

# **EXTENDED SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

## **Hearing 5**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**Paul Myers, Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, Valence School, Westerham**

### **Biography**

Paul Myers is a solicitor formerly engaged in local government and latterly in the commercial sector as the Commercial Lawyer to the John Lewis Partnership. As a single parent, Paul left full time employment to be the main carer for his son, who has cerebral palsy and is profoundly physically disabled. At the same time, Paul offers his services as a consultant both to the Partnership and others in his specialist areas of computer law and e-commerce. As a result of his son's disability, Paul also advises on Disability Discrimination Act issues and represents parents/carers of children with special needs on matters such as special education and school provision.

Paul has been a school parent governor since 1996, both as a Chair of Governors at his son's first special school in the Royal Borough of Kingston, and presently as the Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee at his son's present special school, Valence School in Westerham. Paul is also a parent governor representative on Kent County Council's Children Families and Education Policy and Scrutiny Committees, and has recently been invited to sit on an Informal Member Group reviewing SEN transport. As a passionate advocate of the value and continuance of special schools, Paul was the lead governor in driving forward Valence's successful application to become a Sports College, and now sits on the Valence Sports College Steering Group, that is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the various initiatives and opportunities gained as a result of the school's Sports College status.