

## Acacia Court (Kiln Court) Stakeholder Meeting

Date: 10th February, 3pm

### MS Teams Meeting

Service/Agency in attendance
KCC, UAS Children's Service
FTC, Councillor
Faversham Town Council
Kent Police
THA Trust

Kent County Council (KCC) – Faversham Town Council (FTC) – Swale Borough Council (SBC) - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS Children)

Introduction
Introductions made and agenda shared.
Update
<p>A KCC representative explained that it has been quiet across the service since the last meeting due to the weather. There are currently four young people in the centre, and a few of them will remain there until they turn 18, at which point they will return to port and be processed as adults.</p> <p>The staff continue to build relationships with the young people, working hard to engage with them and prepare them for the next part of their journey. Overall, the atmosphere at the centre remains happy and positive. A new young person arrived at the centre last night. Since opening, the centre has accommodated 250 young people, but the number has slowed down recently. There are currently no complaints from neighbours or the community. The young people are enjoying their freedom, and Faversham has been welcoming.</p> <p>A KCC representative advised that a young person recently went missing from the centre, marking the second such incident since the centre opened.</p> <p>A KCC representative explained that they would like the centre to engage in more activities and events in the community to help with integration. The centre aims to give the young people the confidence to go into the community by providing guidance on directions, bus and train timetables. This is part of the ILP and includes cultural differences, such as queuing.</p> <p>A KCC representative mentioned that the young people recently took a trip to Margate, where they were involved in the planning. They were asked to think about activities they</p>

could do on the beach, such as taking cricket sets with them and researching which trains to take. This information is very useful to the young people.

A KCC representative expressed a desire to become more involved in local events this year. The young people are having regular pool tournaments at the centre and have recently enjoyed making bracelets.

A KCC representative noted that they celebrated Christmas at the centre, complete with a blow-up Santa. With Ramadan approaching, the centre is starting to plan celebrations for Eid. There are also plans to make pancakes on Pancake Day.

A KCC representative expressed gratitude that a Kent Police representative from the meeting regularly joins the in-house community meetings. They mentioned that at another centre, the police brought their vehicle, which the young people enjoyed looking at.

A KCC representative advised that they are continuing to work with Abbey School, which has recently helped organise a presentation to take place at the centre about Safer Internet Day, explaining radicalisation and grooming to the young people.

A KCC representative explained that as the weather warms up, they would like to explore participating in sporting activities and finding good places to play football.

### **Stakeholder Feedback**

An FTC Councillor representative advised that they feel the opening and running of the centre has gone well. They were recently in the local area talking to residents nearby, and no issues with Acacia Court were mentioned. There has been very little impact on the local community. They noted that the county elections will be occurring soon, so the centre may receive some attention. They asked if it was possible to share with local residents that numbers are currently low.

A KCC representative advised that the minutes of all the centre's stakeholder meetings are published on KCC's website, where information about low arrivals is available.

A KCC representative mentioned that the centre is exploring free activities for the young people to participate in.

A Kent Police representative mentioned that the boys are actively participating in the bi-weekly visits, where they are learning about hate crimes and UK laws. The visits have been very positive. Recently, during a visit to the mosque, two boys from the centre approached the officers to ask if they were attending the community meeting that week and engaged in a friendly conversation with them.

A KCC representative remarked that it was wonderful to hear, highlighting the progress the young people have made, as they are often quite nervous around police when they first arrive.

The KCC representative then inquired about how the centre could stay more informed about community events so the young people could participate.

An FTC representative mentioned that there is a Facebook page and offered to send the annual events list via email.

The KCC representative agreed that this would be great and concluded the meeting.

**AOB**

None raised.