

Aspen Lodge Stakeholder Meeting
Wednesday 27th May 2026, 10:00 – 11:00
MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in Attendees
KCC, UAS Children’s Service
DDC, Councillor
Kent Police
Sholden Parish Council
KCC, Prevent

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

Introductions
Introductions were made and agenda shared.
Overview
<p>A KCC representative informed the attendees that it has been a quiet period since the previous meeting. Aspen Lodge recently had their Ofsted inspection, and the KCC representative was pleased to report that it went well. Although the full outcome is not yet available, the initial feedback was very positive. Aspen Lodge are now looking forward to receiving the full report so the team can consider how best to support the children.</p> <p>The KCC representative confirmed that there are currently five children in the home, all of whom are settled, with no concerns or incidents either in the home or in the community.</p> <p>A KCC representative stated that building work is taking place at the rear of the property, where the bin store is being converted into a security office. This work is expected to be completed within 10 days and will enable a security operative to be on site at all times.</p>
Stakeholder Feedback and Local Tensions
<p>A KCC representative stated that Aspen Lodge had received no concerns or complaints from the public, as well as no concerns regarding unwanted visitors to the site.</p> <p>A representative from Kent Police was pleased to confirm that there have been no calls to the police and no concerns raised through any channels. The representative from Kent Police shared that, with the warmer weather, anti-migration protests may increase. There was a protest in Dover last weekend involving some unpleasant behaviour, regardless of differing views, and some protests can push the limits of what is acceptable. Further activity is being monitored on Saturday 4th and by the original Stop the Boats movement on 25 July. However, there are no concerns for the home, the children living there, or the wider community.</p> <p>A representative from KCC Prevent stated that there was nothing to add to the statement from Kent Police.</p> <p>A representative from Sholden Parish Council also confirmed that no concerns had been received from the local community.</p>

Any Other Business

A representative from Sholden Parish Council asked if, whilst the monthly stakeholder meetings are useful, would it be possible for the KCC representatives to call stakeholder meetings only when there is something that needs to be reported, rather than brief monthly meetings.

A KCC representative said that this will be taken into consideration, with feedback to be given at the next stakeholder meeting.

A representative from DDC stated that it's good that all is quiet and going well with Aspen Lodge.

No further questions or business raised.