

CYPRESS HOUSE RECEPTION CENTRE Stakeholder Meeting

11/08/2026, 10:00 – 10:15

MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in Attendees
KCC, UAS Children's Service
KCC, Prevent
Kent Police
UK Parliament, Representative

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

Overview
A KCC representative advised that occupancy has increased over the past two weeks, although numbers may fluctuate depending on the weather. There was incidents outside the centre, including a protest and individuals taking photographs, resulted in lockdown procedures being implemented. Police responded promptly to the protest, and no significant issues arose. There have been no management complaints, no new staff recruits, and the team remains stable. Staff continue to deliver the Independent Living Programme, helping children develop practical life skills. Children have also been engaged in gardening activities, including growing vegetables, and have enjoyed recreational activities such as go-karting and bowling. Volunteering opportunities are being explored through the Street Champions Initiative, although a planned visit was postponed due to low occupancy and will be rearranged. A recent police visit was well received by the children and helped build confidence in local policing. It was suggested that similar visits could take place more regularly.
Stakeholder Updates
The Kent Police representative reported that there have been no issues on Trinity Road. Concerns have been noted in Dartford relating to protests; however, the police are aware of the situation. The police will provide further updates should any relevant issues arise in Gravesend. The Kent Police representative mentioned the Street Champions Initiative is a good volunteering opportunity. Appropriate safeguarding measures should be considered, including liaison with local police. Officers would be happy to visit the centre again to speak with the children and support the litter-picking initiative. The KCC Prevent Representative advised that further protests and counter-protests are expected to take place in Maidstone over the coming weeks, which may lead to disruption in the local area. There is currently no specific intelligence indicating any impact on Cypress House; however, security staff will be informed, and precautionary measures will be heightened as a preventative measure. The KCC Representative asked whether there were any local activities available for children to access. No specific opportunities were identified at the meeting. The KCC Representative noted that the centre's inbox remains open for any queries, concerns, or information sharing. The meeting was then closed.

AOB
None raised.