

Olea Grove Stakeholder Meeting

Wednesday, 16 July 2025, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

MS Teams Meeting

Service/Agency
KCC, UAS Children's Service
Kent Police
Dover District Council

Kent County Council (KCC) – Dover Borough Council (DBC) – Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS Children)

Welcome and Introductions
Introductions made at start of meeting.
Overview
<p>A KCC representative explained that relationship with the community has been strong, with no complaints since the last meeting. At the last Stakeholder Meeting, members started to think about ways in which Olea Grove could contribute more to the neighbourhood – whilst the home has operated quietly and efficiently, Olea Grove is keen to become an active member of the community – relationships have already developed with the local faith leaders and boys at Olea Grove have participated in litter picks, etc.</p> <p>Olea Grove received its first full Ofsted Inspection earlier this year (report is published), which was very positive and received a judgement of Good in all areas.</p> <p>Kent Police have visited Olea Grove to do some direct work with children, which the children really enjoyed. This has been positive work to build trusting relationships between children and the Police and help them to understand the importance of Police in the UK. There remains an open invite for Kent Police (and other partners) to join the Community Meetings. A KCC representative noted the strong joint working with Kent Police around safeguarding and child protection concerns.</p> <p>A DDC representative suggested connecting with a representative of the Coast Guard – they had recently undertaken some work with the Dover Asylum Resettlement Team after a drowning had been witnessed and a young boy had to phone the Coast Guard – the DDC representative explained that the Coast Guard team do direct work with children who have travelled by boat, focused on the impact this has on them. They agreed to share the contact details with KCC representatives to take forward.</p> <p>A Kent Police representative confirmed that there has not been any upturn in ASB or crime in Dover or local community as a result of Olea Grove operating as a Children's Home for UAS children and stated that Kent Police involvement with the home is focused around child protection and their wellbeing, never anything negative about the home or the boys.</p> <p>A KCC representative thanked Kent Police for their comments and noted that KCC are committed to ensure that factual information is shared with the public, particularly where misinformation is often spread.</p> <p>A KCC representative noted the 3 core purposes of the Stakeholder Meetings (as per the Terms of Reference) are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sharing information related to the operation of the Children's Home and/or activities within the local community.2. Establishing a robust local network that support the aims of the Children's Home – through providing positive engagement, learning and enrichment opportunities for UAS children; and, in turn, offering the opportunity for UAS children and the Children's Home to contribute positively to the local community. These discussions contribute to the development of the Inclusion and Support Programme (ISP).3. Raising questions/concerns/complaints from residents or other interested persons, with the intention to be

solution-focused within this space.

The KCC representative felt that all three areas are all still relevant to the purpose of the meetings, but that the Stakeholder Meetings needed to re-focus on the second point. In other Stakeholder Meetings suggestions such as Police Cadets have been mentioned.

A Kent Police representative noted the protest happening at Dover seafront on Saturday – the town centre and train station may also be affected by the protest. A KCC representative gave assurance that children at Olea Grove would not attend that area.

Stakeholder Questions

A query was raised as to whether the next Stakeholder Meeting could be in-person. A KCC representative agreed to give this consideration.