



AGENDA

SELECT COMMITTEE - AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

Wednesday, 16th July, 2008, at 1.00 pm

Ask for: Theresa Grayell /
Gaetano Romagnuolo /
Telephone (01622) 694277 /
694292

Darent Room - Sessions House, County Hall,
Maidstone

Tea/Coffee will be available 15 minutes before the start of the meeting in the meeting room

Membership

Conservative (5): Mr J D Simmonds (Chairman), Mrs A D Allen, Mr M J Northey,
Mr R A Pascoe and Dr T R Robinson

Labour (2): Mr G Cowan and Mrs E Green

Liberal Democrat (1): Mr S J G Koowaree

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1.00 - 1.45 pm Interview with Cliff Robins, Consultant Psychologist, Head of East Kent Learning Disability Psychological Services, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (Pages 1 - 2)

2.00 - 2.45 pm Interview with Dr Simon Hewson, Honorary Senior Lecturer, Tizard Centre, University of Kent (Pages 3 - 4)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

At the end of the public session, Members of the Committee should remain in the meeting room for 20 minutes for summing up

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
(01622) 694002

Tuesday, 8 July 2008

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ASD SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 2

Wednesday 16 July 2008

Witness Guide for Members

Below are suggested themes and questions. They have been provided in advance to the witnesses to allow them to prepare for the types of issues that Members will be interested to explore. All Members are welcome to ask these questions or pose additional ones to the witnesses via the Committee Chairman.

Themes and Questions

Mr Cliff Robins, Consultant Psychologist, Head of East Kent Learning Disability Psychological Services, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust.

- Please introduce yourself.
- Please discuss the issues – if any – with regards to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Kent.
- What kind of support – if any - should be provided to people with autism?
- In your opinion, who should take responsibility for dealing with ASD-related issues?
- What does the assessment process for people with Asperger Syndrome involve?
- What services – if any - should support adults with Asperger Syndrome in Kent?
- In your view, to what extent do service providers, both in the private and public sectors, recognise ASD? To what extent do their policies and attitudes meet the needs of people with autism?
- In your opinion, should there be more training for professionals working with people with autism? If so, what type of training should they access?
- In your view, to what extent is local service provision in general being successful in dealing with children with autism in Kent?

- What initiatives and policies should Kent County Council adopt in order to meet the needs of people with autism in the County?

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Themes and Questions

**Dr Simon Hewson, Honorary Senior Lecturer, Tizard Centre,
University of Kent.**

- Please introduce yourself.
- What kind of support, in your view, should be provided to people with autism?
- In what ways – if any – can people with autism be helped to access such support?
- To what extent are agencies dealing with people with autism skilled in supporting them? What agencies are skilled, and what agencies need to be skilled?
- People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder span those with learning disabilities and those without. They are very individual people. How can this individuality be incorporated in a Kent approach to autism?
- What agencies should be involved in developing a Kent approach to autism?
- In your opinion, what initiatives should be taken to facilitate an emphasis on action to help people with autism?
- In your view, what initiatives and policies – if any - should Kent County Council prioritise in order to meet the needs of people with autism in the County?

