

Peacock House Stakeholder Meeting
Tuesday, 7 July 2026, 10:00 am – 11:30 am
MS Teams Meeting

Service/Agency
KCC, UAS Children's Service
KCC, Prevent
Lydd Town Council
Kent Police
Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Romney Marsh Churches
Marsh Academy

Kent County Council (KCC) – Folkestone and Hythe District Council (FHDC) – Lydd Town Council (LTC) – Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UAS Children)

Welcome and Introductions
Introductions were made. It was stated that there will opportunity throughout for questions to be asked, as well as an item for Stakeholder Questions.
Overview of Peacock House
A KCC representative noted that a number of members of the Stakeholder Meeting were able to attend the tour of Peacock House. Peacock House is a Children's Home to provide temporary accommodation for a maximum of 14 children aged under 16 years old – typically this will be boys aged 12-15 years. Peacock House, like all of KCC's Reception Centres, provides temporary accommodation for UAS children until they transfer to other Local Authorities via the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) (which has a mandated transfer timeframe of 10 working days). Peacock House is awaiting its Ofsted Registration visit – once this takes place, KCC will be issued with a certificate of registration. Peacock House will only start to take children once the certificate of registration is received. Currently, staff are working at Peacock House in readiness to receive children. As with all Reception Centres, Peacock House will have dedicated KCC staff and security on site 24/7, 365 days a year – there will be no point when children will be unsupervised at the home. Security will be present to protect against unauthorised access to the centre, not because of the children themselves. A KCC represented provided an overview of staffing and recruitment. A number of vacancies remain and are being advertised for/recruited to. There is a mixture of permanent KCC employed staff and agency employed staff, providing flexibility in the workforce as numbers of children fluctuate throughout the year. KCC continues to be keen to be a good local employer. A KCC representative confirmed that, since the last meeting, only 1 further enquiry has been received regarding Peacock House. They noted recent social media activity and misinformation which spread online regarding Peacock House. Security protocols remain robust and a strong partnership approach to the recent activity was noted. A Prevent representative confirmed that there is no further update on protests specifically linked to Peacock House. KCC continues to work closely with Prevent and Kent Police to safely manage any protest activity or community tensions. KCC does not publicise the opening dates of homes for UAS children. However, Stakeholders will be informed when the first children are placed at Peacock House.

Inclusion and Support Programme (ISP)

A KCC representative provided an overview of the Inclusion Support Programme, explaining that there is a strong and busy programme of activity to provide support and learning opportunities to children whilst they await transfer on the NTS, and support their resettlement in the UK. This programme includes English and maths, orientation to the area, understanding UK law, culture and society, healthy lifestyles, etc. Education is delivered on-site and Support Workers help to reinforce the learning from lessons in other activities, e.g. independent cooking.

Even if children are only at the home for a couple of days, the programme is beneficial to their early resettlement journey. The progress that children make on the ISP recorded and is shared with their receiving local authority.

A KCC representative stated that they would welcome the opportunities to link with the local community, for children a Peacock House to safely engage in local activities and events, etc. This supports their understanding and positive integration into UK society. This will be a core focus of the Stakeholder Meetings and conversations with partners going forwards.

Stakeholder Meetings will become monthly, chaired by the Registered Manager. Representatives from partner agencies and community groups were encouraged to provide suggestions for the home to link with, e.g. local community groups/events, etc. A FHDC representative suggested adding the Registered Manager into a mailing list for events across the New Romney area.

A KCC representative explained that all children will be registered with a GP in order to access primary health care. Concerns have previously been raised in relation to the potential impact on local GP services. KCC staff use good judgement before making GP appointments for children, including 111 advice, walk-in-clinics and pharmacies.

Close of Meeting

Next meeting to be arranged for approx. August 2026.