

Maple Rise, Stakeholder Meeting
28th July 2026 at 14:00 pm
MS Teams Meeting

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

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
A KCC representative provided an operational update for the home. Since the previous meeting, 11 children had arrived at Maple Rise, and 11 children had moved on. The home was currently accommodating 8 children, with one child due to move on the following day, reducing occupancy to 7 children. The average length of stay was reported as 8 days. It was noted that the service had experienced a relatively quiet period since the previous meeting.
Update of Inspections
An update was provided following the recent Regulation 44 visit. The inspection resulted in no recommendations, reflecting another positive outcome for the service. Positive feedback was received regarding the commitment of staff, and the progress children continue to make during their relatively short stays at the home.
Update on Safeguarding and Community Concerns
The meeting was informed of a brief pop-up protest that had taken place outside the home a few weeks earlier. It was confirmed that no children were present at the home during the incident. Staff and security responded appropriately in the accordance with established policies and procedures, and the protesters dispersed shortly after being informed that the police had been contacted. It was reported that similar demonstrations had taken place at other service locations and appeared to be linked to the promotion of a planned protest scheduled for mid-August. No further incidents had occurred since. A KCC prevent representative confirmed that they had received no intelligence or reports of any concerns relating specifically to the home. It was also noted that no issues had been raised from local residents and community. Previous matters discussed at earlier meetings were understood to have been resolved, and no further issues had been reported. Overall, the situation was considered stable and there were no current intelligence or incident reports affecting the service.
Activity suggestions
The meeting discussed opportunities for children to participate in activities during the summer holidays. A Kent Police representative advised that a range of community activities were being organised locally, including football

sessions, activities in the town centre and events in the local parks. An ABC councillor has shared that a youth festival will be held earlier August.

It was agreed that information regarding these activities would be shared with the home to enable children to participate where appropriate.

Any other business

The meeting concluded that there were no further matters for discussion. Attendees were thanked for their contributions and encouraged to continue sharing any relevant community intelligence or opportunities for children's engagement ahead of the next meeting.