Connors House Stakeholder Meeting
Wednesday 30th September 2026, 3pm-3.40pm
MS Teams Meeting

Agencies and Services in Attendees
KCC, UAS Children's Service
CCC, Canterbury City Councillor
KCC, Prevent

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

Introduction
Introduction made and agenda shared.
Overview
A KCC representative advised that stakeholder meeting invitations may be sent out less frequently in future. They explained that they had not yet been able to respond to a CCC representative's email suggesting a reduced meeting frequency, as they are currently awaiting a response from another party. The KCC representative also highlighted how much they value the positive working relationships that have been built through these meetings. A CCC Councillor reflected on the initial set-up of Connors House and acknowledged that monthly meetings were necessary at that stage. However, they felt that, provided any significant issues are communicated as they arise, there is no longer a need for meetings to take place as frequently. A KCC representative reported that they were encouraged by the current situation at Connors House, with the service continuing to operate well, with no safety concerns identified at present. Since the previous meeting, 65 young people have stayed at the service, with 31 moving on through the National Transfer Scheme (NTS). There are currently 34 young people residing at Connors House, although overall numbers remain lower than in previous years. The young people are reported to be settled and engaging well with staff and activities. It was noted that there have been no isolation cases since the last meeting. One young person absconded on the day of their arrival; this was reported to both the Police and Ofsted in line with procedure. Concerns were also raised regarding a drone seen flying over Connors House. Following further enquiries, it was established that the drone belonged to an ecological research company carrying out bird surveys in the area. The company has agreed to provide advance notice of any future activity. Connors House and Kent Police continue to maintain regular intelligence-sharing arrangements. A KCC Prevent representative advised that two protests are scheduled to take place in the coming months. A CCC Councillor also highlighted a separate anti-racism march planned. A CCC Councillor asked whether any counter-protests were anticipated in relation to this event.
Education
A KCC representative explained that the young people at Connors House continue to engage well in education and show a genuine interest in their learning. The curriculum is focused on developing English language skills, with students working at a range of different levels. It was noted that there are some talented artists, musicians, poets, and athletes among the young people, who continue to demonstrate their skills and interests.
Independent Living Programme

A KCC representative said the young people at Connors House continue to engage in the Independent Living Programme, 0.4% of young people are retained in Kent and are staying longer. The young people have been having library registrations, creating email addresses, learning how to navigate public transport all very positive. For the longer stayers they have a more in-depth health screening as part of the extended programme.

A CCC Councillor spoke of the Meningitis B and the need to extend out to the wider community.

A KCC representative said that the young people are registered with a GP when they first arrive to Connors House and necessary immunisations complete.

A CCC Councillor said that the offer of the vaccination should be widened. They will keep pushing for this.

A KCC representative spoke of the activities engaged in over at Connors House. These include a gardening project, football, Pie factory, Boxing and Wildwood. Swimming and gym sessions have been less frequent due to an ongoing membership issue with a leisure centre.

A CCC Councillor related to the issues with the leisure centre.

Upcoming events

A KCC representative advised that Connors House is expecting an Ofsted visit in the coming weeks. They expressed confidence that the service will be able to showcase the dedication, passion, and skills of its support workers.
It was also noted that representatives from the Home Office are due to visit on 12 October to see how the service is operating and to gain an overview of the support being provided to young people.

A KCC representative provided an update on plans for Halloween, including organising craft activities and pumpkin carving sessions for the young people.

A CCC Councillor commented positively on the updates shared and praised the work being undertaken at Connors House.

Another CCC Councillor also commended the team for their efforts, noting that Connors House continues to do a great job, and thanked staff for their commitment.

A CCC Councillor advised that they had approached a Colonel about visiting Connors House to speak with the young people.

A KCC representative welcomed the suggestion and invited them to contact Connors House directly to discuss arrangements. They concluded by thanking everyone for their time, continued support, and ongoing collaboration.