

# **THE STUDENT JOURNEY SELECT COMMITTEE**

## **Hearing 3**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

### **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 may 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**

**Andy Birkin, Interim Head of Service, Youth Offending Service, Kent County Council**

- Please provide an outline of the roles and responsibilities that your post involves, and please provide an overview of the services supplied by the Youth Offending Team.
- What is the proportion of young offenders in custodial and in community settings who are not actively engaged in education, training and employment in Kent?
- What are the main barriers to the engagement of teenagers with criminal records with education and employment?
- Please discuss the evidence of increasing exclusions of young offenders of statutory school age by academies, and the provision of reduced timetables.
- Is alternative curriculum provision for young offenders of statutory school age consistent across the County? Please explain the issue of “home education” and its consequences.
- In what ways does the Youth Offending Team support the rehabilitation of young ex-offenders through education and employment?
- Please discuss the effectiveness of current partnerships between the local authority, educators, local employers and other organisations in preparing young offenders for the world of work and in helping them secure employment.

- What else, if anything, can Kent County Council do to enhance the engagement of young offenders with education and employment?
- In your view, what initiatives and strategies should Kent County Council implement to enhance the employability of all young people in Kent?
- Are there any other issues, with relevance to the review, which you would like to raise with the Committee?