

# **EXTENDED SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

## **Hearing 8**

**Thursday 24 June 2010**

**Alan Milner, Service Director, Parents Consortium**

### **Biography**

Alan's role, as Service Director, is to provide overall strategic leadership, management, development & coordination to a range of services for disabled children and their families from across the Gravesham, Dartford and Swanley areas in his position. The current membership of the organisation stands at 1,000 families. From 2007 Alan took on the responsibility of the development of a Children & Families Direct Payments Support Scheme which operates across Kent. This has borne great success, with almost 700 families now using direct payments.

Alan has a lived experience of disability as a wheelchair user himself, which has been used proactively in championing the rights of disabled people. Most notable, Alan has been a former Chair of the London partnership of the national disability organisation SCOPE, and from 1999 to 2004 Chair of the National Association of Disabled Supporters. Alan was invited as a key note speaker to address a delegation of European MEP's in Brussels around inclusive practice within sport. Alan currently sits on the Football Associations Disability Equality Advisory Group.

Alan also brings the experience and understanding as a parent of a disabled young person to his work, as his 20 year old son Matthew has severe learning difficulties. Alan knows only too well that life is incredibly tough for families with a disabled child, and feels fortunate that he has been able to transfer his experience in bringing about real change to the lives of families through his work at the Parents Consortium.