

## Maple Rise, Stakeholder Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> November at 2pm

### MS Teams Meeting

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

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 began by stating that the home continues to run smoothly. Since the last stakeholder meeting, 17 children have arrived at the home, and 22 children have moved on.</p> <p>A KCC representative advised that the children continue to make friends with each other, and there have been very positive relationships between the children and adults. Recently, there was a success story involving one of the children whose family was pushed off the boat, causing them to arrive a week and a half later. The child has now been reunited with their family thanks to the hard work of the home and the social workers ensuring the child's safety.</p> <p>The children tend to move on from the home within four days to a week, and so far, none of the children have refused to move. Overall, it has been positive, and the staff are helping the children reduce any anxiety they may have about moving. The children are eager to move to their next placement.</p> <p>Since the last meeting, snap surveys have been introduced, providing an opportunity for the children to give feedback. The children have given the home positive feedback, noting that their religion is being respected and they feel safe and happy. They are enjoying the activities. The only thing the children often feel anxious about is their move or the families that are in their home country.</p> <p>The representative also mentioned that the home now has a memory album, which is another opportunity for the children to write about their time at Maple Rise. These entries have been</p>

positive.

#### **Reg 44**

A KCC representative explained that regular meetings for Reg 44 are still occurring, and positive feedback has been received. They have seen progress in education due to the higher-level teaching assistant who has started. The children are learning English, and often when they leave the home, they have learned key phrases they can use at their next placement.

There have been further developments with the ISP programme, and the children are now participating in independent cooking. The children have been enjoying this and are eager for the staff to try their meals.

Kent Kindness recently visited the home, offering lovely feedback about how the children's home really feels like a nurturing environment.

A KCC representative advised that there have been no complaints or concerns from the community.

The children haven't started to go out in the community without a support worker as they are younger than the young people in the centres. They continue to explore the community with the support worker, and an appropriate risk assessment would be carried out if they wanted to go on their own. However, the children have not expressed a desire to do this.

A KCC representative advised that the children are participating in many activities, such as bowling and swimming. They recently visited the zoo, which the children really loved. The staff took pictures during the visit, which have been put in a memory book for the children to take with them when they move.

A KCC representative mentioned that they are continuing to try and link with the Stour Centre to obtain some membership passes. They are also reaching out to the local rugby club.

Referring to the risk assessments mentioned earlier, a KCC representative explained that this meeting is a good opportunity to ask if the stakeholders are aware of any issues in the local area.

A KCC councillor representative responded that they are not aware of any issues in the area and mentioned that Maple Rise is in a good location with local shops to visit. They noted that it is good the children are going out into the community and asked if there were still plans to attend the nature reserve on Saturday. They inquired about how the children would feel about the members of the nature reserve speaking to them.

A KCC representative responded that there is a plan to attend on Saturday and the children have been informed about the trip. In terms of speaking to the children, they can be sensitive about discussing their journeys, so conversations would need to be handled sensitively.

A KCC councillor representative replied that the members would likely speak to the children about their time at Maple Rise and asked how their English is.

A KCC representative advised that some of the children have really good English skills; however, Google Translate can be helpful. They mentioned that they've slowed their speaking down to help the children understand.

A KCC councillor representative mentioned that parking at the nature reserve can be difficult and suggested a car park.

A KCC representative responded that they'd likely walk since the nature reserve is within walking distance of the home.

A KCC councillor representative mentioned they are happy to reach out to the Stour Centre. An ABC representative explained that they'd be happy to talk to an ABC councillor who may be able to help with getting memberships at the Stour Centre.

A KCC councillor representative asked whether trips to Sainsbury's and other local shops would be a good way for the children to learn skills.

A KCC representative responded that as part of the independent cooking programme, the children have the opportunity to go to the shop to buy ingredients. The children are also given pocket money, so they enjoy walking to town and going into the shops.

A KCC councillor representative advised that there is an event on the 23rd of November for putting up the baubles for Christmas, starting at 5 pm.

A KCC representative responded that they'd put a reminder in the calendar.

An ABC representative advised that the town can be extremely busy for events.

An ABC councillor representative mentioned that there is a workshop to make the baubles that the children could possibly attend. They asked if the home has had a block booking for the cinema.

A KCC representative responded that they were planning on booking the cinema soon and mentioned that in the future they'd like to take the children to a local school so they can see how a UK school operates. They mentioned that they've been unable to organise joining the Holiday Inn litter pick.

A KCC councillor representative mentioned that they'll send an email address that would be useful for the Holiday Inn litter pick.

An ABC representative mentioned that a councillor who works with the volunteer centre would be worthwhile contacting.

### **Stakeholder Questions**

None raised.

### **AOB**

A KCC Prevent representative notified stakeholders that Britain First visited a centre in Dartford. They advised stakeholders to remain aware and report any similar occurrences.

A Kent Police representative explained they had visited Maple Rise recently and were keen to visit again. They mentioned that the children might not be able to help with making the baubles for the event as this has already been completed.

A KCC representative advised that the house community meetings are weekly, and Kent Police are welcome to attend.

A KCC representative mentioned that the next stakeholder meeting could be held in person at Maple Rise.

A KCC councillor responded that it would be good to see how well the home is running since it opened.

A KCC representative concluded the meeting.