

Acacia Court (formerly Kiln Court) Stakeholder Meeting
Tuesday 21st July 2026, 2:00pm
MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in attendance
KCC, UAS Children's Service
FTC, Councillor
SBC, Community Safety
Kent Police

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

Introduction
Introductions made and agenda shared.
Overview
A KCC representative welcomed everyone to the meeting. The representative confirmed that Acacia Court is a 32-bedroom reception centre for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children aged 16 to 17years, who have arrived in the UK without their parents or carers. The centre operates under the Children's Act, is Ofsted registered, and provides temporary short-term accommodation, education, independent living skills, wellbeing support and recreational activities for the children, until they move on the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) to appropriate supported placements around the UK. A KCC representative confirmed that the centre is currently half full, although numbers change on a daily basis with arrivals and children moving to new placements. The representative noted that there had been no issues with the children, they were all getting on well and had been enjoying watching the World Cup. A KCC representative confirmed that two minor protest-related incidents had occurred since the last meeting. The first a pop-up protests which had taken place on Wednesday 8th July at approximately 8:45pm, and involved around 10 people, both men and women, who had placed banners on the gates and fence line of Acacia Court. The incident was brief and appeared to be largely a photo opportunity for the group. The representative confirmed that the children did not witness the protest, the police were called and attended promptly, and there were no further issues. A second incident took place on Tuesday 14th July, involving two low-flying drones circulating around the centre grounds for approximately 20 minutes. Acacia Court is not a prescribed site for drone restrictions, and children were kept inside. If similar incidents occur, this could be cause for concern and will continue to be monitored. However, overall, the centre was considered to be in a much better position compared to last year.
Stakeholder Feedback
A Kent Police representative advised that the first incident reported was a small protest which may form part of a wider picture linked to publicity for a planned protest march on 15th August. The representative noted that the second incident with the drone may have had a local explanation, where nearby building

work involving a digger may have been observed, although the representative acknowledged that it may also have been connected to attempts to record the centre grounds for social media or assess access to the property. However, local police were aware of the incident and were quick to respond to any emerging concerns. The representative noted that whilst incidents could be concerning, Acacia Court was in a much better position to last year and acknowledged the strong support provided by local wider partners.

An FTC Councillor reported that they had not been made aware of any other recent incidents, but recognised that the two incidents raised by the KCC representative were concerning and should continue to be monitored.

An FTC Councillor provided an update on the derelict buildings and land opposite Acacia Court. It was noted that KCC had sold the land, which was expected to be developed in the future, although no planning application had been submitted to date. The representative also reported that a further Faversham Town Council meeting had taken place following disruption at a previous meeting by a small number of members of the public. Additional security had been provided for the meeting, but no members of the public attended on this occasion. In addition, the representative noted that Faversham Pride at West Faversham Community Centre was due to take place next weekend. There had been some far-right commentary suggesting potential disruption to the event, and additional security arrangements were to be put in place.

A Kent Police representative confirmed that resources are being allocated to support community safety for the Pride event and that police have been liaising with the event organiser. As the event extends into the evening, further resources have been allocated to manage the potential for 'larger gatherings'. The centre was asked to remain aware and alert to any possible pop-up incidents, although structured protocols were in place.

An SBC, Community Safety representative confirmed that SBC Safety Advisory Group would also be informed of any relevant events or emerging concerns in the local area which might impact the centre, and invited attendees to pass information on to them regarding events.

A KCC representative thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their contributions.

AOB

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