Acacia Court (formerly Kiln Court) Stakeholder Meeting
Tuesday 22nd September 2026, 3:30pm
MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in attendance
KCC, UAS Children's Service
FTC, Councillor
KCC Councillor
Bysing Wood Primary School

Kent County Council (KCC) - Faversham Town Council (FTC) - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS Children)

Introduction
Introductions made and agenda shared.
Overview
A KCC representative welcomed everyone to the meeting. The representative noted 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. No other introduction to the centre was given as attendees had been to previous Stakeholder meetings. A KCC representative confirmed that since the last meeting held on 21.07.26, a decision had been reached by KCC to reduce the frequency of stakeholder meetings, from monthly to every two months. This decision reflected the fact that the reception centres, including Acacia Court had been working well with and alongside, local communities. However, this did not in any way restrict the centres collaboration outside of meetings. Going forward, Acacia would hold stakeholder meetings every two months. Additional meetings would be arranged only if needed, if matters concerning the centre required discussion. A KCC representative reported that the centre had experienced a quiet month. However, national tensions around immigration had again surfaced, following recent protests in Portsmouth, Dover and Maidstone. The representative reported three separate incidents which had taken place over the summer period. The first on the 13th September, where six youths had approached the centre wearing balaclavas and had asked questions to security guards about the centre and taken photos. The incident had been reported to police. The second, which had taken place back on the 17th August, had involved a small number of children and staff who had been out on a community visit to Dover. The visit had been cut short due to racial aggression from several members of the public. The representative noted that the children had been distressed by the situation but had behaved in an exemplary manner, as did the staff who had professionally and calmly supported the children. The incident had subsequently been reported to Dover police. A KCC representative reported that the final incident had occurred on the 21st July, when one of the support workers who had left Acacia at the end of their shift, had been hassled by a member of the public whilst walking home. The incident had been reported to the centre, but no other further action

had been taken.

Stakeholder Feedback

A KCC Councillor reported that they had heard an alarm going off on the 14th August whilst passing the centre. However, a KCC representative reassured the councillor that the activity would have been down to a routine weekly fire or lockdown drill and was not connected to any incident at the centre.

A KCC Councillor noted their dismay at the incident which had taken place in Dover and suggested that perhaps it might be better for a social worker to attend these types of community outings in the future. A KCC representative noted that staff had the support and guidance from the UASC social work team and visits of this nature would be reviewed. The councillor thanked the KCC representative and noted that they had no other comments.

An FTC Councillor confirmed that they had nothing to report to stakeholders.

A Bysing Wood School representative confirmed that it had been very quiet recently and no issues had been reported in relation to Acacia. However, the representative noted that there had been some comments and misinformation spreading regarding Swale Borough Council and Osborne Court on Lower Road opposite the centre. The representative suggested that it might be helpful for a community piece to be written, updating local residents as to the plans for the site opposite Acacia Court, in order to reduce a 'communication vacuum'.

A KCC councillor confirmed that KCC has sold the former Osborne Court site and that a planning application has been submitted to demolish the existing building and construct 46 residential dwellings on the land. A Bysing Wood School representative thanked the councillor and noted that this information would be shared.

A Bysing Wood School representative confirmed there had been no comments or concerns raised amongst the school community for a long time regarding Acacia. The representative noted that whilst it was concerning to hear about the incident which had taken place in Dover, it was also reassuring to hear that only a few, largely minor incidents, had taken place locally over the summer period.

A KCC representative confirmed that during welcome talks, children are encouraged to avoid the school area and not to loiter by the school when they were outside of the centre. This message would continue to be shared with new arrivals.

A Bysing Wood representative noted that whilst Bysing Wood School was a diverse school and it would be nice to have some collaboration with the centre, given the ongoing climate, this would not be possible at present.

A KCC representative emphasised the need to take a realistic view of the current climate and anti-immigration rhetoric. Although well intended, some proposed collaborations with schools may not be possible. There had been some exceptions, including partnerships with private schools in Kent, but these relationships needed to be handled with care.

A KCC representative thanked those for attending and noted that the minutes of the meeting would be circulated in due course, followed by an invitation to attend the next Stakeholder meeting in two months' time.
AOB
No other business was raised, and the meeting was concluded.