Maple Rise, Stakeholder Meeting
26th August 2026 at 10:00 am
MS Teams Meeting

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

Kent County Council (KCC) – Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UAS Children) – Ashford Borough Council (ABC)

Welcome and Introductions
The meeting commenced with introductions, and the agenda was shared with all attendees.
Update on Operations
A KCC representative provided an operational update for Maple Rise. The home had experienced a relatively quiet and settled period since the previous meeting. An internal service collaborative peer review had recently taken place, with a manager from another home visiting Maple Rise to review practice, identify areas for improvement and assess the quality of care provided. Initial feedback was positive, with no significant concerns identified. It was noted that incident records were appropriately linked to actions and supporting evidence, and that children consistently provided positive feedback about their experiences at the home. A follow-up discussion was scheduled to review the findings in more detail. The home is continuing to prepare for its next Ofsted inspection, using the current quieter period to review practice, strengthen resources and identify opportunities for further improvement. Particular attention is being given to the Inclusion Support Programme and how it can be further developed to meet children's needs. A further update for recruitment to the final support worker vacancy had been completed. However, the successful candidate had unfortunately sustained an accident and was currently receiving hospital treatment. As a result, their anticipated start date had been postponed until December. Once the new staff member commences employment, the home is expected to return to its full staffing complement. An update was provided on the ongoing garden development project. Further progress had been delayed while the external contractor sourced the necessary materials and resources. Contact had been made to arrange a further visit within the following one to two weeks. It was hoped that work would then progress towards completing the garden improvements and enhancing the outdoor environment for children.
Update of Inspections
The meeting received an update on recent Regulation 44 visits. Feedback remained positive, with only a small number of minor recommendations relating to the recording and presentation of incident reports. It was noted that further work would be undertaken with managers to ensure incident reports are clear, comprehensive and provide a consistent account of events, including the actions taken and outcomes achieved. No significant concerns were identified, and the overall inspection feedback remained encouraging.
Update on Safeguarding and Community Concerns
An overview was provided for a newly attending Kent Police representative to explain the purpose of the meetings and the history of community engagement relating to Maple Rise. It was explained that the home had been operating for just over two years and had experienced relatively few community-related concerns compared with some other locations. A brief protest had taken place outside the home during the summer, involving a nationalist

group conducting similar demonstrations at several service locations. The incident was not considered to have been specifically targeted at Maple Rise. It was also noted that previous protests associated with a nearby hotel had not extended to the home. The location of Maple Rise and its relatively discreet setting were considered possible factors contributing to the limited level of local attention.

After an overview was given, the meeting discussed whether there had been any recent developments regarding community tensions, protests or other concerns that could affect Maple Rise.

It was confirmed that no specific concerns relating to the home had been identified. However, information was shared about a recent protest in Herne Bay, which had been monitored by Kent police. The event was reported to have been managed without significant incident.

Further updates were provided regarding community tensions in Dartford and Medway, including protests and the display of banners in public locations. One banner containing threatening language was highlighted as a matter of concern. It was emphasised that this information was being shared to maintain awareness of wider community developments, although no direct impact on Maple Rise had been identified.

A Kent Police representative has given a national resilience updates and the Government's Prepare campaign, encouraging households to be prepared for emergencies such as extreme weather and cyber incidents. The meeting was advised that the preparedness guidance recommends keeping essential supplies available to support households for approximately three days during an emergency.

It was noted that community tension updates are generally circulated to service managers and shared with relevant staff through internal meetings. The importance of ensuring that relevant information reaches the home was acknowledged. A Kent Police representative agreed to continue monitoring community intelligence and sharing relevant information with services.

Any other business

No further operational or safeguarding concerns were raised.

The meeting concluded with positive feedback regarding the work being undertaken at Maple Rise. Recognition was given to the staff team's continued commitment to supporting children and maintaining a settled environment.

It was confirmed that the meetings would now take place every two months, with the next meeting scheduled for December.