



## AGENDA

### SELECT COMMITTEE - AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

**Monday, 21st July, 2008, at 1.00 pm**

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

**Medway 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 Ron Alexander, Chief Executive, and Carolyn Brockman,  
Support Worker for Carers of People with ASD, Carers FIRST (Pages 1 -  
2)
- 2.00 - 2.45 pm Interview with Kay Brunning, General Manager, Kent Autistic Trust (Pages  
3 - 4)
- 3.00 - 3.45 pm Interview with Dr Liz Croft, Consultant Psychologist, CAMHS, and Dr  
Samina Shakoor, Consultant Paediatrician

#### **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 40 minutes for summing up and a discussion of future witnesses.***

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

**Friday, 11 July 2008**



## **ASD SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **Hearing 4**

**Monday 21 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**

**Ron Alexander, Chief Executive, Carers FIRST, and Carolyn Brockman, Carer Support Worker, Carers FIRST**

- Please introduce yourselves.
- Please outline the main roles and activities performed by Carers FIRST.
- What are the main differences – if any – in service provision to children with autism, before and after their transition into adulthood?
- In your view, how accessible is support for people with autism and their carers?
- In your view, how easy is it to find information about interventions, treatments and therapies?
- In your opinion, what are the main issues facing carers and health professionals when supplying support services to people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?
- Please discuss the degree of specialist education provision for children with ASD.
- In your view, to what extent is communication between agencies dealing with ASD effective? In what ways, if any, can this communication be enhanced?
- In your opinion, what are the main issues for parents caring for people with ASD?

- In your view, what initiatives and policies should Kent County Council adopt in order to meet the needs of people with autism?

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#### **Themes and Questions**

##### **Kay Brunning, General Manager, Kent Autistic Trust**

- Please introduce yourself, and please outline your duties and responsibilities at the Kent Autistic Trust.
- What is the Kent Autistic Trust? What services does it offer?
- Please discuss the complexity surrounding autism, and the long-term needs of people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASCs).
- In your view, what kind of support and training do people with autism need?
- Please outline the main issues with regards to recruitment and retention of staff working with people with ASD, both in terms of their skills and their knowledge about autism.
- In what ways can the inability of some people with autism to comprehend the meaning behind words, and their incapacity to communicate their needs in a clear way, affect the support they receive? What initiatives can be adopted in order to overcome this issue?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of using IQ assessments to determine both the extent and the source of support for people with autism?
- Please outline initiatives that Kent County Council could adopt in order to meet the needs of people with autism in the County.

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