



AGENDA

SELECT COMMITTEE - AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

Tuesday, 2nd September, 2008, at 1.30 pm Ask for: Theresa Grayell /
Darent Room - Sessions House, County Hall, Telephone Gaetano Romagnuolo /
Maidstone (01622) 694277 /
694292

Tea/Coffee will be available 15 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)

1.30 - 2.15 pm Interview with Joan and Keith White, parents of an adult son with
Asperger's Syndrome (Pages 1 - 2)

2.30 - 13.15 pm Interview with Des Sowerby, Joint Director, Learning Disabilities, Kent
County Council (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

Friday, 22 August 2008

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ASD SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 5

Tuesday 2 September 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 Keith White and Mrs Joan White, Parents and Carers, with a son with Asperger's Syndrome.

- Please introduce yourselves.
- Please provide an account of your own experience as a parents and carers of a person with autism.
- Please outline the kind of support your family and your son in particular received/are receiving from local agencies? How did you access this support? How easy was it for your son to receive a diagnosis?
- Is this support adequate? If not, what type of support would you like to receive?
- In your view, in what ways should assessment and provision for people with autism be organised?
- Please outline legal issues that can affect people with autism in particular.
- Please discuss the main problems that people with autism may encounter with regards to employment. What general skills, in your opinion, would be useful for people with Asperger Syndrome in particular to learn?
- Please outline the main issues that people with autism may encounter with regards to housing and leisure activities.
- In your opinion, how easy is it to find information about interventions, treatments and therapies?
- In your view, what initiatives and policies – if any - should Kent County Council adopt in order to meet the needs of people with autism?

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AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 5

Tuesday 2 September 2008

Witness Guide for Members

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Themes and Questions

Mr Des Sowerby, Joint Director, Learning Disabilities, Kent County Council

- Please introduce yourself.
- Please explain the process by which people with autism access and receive Learning Disability services. What proportion of people with autism in Kent receives Learning Disability support? How many are they?
- In what ways, if any, can Learning Disability service provision for people with autism be enhanced?
- In your view, what are the main issues with regards to the prevalence of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Kent?
- In your opinion, is training for professionals dealing with people with ASD adequate? If not, in what ways can KCC ensure that more effective training is provided?
- In your view, how effective is the current coordination of ASD-related services within KCC? How effective is the collaboration amongst all the agencies dealing with autism in Kent? What can be done to improve joint working?
- Please discuss the advantages and disadvantages of “personalising” services for people with ASD.
- What other issues, in your view, should KCC deal with in order to improve service provision for people with ASD?

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