



AGENDA

SELECT COMMITTEE - AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

Wednesday, 8th October, 2008, at 1.00 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)

- 1.00 - 1.45 pm Interview with Professor Patrick Bolton, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, South London and Maudsley Hospital (Pages 1 - 2)
- 2.00 - 2.45 pm Interview with Laretta Kavanagh, Director of Commissioning, Mental Health, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (Pages 3 - 4)
- 3.00 - 3.45 pm Interview with Margaret Howard, Director of Commissioning and Provision, West Kent, Kent Adult Social Services (Pages 5 - 6)

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, 30 September 2008

AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER SELECT COMMITTEE

Hearing 8

Wednesday, 8 October 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

Professor Patrick Bolton, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, South London and Maudsley Hospital

- Please describe the role of the Autism and Related Disorders Service and your role in it.
- What services does the Autism and Related Disorders Service offer?
- What does the specialist multi-disciplinary assessment and treatment provided by the Service involve? What type of professional help is offered by the team?
- What do your diagnostic assessments entail?
- In your view, why are some Kent residents referred to the Autism and Related Disorders Service for a diagnostic assessment?
- What agencies – if any – does your team consult in order to care for individuals with autism?
- Does the Service offer support and advice? If so, what kind of support and advice is available?
- To what extent are patients and families involved in the team's assessments and research?
- In your opinion, what initiatives and strategies should Kent County Council implement in order to ease the transition of young people with autism into adulthood? What consequences can a transition managed inadequately have for the mental health of these young people?

- In your opinion, what can Kent County Council do to identify and engage older people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who never received a diagnosis?
- In your view, what initiatives should Kent County Council adopt to improve diagnostic assessments and service provision to people with ASD? What are the challenges?

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Themes and Questions

Lauretta Kavanagh, Director of Commissioning, Mental Health, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust

- Please introduce yourself, and please outline the duties and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please explain how commissioning mechanisms for adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are organised within the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust.
- How many people with ASD and mental health conditions are currently receiving support from the Trust?
- Is there a system in place to record with accuracy the number of people with ASD in Kent?
- It has been suggested to the Committee that early interventions and support to people with autism can be beneficial in preventing the development of mental health problems. Do you agree?
- Evidence the Committee received claims that there is a “gap” between Learning Disability and Mental Health service provision for people with ASD in the County. Do you agree? If so, in your view, in what ways can this issue be resolved?
- In what ways, if any, can the training of NHS staff who carry out healthcare assessment be improved?
- What, in your opinion, are the advantages and disadvantages of personal budgets and direct payments with regards to service provision to adults with ASD?

- In what ways, if any, can the collaboration between organisations such as Kent County Council and the National Health Service be maximised in order to improve service provision for people with autism?
- In your view, what general initiatives and policies should Kent County Council adopt to improve its service provision to adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in the County?

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Themes and Questions

Margaret Howard, Director of Commissioning and Provision, West Kent, Kent Adult Social Services

- Please introduce yourself and outline the duties and responsibilities that your post involves.
- Please explain how commissioning and provision mechanisms for adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are organised in Kent.
- How many adults with autism are currently receiving support from the local authority? In your view, how many adults with ASD, who could be eligible for support in Kent, are currently not receiving it?
- In what ways – if any – can eligibility processes and access to diagnostic assessments for adults with ASD be improved in Kent?
- It has been suggested to the Committee that there is a “gap” between Learning Disability and Mental Health service provision for people with ASD in the County. Do you agree? If so, in your view, in what ways can this issue be resolved?
- What consequences – if any – will the transfer of responsibility and funding for the commissioning of social care for adults with learning disabilities from the NHS to KCC have for adults with autism in the County?
- What, in your opinion, are the advantages and disadvantages of personal budgets and direct payments with regards to service provision to adults with ASD?
- What, in your view, are the benefits and challenges of offering supported living services to adults with autism?

- What are the main issues and challenges, if any, surrounding the transition of young people with autism into adulthood? What can KCC do to ease this transition?
- What are the main issues and challenges that people with autism face when looking for paid employment? In your opinion, what general initiatives and policies should Kent County Council adopt to help people with ASD find and retain employment?
- In your view, what other initiatives and policies should Kent County Council (KCC) adopt to improve its service provision to adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Kent?