

The Limes Stakeholder Meeting
Monday 13th July 2026, 2pm
MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in Attendees
KCC, UAS Children's Service
KCC, Infrastructure
KCC, Prevent
DBC Representative
Kent Police

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

Introductions
Introductions made and agenda shared.
Overview
A KCC officer informed stakeholders that, since the last meeting, 57 young people have been accommodated at The Limes, with 12 currently residing there. This reflects positively on the NTS programme, with young people moving on to the care of other local authorities within an average of 5 working days. Stakeholders were also informed of an upcoming visit to The Limes by local councillors, scheduled to take place on 15th July.
Enquiries
A KCC officer addressed the enquiries raised since the previous meeting and gave stakeholders the opportunity to ask any questions relating to the summary provided. The first enquiry, dated 19th June, related to reports of cars arriving at the centre and sounding their horns twice in the morning. CCTV footage was reviewed and showed no vehicles arriving at the centre. The response explained that the noise may have come from vehicles on the road, as some cars beep when locked. The next enquiry related to 22nd and 23rd June, when a bathroom light had been left on and blinds were raised, causing a disturbance to residents. A KCC officer addressed this internally with staff and security, and there have been no further occurrences since those dates. An enquiry was raised on 2nd July regarding a police car visiting the centre and whether this was due to a young person going missing from the premises. A KCC officer confirmed that police had attended, but this was in connection with an anti-immigration protest that took place outside the centre on 1st July. The protest lasted approximately 10 minutes. Protesters arrived in a van with banners, took photographs for social media purposes, and left shortly afterwards. A further enquiry on 2nd July concerned the frequency of refuse collections, which were reportedly taking place very early and occurring up to four times. A KCC officer confirmed that the centre has three refuse collections per week and that this has not increased. The next enquiry, dated 6th July, related to loud shouting at the gate. The enquiry suggested that security may have been speaking loudly; however, following investigation, it was confirmed that an unknown individual had arrived on a scooter requesting access to the centre. Security refused entry, after which the individual began shouting at security.

A KCC officer asked whether there was any update regarding refuse collections.

A KCC Infrastructure representative advised that there were no updates regarding refuse collection times. However, they will ask management to speak with the refuse company about collections taking place too early and clarify the next steps if the company continues not to follow the requests made.

A KCC officer invited Kent Police to provide comments regarding the recent anti-immigration protest.

A Kent Police representative stated that they were pleased with the response to the anti-immigration protest. They attended the site on 1st July and were present for approximately 11 minutes, arriving after the protesters had displayed their banners. Police spoke with the protesters, who were cooperative, and no offences were committed. The patrol team attended The Limes the following day to ensure everything was in order and to collect the CCTV footage. No incidents have been reported since.

A DBC representative referred to a previous discussion with a KCC officer regarding cooking smells and asked for an update on the current position, specifically whether the matter had been referred to Environmental Health. This followed a recent complaint about cooking smells.

KCC Infrastructure explained that KCC is currently working with DBC on this matter. An odour test has been completed and the report received, which includes recommendations. These are being reviewed and considered. The report confirmed that the building meets all regulations; however, KCC will continue to explore possible adjustments in response to residents' feedback.

Upcoming Events and Stakeholder Enquires

A KCC officer asked stakeholders to share details of any upcoming events that young people may be able to take part in. The officer acknowledged that the young people had been unable to attend the recent weekend event, "The Big Day Out", and expressed regret about this.

A KCC officer also asked about a previous suggestion made to Kent Police regarding young people potentially joining a volunteering group.

The Kent Police representative confirmed that they would look into this and provide further information.

A KCC officer asked Kent Police whether they had needed to attend The Limes for any concerns regarding anti-social or problem behaviour by the young people there, since the last stakeholder meeting. Kent Police confirmed that there had been no requirement to attend, other than in relation to the anti-immigration protest.

A KCC officer reiterated that KCC is aware of the concerns regarding cooking smells and emphasised the importance of working with Environmental Health. The officer explained that The Limes aims to be a good neighbour and asked whether DBC Environmental Health is satisfied with the actions being taken by KCC to mitigate the issue.

The DBC representative acknowledged this and agreed to provide the relevant contact details for DBC Environmental Health.

The DBC representative then shared details of upcoming activities that may be of interest to The Limes. A further night market may be organised. In addition, Dartford Science and Technology College will be holding a range of events on 22nd July as part of its annual community day, including a bandstand concert. There are also outdoor theatre performances happening over the summer.

A KCC officer noted that previous protests had lasted longer and involved more people, which had led to increased concerns from the local community. The KCC representative therefore asked whether any concerns had been reported to either Kent Police or The Limes about the most recent anti-immigration protests.

Both the KCC officer and Kent Police confirmed that no further concerns had been raised.

As there was no further business, the KCC officer concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

AOB

None raised.