

## Cypress House (formerly Edward Moore) Stakeholder Meeting

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 10am

### MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in Attendees
KCC, UAS Children's Service
KCC, PREVENT
Local Charity
Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara
UK Parliament
Kent Police

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

Introductions
Introductions made and agenda shared.
Overview
<p>A KCC representative reported that Cypress House currently has nine young people, with no recent arrivals. Everyone is well settled, having been at the centre for about eight days. The Higher-Level Teaching Assistant continues to run the education program smoothly, and there have been no concerns regarding the young people.</p> <p>Young people are supported in learning independent living skills. For example, they recently visited Rochester Castle by train, which helped them learn how to buy tickets and practice good citizenship during travel.</p> <p>The group also went to Dover Museum, but since it was not a guided tour, some struggled to fully understand the history because of language barriers.</p> <p>Additionally, the young people regularly attend the local leisure centre for swimming and gym activities. Recently, a sexual health nurse participated in a community meeting, and the discussion about staying safe was very positive.</p>
Stakeholder Enquiries
<p>A KCC representative shared that there are currently no concerns from the community and asked stakeholders if they had heard any issues.</p> <p>The Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara representative said they had nothing to report and wondered if young people participated in the Vaisakhi celebrations.</p> <p>A KCC representative mentioned that out of six young people onsite, two attended the celebration and really enjoyed it.</p> <p>A Kent Police representative confirmed there have been no service calls about Cypress House.</p> <p>A KCC representative suggested inviting police officers to one of the centre's community meetings so they could talk to young people about their role and safety.</p> <p>A Kent Police representative agreed to organise this visit.</p> <p>A KCC PREVENT representative noted that the UK's threat level is now classified as severe. The PREVENT team maintains close collaboration with Kent Police, and community tensions are under careful observation. An Urgent</p>

PREVENT Advisory Group meeting took place recently, featuring constructive discussions. People are encouraged to report any suspicious activity related to community tensions.

A representative from a local charity suggested that someone from the Prevent team could speak to the young people about the rise in hate crimes and community tensions. They also asked if there was any ongoing work with young people focused on different faiths, and mentioned an upcoming EID event on 7th June which everyone is welcome to attend.

A representative from KCC PREVENT suggested that a member of the PREVENT team could visit the site. The representative indicated there are several forthcoming projects aimed at enhancing education regarding extreme right-wing and Islamic extremism. Additionally, they recommended that staff consider reviewing previous PREVENT training sessions.

A KCC representative stated that educating young people on different faiths is part of the ESOL and ILP programme, covering cultures and religions. All staff have received PREVENT training and can identify warning signs. These topics are addressed in community meetings to promote inclusivity, with social workers contributing to guidance. The EID event details will be shared with the young people.

They asked the KCC PREVENT representative about police materials on extremism and online safety, and said they would distribute them.

A UK Parliament representative reported no concerns.

A representative from KCC mentioned that someone from the community asked the centre for demographic information about the children. The staff knew they could not share this data, so they directed the individual to contact the centre via email and suggested reaching out to their local MP.

A representative from KCC PREVENT advised that a Freedom of Information (FOI) request would be necessary to obtain the information. It is important to consider the reasons behind the information request, such as whether it may originate from a journalist.

A KCC representative advised it was flagged to senior management.

A Local Charity representative said having a councillor present would be helpful due to early concerns from residents.

A KCC representative advised that they are invited and one was due to attend.

A Local Charity representative noted positive progress at the centre and suggested councillors could address any ongoing community concerns by sharing updates. They also acknowledged that tensions often rise during summer.

A Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara representative noted that while councillors have attended meetings recently, more advance notice would improve attendance. They recommended sending invites for upcoming meetings to give stakeholders ample time to plan.

A KCC representative asked if three weeks' notice was sufficient.

A representative from Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara stated that it would be preferable to have a few upcoming meetings scheduled in the calendar.

A representative from KCC indicated that they would explore the possibility of this. They confirmed that the centre's email address is available for any inquiries and formally concluded the meeting.

**AOB**

None raised.