'Britain First' visit and there has been no follow-up on social media either.

A KCC representative mentioned that they'd like to touch on how the young people can positively integrate into the community. They advised that tree planting is a good idea but would like a few other ideas if possible.

A Kent Police representative explained that the Police Cadets went out before Christmas dropping off food packages. They advised that if this happens again, they'll reach out so the young people at the centre can be involved.

A KCC representative advised that would be great and concluded the meeting.

AOB

None raised.