

Cypress House (formerly Edward Moore) Stakeholder Meeting

10th April 2025, 10:00 – 10:30

MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in Attendees
KCC, UAS Children's Service
Representative for the Guru Nanak Dabar Gurdwara
Kent Police
GBC Councillor, KCC Councillor, MP

Kent County Council (KCC) - Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) - Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS Children)

Welcome and Introduction
Introductions made and agenda shared.
Update
<p>A KCC representative advised that Cypress House has supported 27 young people since we opened on 9th December, 8 are still in our with 2 of that number scheduled to leave today. The rest have moved on. Most are doing really well and comments from them are that they feel settled and welcomed.</p> <p>A KCC representative advised that there have been no incidents at Cypress House and no missing people. Its been a very positive few months. Staff are working hard to encourage the boys to reduce and stop smoking and promote a healthy lifestyle. One boy who has now left our care had managed to stop smoking, with the local pharmacy providing support.</p> <p>Staff are also doing well and have stuck to the staff ratio of 1-6 during the day. There is a period of time in the afternoon where the shifts come together so could have up to four staff. There is recruitment currently for one centre worker which is the last vacancy.</p> <p>There was recently a religious celebration at another centre which the boys attended and they enjoyed mixing with other young people. They also had an opportunity to visit Port Lympne zoo which they enjoyed.</p> <p>A KCC representative mentioned that there was an article published recently by The Daily Mail, it was stated that people were not aware that Cypress House had opened, please can we clarify if there has been any concerns raised by the community around Cypress. The GBC Councillor, KCC Councillor, MP representative advised no, no one has written to them. A representative for the Guru Nanak Dabar Gurdwara confirmed that they haven't heard anything either. The KCC representative thanks them for confirming, if anything does come up a reminder to let us know, we are happy to reassure the local community if needed. Please let members of the community know we can take concerns directly. Email can be shared should they like to contact us directly.</p> <p>A KCC representative advised that they are in touch with the Boxing Club at the Guru Nanak Dabar Gurdwara who were very welcoming and have offered Cypress House two places for boxing once a week with booking in advance being required. Cypress House really appreciate this, the first two boys went yesterday, yet to get feedback on how they enjoyed it but we will include it as part of the weekly offering if they did. The boys have high energy so boxing is a positive place to let off steam if needed. A representative for the Guru Nanak Dabar Gurdwara advised that the boxing is very busy but will be accommodating.</p>
Stakeholder Questions/Feedback
<p>A representative for the Guru Nanak Dabar Gurdwara advised that this weekend is the biggest function of the year for the Sikh calendar, it starts tomorrow until Sunday with Saturday being the highlight where there will be a funfair out the front of Cypress House, stage and food. A KCC representative thanks them for sharing and asks if the young people at Cypress are able to attend, the representative for the Guru Nanak Dabar Gurdwara confirmed yes, the funfair is open to</p>

the public so as long as everyone behaves they have no objections. A KCC representative also advises that the boys are happy to volunteer should any help be required in setting up, just let us know so we can co-ordinate.

A Kent Police representative has heard no concerns. There is a project currently being discussed with football clubs and charities around knife crime and gun related crime. Its early days but we can be involved and they will keep in touch with Cypress House about it.

A representative for the Guru Nanak Dabar Gurdwara has asked what the ages of the young people at Cypress House are. A KCC representative confirms currently 16-17 year olds moving on the NTS. There is also one approaching 18 currently who will return to KIU later this month.

A KCC representative confirms an invite will go out again for the next meeting and is aware this meeting has had low attendance possibly due to the Easter half term break.

AOB

None raised.