

Maple Rise, Stakeholder Meeting

26th May 2026 at 10:00 am

MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in Attendees
KCC, UAS Children's Service
KCC, Councillor
KCC, Prevent

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

Welcome and Introductions
The meeting commenced with introductions, and the agenda was shared with all attendees.
Update on Operations
<p>A KCC representative provided an operational update for the home, noting that although activity had felt busier, the figures showed a relatively steady period since the last meeting. Over this time, there had been five new children move into the home and eight children discharged. The average length of stay for children had been approximately nine days. At the time of the meeting, three children had recently moved into the home over the weekend.</p> <p>An update was shared regarding improvements within the home environment. Minor redecoration works had been taking place over recent days, including a paint refresh to tidy areas where walls had become marked or scuffed. The improvements were noted to have had a positive impact on the appearance of the home. In addition, discussions had taken place with an external organisation, Uprising, regarding support with improvements to the garden area, and the home was awaiting confirmation of start dates for the planned work.</p> <p>Positive feedback was also shared regarding gardening and independence-based activities taking place within the home. Children had successfully grown lettuce and coriander, which were now being used as part of independent cooking activities. A small greenhouse had recently been purchased to support further planting activities, with plans to grow additional seeds and plants in the coming weeks.</p> <p>A staffing update was also provided, confirming that a new support worker would be commencing employment on 15 June following the completion of all recruitment checks. The appointment was welcomed as additional support for the team, particularly as the new worker is also able to drive.</p>
Update of Inspections
In relation to inspections, the KCC representative reported on the recent Regulation 44 visit, which the work completed with children moving on from the home was praised and described as being above expectations. One recommendation was made in relation to recording practice, specifically ensuring that staff document within case notes or daily logs how children are informed about moving on from the home and what their reactions are at the time. It was confirmed that this recommendation had already been implemented.
Update on Safeguarding and Community Concerns
The meeting also briefly addressed recent protests and community activity. It was noted that a significant protest had taken place in Dover over the weekend, and further updates were still being awaited. However, there were currently no concerns or identified risks specific to the local area, although ongoing monitoring would continue.
Any other business

Attendees confirmed there were no additional concerns or safeguarding issues to raise. It was acknowledged that the month had been relatively quiet overall, although it was anticipated that activity levels may increase as the weather improves. The meeting concluded with thanks to everyone for their attendance and contributions.