

Acacia Court (formerly Kiln Court) Stakeholder Meeting
Monday 18th May 2026, 2:00pm
MS Teams Meeting

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| Agencies and Services in attendance |
| KCC, UAS Children's Service |
| FTC, Councillor |
| Kent Police |
| KCC Prevent |
| The Abbey School |

Kent County Council (KCC) - Faversham Town Council (FTC) - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS Children)

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| Introduction |
| Introductions made and agenda shared. |
| Overview |
| <p>A KCC representative welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that Acacia Court is a 32-bed reception centre for unaccompanied minors aged 16-17yr olds who mostly arrive on small boats to the UK with no family. The centre is Ofsted regulated, providing ESOL education, independent living skills, teaching of UK values, as well as support for the young people. The centre provides temporary accommodation before the young people move to their next placement via the National Transfer Scheme (NTS), whilst they apply for asylum in the UK.</p> <p>A KCC representative noted that numbers at the centre were currently low. Whilst it is usually busier at this time of year, it is very much weather dependent and placement moves on the NTS come through quickly, hence the relatively low numbers.</p> <p>A KCC representative confirmed that since the last meeting on 13th April 2026, three very minor protest related incidents had occurred at the centre. The incidents included: Friday 17th April, 2 large St George's flags had been hung on the gates of the centre and had been swiftly removed; Saturday 25th April, 3 men from Restore Britain, including a local Councillor, had been seen filming outside the gates. They had been polite but stated that they would close the centre down if they got into power and had posted on Facebook after their visit; Monday 11th May, a man had been seen filming at the centre gates for a short period before driving off. All three incidents had been reported to police and had received a quick response.</p> <p>A KCC representative reported that a positive and productive meeting had taken place with The Abbey School to explore opportunities for collaboration. The school was described as excellent, and an invitation had been extended to Abbey School staff to visit the centre.</p> <p>A KCC representative noted that apologies had been given by the Headteacher at Bysing Wood School, who had reported no issues from their perspective.</p> <p>A KCC representative confirmed that the centre was running really well, local residents were supportive and the young people were well behaved and wanted to learn.</p> |

Stakeholder Feedback

An FTC Councillor confirmed they had no updates and were not aware of any resident's concerns. It was however disappointing to see that anti-immigration leaflets had been circulated to residents surrounding the centre.

An FTC Councillor confirmed that had no questions, but again it had been disappointing to hear of protest related incidents of individuals taking place.

A Kent Police representative reported that they had no concerns. Surgeries were continuing as usual, and no issues relating to the centre had been reported. Staff were reminded to report any incidents at the centre so that they could be appropriately risk assessed.

A Kent Police representative noted that they were aware of the minor protest related incidents which had taken place at the centre but apart from that had nothing to report.

A Kent Police representative confirmed that apart from the three minor incidents, no offences had been committed but intelligence gathered. The Councillor involved in one of the incidents had been dealt with by other channels and intel was ongoing.

An Abbey School representative confirmed that after half term, resources that could be made available to the centre would be considered, perhaps including the school's therapy dog.

A KCC representative thanked everyone for their continued support, which in turn benefitted the young people at the centre.

AOB

No other business was raised, and the meeting was concluded.